



# Longboat Key News

September 12, 2025

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## InsideLook



Wine's next 'Big Thing' ...page 15



Waterfront leads way on LBK ...page 9



The modern medical machine ...page 4



Squealing tires and flying wood ...page 10

## Assassinated Charlie Kirk owned Longboat residence

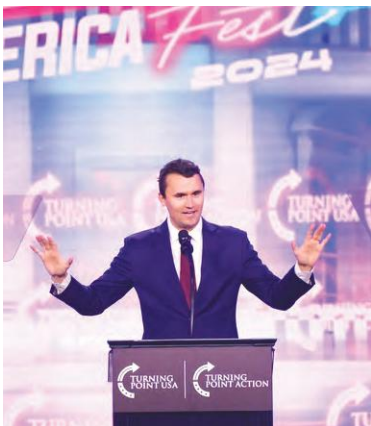
*Kirk, who owns a condo on Longboat Key, has been taking his "American Comeback Tour" to universities across Florida, starting at the University of South Florida in Tampa in February before heading to the University of Florida in Gainesville and then Florida State University in Tallahassee.*

MAGA star Charlie Kirk was killed last week after being shot at an event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Kirk owned a residence on Longboat Key.

Bystanders reported spotting Kirk getting shot near his neck during a Q&A session with students.

The suspect in the killing of Charlie Kirk has been identified as Tyler Robinson and is being held without bail in a Utah jail on several charges, according to officials.

President Donald Trump issued a statement on Truth Social following reports of the shooting. "We must all pray for Charlie Kirk, who has been shot. A great guy from top to bottom. GOD BLESS HIM!"



Trump said.

Kirk, who owned a condo on Longboat Key, had been taking his "American Comeback Tour" to universities across Florida, starting at the University of South Florida



Kirk's Longboat condo.

in Tampa in February before heading to the University of Florida in Gainesville and then Florida State University in Tallahassee. He was

**See Kirk, page 2**

## Longboat remembers Dr. Jim Whitman

*Jim was well known on the island as a tireless advocate for responsible, accountable government.*



Kiwanis Club President Michael Garey is humbled by the dedication and loyalty Longboat Dr. Jim Whitman showed the organization.

"It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of our longtime friend and fellow Kiwanian, Dr. Jim Whitman," wrote Garey to Club members following Whitman's passing last Sunday, September 7.

Jim joined The Longboat Kiwanis Club in 2005 and, for the past twenty years, he has been a faithful and passionate member—always dedicated to the mission of helping children in need.

Beyond Kiwanis, Jim was well known on the island as a tireless advocate for responsible, accountable government. In fact, he was likely the only resident who attended every Town Commission meeting, ensuring that the citizens' voice was always represented.

Jim avidly followed all of the Town Hall issues and regularly commented during the Public To Be Heard section of meetings.

Jim combined this civic commitment with his generosity of spirit, his concern for others, and his unwavering dedication to the island.

"Longboat Key has lost a great citizen and we have lost a great friend," added Garey.

Jim passed with his wife, Deborah Di Carlo, at his side. The couple lived for the last two decades on Longboat's North end. Jim studied medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and completed his Duke University Hospital Residency in Psychiatry from 1978-1982.

## Honoring 9-11 on Longboat Key



See more on Facebook: [followmetolongboatkey](https://www.facebook.com/followmetolongboatkey)



## Sarasota Players to open 96th season with The Wedding Singer

The Sarasota Players will launch its 96th season with the city-premiere of *The Wedding Singer*, the high-energy musical comedy with music by Matthew Sklar, book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy, and lyrics by Beguelin, based on the New Line Cinema film starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. Performances run from September 24 through October 5, 2025 at The Crossings at Siesta Key.

In a new offering for audiences this season, *The Wedding Singer* will feature immersive VIP “wedding tables.” For \$150, two guests can enjoy a table for two, a bottle of bubbly, wedding cupcakes from Frosted Pink, and an interactive theatrical experience that brings them right into the party.

Set in New Jersey in the 1980s, *The Wedding Singer* follows Robbie Hart, the ultimate wedding entertainer who loses his own fiancée at the altar. Heartbroken, Robbie begins sabotaging every gig—until he meets Julia, a quirky waitress with a dream of the perfect wedding. Unfortunately, Julia is engaged to a money-obsessed Wall Street jerk. As sparks fly between Robbie and Julia, audiences are treated to big laughs, catchy songs, and a heartfelt celebration of love, second chances, and finding the right person when you least expect it.

The cast features Christos Nicoloudis as Robbie Hart, Lacey Knispel as Julia, Kevin Moroney as Sammy, Sammy Calderon as Glen Guglia, Kelly Leissler as George, Nancy Denton as Rosie, Jamie Becker as Linda, and Line Frambes as Holly. The ensemble includes Sharon Kunkel, Ashley Murphy, Michelle Martin, Valerie Rozon, Teia Watson, Joe Harris, Juwan Rivas, Jacob Brown, and Fernando Vera.

The creative team includes director Jalex Scott, stage manager Cass Smith, music director Katie Priest, choreographers Tahlia Chinault and Brian Finnerty, sound designer Michael Cummings, lighting designer Michael Pasquini, and Costume Designer Jill Castle. Technical direction is by Scott Schuster with Logan Junkins as assistant technical director.

*The Wedding Singer* will run September 24 – October 5, with evening performances at 7:30pm and matinees at 2:00pm. All performances take place at The Sarasota Players, The Crossings at Siesta Key, 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 200, Sarasota, FL 34239 (park and enter the mall at Connors Steak & Seafood).

### Kirk, from page 1

greeted at each university with adoring fans and crowds of protesters.

At his campus stops, Kirk, conservative activist, author, radio talk show host and cofounder and chief of the conservative advocacy group Turning Point USA, debates students who challenge him at an open mic.

“America’s students are still only given one side of the story, the leftwing side, so we intend to continue balancing the scales and equipping local students to fight for their values,” he said in a statement. “If you’re a progressive, you get to come to the front of the line and make your best argument, and I’ll make mine.”

Illinois native Charles James Kirk, 31, cofounded the nonprofit Turning Point USA in 2012 when he was 18. The organization’s stated goal is to “build the most organized, active, and powerful conservative grassroots activist network on high school and college campuses across the country.” TPUSA claims to be on over 3,500 campuses and has spawned other activist measures, including, among others, an online academy, Turning Point Faith, and Turning Point Action, a political advocacy group that heavily involved itself, without results, in the 2022 cycle in Arizona and other swing states.

In 2024, AP reported that Kirk owned three properties, including a Spanish-style mansion near Phoenix, Arizona (although he put it up for sale), a nearby apartment and a two-bedroom, two-bath beachside condo on Longboat Key on the Gulf Coast of Florida he bought for \$855,000, according to property records.

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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.

## GMD name change

To Editor:

Experiencing President Trump’s second term and his bevy of executive orders has become very problematic for me. Changing “ Gulf of Mexico’s “ name to “ Gulf Of America “ on January 20, 2024 is Trump’s way of rewriting history. Changing the name of DOD, “Department of Defense” to “Department Of War” sends a bellicose signal to our foes, Russia, China and North Korea, all nuclear powers, and I am sure worries our allies. There is a lobbying effort out there that Trump should get the Nobel Peace Prize. I see his efforts to stop the war in Ukraine or his efforts to stop the war in Gaza have been met with no results. Now on Longboat Key the Town wants to change our main thoroughfare to Gulf of America Drive. What an incredibly absurd idea! Already Gulf of Mexico Drive signs have been taken down. My partner Marci and I have been unhoused for 11 months since Sept. 25, 2024 Hurricane Helene and just returned Aug. 16, 2025. It is so great to be back in our condo. I love Longboat Key, the Tennis Center, the people, the beach, and island living. The fact that the Town of LBK is even considering renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive is absurd and an incredible waste of Taxpayer’s money. I have seen there will be a meeting to discuss this name change on October 20. However, I don’t see where the meeting is being held, time of the meeting, and if it is a public meeting. If public it should be on Zoom as well so that taxpayers who are not yet back on LBK can attend and will have a right to speak their piece. This potential name change will effect full time residents, snowbirds, part time residents, businesses and LBK town faculties and will effect the Manatee County portion of LBK as well.

Robert Dreyfus,  
Longboat Key

## Thank You

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

On behalf of our Public Safety team, thank you for your thoughtful gesture in providing lunch today. Both Police and Fire personnel greatly appreciated your kindness and recognition of the work they do each day. Your support was especially meaningful on this day of remembrance, as we honor the sacrifices made on 9/11.

Tina Adams  
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO  
Town of Longboat Key

## Thor Guard Lightning Alerts May Be Heard Locally

To: Longboat Key Commission, Longboat Key Employees

We wanted to inform you that the Town received a notice yesterday from Manatee County about a new early lightning prediction system called Thor Guard. This system has been installed at Coquina Beach and Manatee Public Beach, as well as in several park and pool locations.

Due to the audible horn alerts generated by this system, our field staff might occasionally hear these signals within the Town. Additionally, employees answering the phones may receive calls from community members inquiring about the sounds. Please be aware that these signals are specifically for lightning detection and not for tornadoes, flooding, or other severe weather conditions.

The system operates daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Here are the signals to be aware of, if heard:

- One long blast indicates that lightning has been detected, and it is advised to seek shelter immediately.
- Three short blasts signify that the all-clear has been given.

Our team will be working on sharing this information with the community as well. Have a great day!

Tina Adams  
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO  
Town of Longboat Key

## Urgent Support Needed: Bradenton Area EDC Contract Renewal with Manatee County

To: EDC Board Members

As you know, the Bradenton Area EDC has an annual contract with Manatee County Government that is essential to our ability to serve the community and advance our mission of driving economic growth. The renewal of this contract is scheduled for the next Board of County Commissioners’ meeting, Tuesday, September 16th. We have been advised that the approval may be at risk.

Your support is critical at this pivotal moment. We are asking each of you to demonstrate your commitment in one or both of the following ways:

- Attend the meeting in person on Tuesday to visibly show support for the EDC’s continued partnership with the County.
- Send an email to each County Commissioner urging them to approve the renewal of the contract. A message from you as a community leader will carry great weight.

This contract provides the resources that enable us to attract new investment, create jobs, and strengthen the economic vitality of Manatee County. Your voices, as respected business and community leaders, will underscore the importance of this partnership and the value it delivers to the County.

For your convenience, we have attached a sample letter of support as well as the email addresses of all Manatee County commissioners.

Thank you in advance for taking action and for your continued commitment to the EDC and to the long-term prosperity of our region.

Sharon Hillstrom  
President & CEO  
Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation

## Charlie Kirk Longboat Key homeowner

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

My name is Jesse Scheckner and I’m a reporter with Florida Politics. Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated yesterday, owned a home in Longboat Key, and I’m reaching out to local officials to see whether they had any interactions with him for a story I’m putting together. Did you ever meet Mr. Kirk? And if so, what was your impression of him?

See Letters, page 5

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# Staying Alive

## The medical care machine

*Taking care of people is different than making sausages or telemarketing calls.*

**MATTHEW EDLUND**  
Guest Columnist  
Edlundr@lbknews.com

Do you want to be a machine? What happens when your employer wants to treat you like one? What does this do to health care?

The digital economy allows you to measure much. What gets measured gets managed. The ideas of “scientific management” achieved their first apotheosis over a century ago with Frederick Taylor. Henry Ford used “Taylorism” to transform Ford in a corporate colossus. In the digital economy, where contacts, phone calls by the tenths of seconds, sales by the second, even digitized measures of facial expression can be generated and analyzed, Taylorism has achieved a new vogue. Its principles:

1. Cut jobs into the simplest components. If they can be done by machine, do them by machine. If they need operators, make the work done as simple as possible.
2. Measure everything you can regarding production.
3. Pay the human operators purely on the basis of “production.” Vary incentives as necessary – for example, GE would automatically cut 10% of the “lowest producers” each year under its heralded leader, “Neutron Jack” Welch (it appears to have ditched this procedure. Hmm.)

Taking care of people is different than making sausages or telemarketing calls. A large part of the therapeutic component of health care is “the doctor as drug” – a sense that a human being is caring for you, understands what is going on with you, and wants greatly for you to do well. Also, much is learned via a history – learning the many intimate details of a patient’s life that allow you to make a reasoned judgement regarding their health.

Taylorism has little interest in all that. Today, medical workers are managed more and more as if we were machines. Generally the more patients you see, the more money you can make. With money – “productivity” to many health care managers acting as the abiding factor – you measure first what makes money by the minute or second – and what wastes it.

So surgeons know that procedures make money – but not to the same degree. Complicated, long cases may pay considerably less than simple procedures – and have less complex filings with insurance companies. Better to do botox injections than facial reconstruction.

Also, paperwork is “wasted time.” You try to overcome the waste by hiring other, less trained people, to do it. Today, the ratio seems for every hour a practitioner works, two hours of support staff time is needed. What do they do- fight insurance companies, fill uselessly long and padded reports, fax repeatedly “preauthorization” reports to pharmacy benefit companies on pills that cost a penny each and which the patient has taken successfully for a decade.

Knowing the game, insurers and benefit managers treat it like an arms race – and they



MATTHEW EDLUND

change the rules.

They try as much as possible to increase “time demands” and “documentation” for each medical visit. As the documentation becomes more and more complicated, the less patients can be seen – and the higher, they believe, their profits.

Medical practitioners respond in kind. Electronic health records are created that can magically put out 14 page patient reports based on 5 minutes of actual face time. In keeping with Taylorism, clinical notes are then handed off to “scribes” – not ancient Egyptians serving the Pharaoh, but bright eyed young folks who “transcribe” the medical record, rather than the practitioner who presumably knows what’s going on (nobody seems to care all these results are routinely hacked.) Insurance companies respond with greater documentation demands – to tie up practitioner time is to “reduce losses.” Excessively long treatment plans is a great way to reduce time practitioners can spend with patients – with no proof whatsoever that they do any good – or are even read.

The result is inevitable. Practitioners will do the stuff that generates money the fastest with the least amount of paperwork and documentation.

So procedures get done in droves. Lab tests in the billions. CAT scans and PETT scans and ultrasounds in the hundreds of millions.

Where is the patient in all this? Lost in the shuffle.

Because Taylorism is not a great way to provide health care. Humans want humans to take care of them, not humans masquerading as machines. A physician who looks at her monitor and pad rather than you does not inspire confidence. Future insurance company options, where patients will be accorded “quick” responses by email or Skype by people that have never seen, also do not bode well.

There is nothing wrong with measuring outcomes. Outcomes that count, like well-being, work capacity, psychological resilience and mortality, are fully worthy of scrutiny.

But when the main measures of “productivity” are procedures, numbers of visits, and total tests billed, somebody loses. That somebody is most of us.



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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

Jesse Scheckner  
South Florida Reporter

Charlie Kirk Longboat Key homeowner

To: Jesse Scheckner  
I have not met Mr. Kirk, what a tragic loss for his family and the USA. Thank you for your efforts, sorry I can't be more helpful.  
Sarah Karon  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Pizza Lunch Tomorrow in Honor of 9/11 Heroes

To: Longboat Key Commission, Longboat Key Police Department  
As many of you know, Commissioner Gary Coffin proudly served as a firefighter and has long been a strong supporter of both the Police and Fire Departments. In recognition of tomorrow's remembrance of 9/11 and to honor the heroes of that day, Commissioner Coffin has kindly arranged for pizza to be provided for our team.  
We extend our gratitude to Commissioner Coffin for his generosity and continued support. Please enjoy this meal together as we pause to reflect and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.  
Frank Rubino  
Deputy Chief of Police  
Longboat Key Police Department

Pizza Lunch Tomorrow in Honor of 9/11 Heroes  
To: Longboat Key Deputy Police Chief Frank Rubino  
This is a wonderful idea. I hope this recognition can become an annual Town event.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Jim Whitman passes

To: Maureen Merrigan  
Dr. Whitman was the reliable presence in the front row of every Town Commission meeting during the 8 years I have served there. When he did not appear this past Monday, I hoped he had finally allowed himself a vacation but learned the very sad news last night. If a community were to invent the perfect gadfly—in the best sense of word-- it would be Jim. He represented Sleepy Lagoon and the entire Town with grace and humor. I think he was the only member of the public to sing to the Commission—something about paving paradise and putting up a parking lot.  
Jim was critical when he thought it necessary and thankful when he thought it appropriate. While we sometimes disagreed, his purpose was always genuine and intended for the betterment of Longboat Key. He will be missed.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Jim Whitman passes

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

Thank you for your kind words about Jim Whitman. I know he always had the best interests of Longboat Key at heart. He will be missed.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Jim Whitman passes

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Well said, Mr. Mayor. Jim was always laser-focused on our community's strong values and high standards. I will miss his presence and keep his memory as motivation in the Sleepy Lagoon resiliency projects ahead.  
Sarah Karon  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Jim Whitman passes

To: Sleepy Lagoon Homeowners Association  
I heard today from Deborah Di Carlo that her husband, Jim Whitman, passed away on Sunday. He had been diagnosed in May with very aggressive Stage 4 prostate cancer that had metastasized to his bones.  
Jim was an outsized presence in Sleepy Lagoon and on Longboat Key. His record of civic engagement was legendary—he attended every town meeting and we all benefited from his willingness to analyze issues, ask hard questions and take town officials to task, as well as from his comprehensive reporting to this group about those that affected Sleepy Lagoon in particular.  
“Dr. Jim” was a longtime psychiatrist and an enthusiastic amateur musician—a number of us enjoyed seeing him perform at the annual LBK Lawn Party. He and Deborah have lived on Norton Street for 20+ years.  
Our thoughts are with Deborah and the rest of their extended family. We will provide any updated information as it becomes available.  
John (and Pat, Marie and Larry)  
Longboat Key

July Tourism Data Update & Invite to Annual Visit Sarasota County Indicators

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
We are pleased to share with you the latest tourism data and statistics for the month of July. This report is designed to provide valuable insights into visitor trends, and key performance indicators that influence our local economy and planning efforts.  
As leaders across Sarasota County, your awareness of tourism activity plays a vital role in shaping strategic decisions and supporting sustainable growth. We hope you find this information useful and informative as you continue your important work serving our communities.  
Here are the numbers comparing 2025 to 2024:  
Visitors were 143,700 compared to 149,800 in 2024  
Visitor direct expenditures were \$132,395,200 compared to \$141,012,900 in 2024  
Lodging occupancy was 59.8% compared to 58.8% in 2024

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](http://www.longboatkey.org). Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk  
501 Bay Isles Road  
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Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II  
Published: 08-29-2025, 09-12-2025

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 4**

Lodging average room rate was \$284.31 compared to \$260.48 in 2024  
There were 242,300 room nights sold compared to 247,100 in 2024  
I'd also like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Annual Indicators and Insights Summit, November 18th, 8AM, where we'll come together to celebrate the successes of the past year and share exciting plans for the road ahead. This is a unique opportunity to reconnect, reflect on what we've accomplished, and explore how we can continue to work together to shape the future of our industry.  
We're thrilled to welcome a very special guest, Nicole Porter, Vice President of Political Affairs, from U.S. Travel Association, to share valuable insights and national perspectives that you won't want to miss. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if you'd like to discuss anything further.  
Erin Duggan  
President/CEO  
Visit Sarasota County

**September 11th**

To: Longboat Key Employees  
It has been 24 years since that fateful morning on September 11, 2001. 2,977 people woke up and were just going about their normal routines for the day, only the day would be anything but normal. That morning took their lives and changed ours forever. It also changed the global landscape.  
Our amazing Public Works team has, once again, placed an American flag for each of the people we lost that day along GMD and it is a stark reminder for all of us of the price that was paid. Today, we remember the mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters that we lost. We remember the first responders who rushed towards danger to save others. We also remember the resolve that we felt that day, how united we all were, and the pride that we had in being American.  
Today, almost a quarter of a century later, our country and the world continue to change. However, we can never forget the events of that day and the sacrifice that was made in the name of freedom. I ask that we pause and pray for those we lost and those that were injured. Lastly, let's remember the solidarity and unity we felt that day and have that bring us a little closer together. God Bless America!  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key  
501 Bay Isles Road

**Notice of SRQ Airport Community Update Meeting**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
The Town invites you to attend the SRQ Airport Community Update Meeting to be held in the Town Commission Chamber at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, on October 13, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
The program will include a presentation by Lionel A. Guilbert, C.M., Senior Vice President of Operations and Public Safety for Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, followed by a question-and-answer session. This meeting will provide important updates regarding airport operations, as well as an opportunity for residents to engage directly with airport leadership.  
We hope you will attend!  
Savannah Cobb  
Executive Assistant  
Town of Longboat Key

**9/11 remembrance**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham  
Good morning, Commissioner. Public Works is in fact placing the flags to help us all pause and remember the events of that fateful day and I will pass along your gratitude for their efforts. Every day they make us proud! We must never forget!  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**9/11 remembrance**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Howard, please convey my sincere thanks and respect to those who work to place our nation's flag all along Gulf of Mexico Drive here on Longboat Key in remembrance of the anniversary of that horrific attack on our beloved country. Thousands were lost and they will always be remembered if we are diligent in our efforts to do so. Specifically, our crew from the Public Works Department is out in force this morning making us proud. Theirs is noble work and very much appreciated!  
Steve Branham  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**See Letters, page 7**

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# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 6 Jim Whitman

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
Oh dear. This is very sad news. Thank you for sharing it.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Jim Whitman

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
What an absolute shock and total loss to our community. Jim was the model citizen, as his opinions were always voiced in person, at every meeting, with concern, and in many times, passion. I considered him a friend personally and professionally.  
Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Testimony to maintain name of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Thank you for considering my testimony regarding the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key. I strongly support keeping the road’s name as - Gulf of Mexico Drive. I have known of this road (which runs through the entire of key) as Gulf of Mexico Drive for over 60 years. I have been visiting Longboat Key since I was a young girl. I feel it is confusing to suddenly change the name of a very familiar road. Not to mention a wasted cost for the town to change all the signage - and for residents and businesses to have to change their addresses. Not to mention, I am hoping that in the future leaders in our Federal government will return to calling the body of water at issue - Gulf of Mexico. I have not and will not ever refer to this body of water as Gulf of America - as I do not agree with a President having the power to decide and dictate his ideas in the way that our current President has done. This is a decision that I believe deserved voting support from local residents before any name change could be implemented.  
Anyway, thank you for considering my testimony in favor of keeping Gulf of Mexico Drive as is.  
Sarah Goldblat  
Longboat Key

## FDOT Removing “Gulf of Mexico” Road Signs on SR 789; Local Name Remains Unchanged

To: Sophia Jacob  
I hope this email finds you well. The Town has received your recommendation regarding State Road 789, and we would like to invite you to attend the Town Commission Regular Workshop on October 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road. This workshop provides an opportunity for the public to speak and have their voices heard.  
If you are unable to attend but would still like to share your input, you may submit written comments by mail or email. All written comments received will be included in the agenda packet and distributed to the Commissioners. Please send comments to:  
Mail: Town of Longboat Key, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228  
Email: Commission@longboatkey.org  
Please note that the Town Code does not permit acceptance of anonymous correspondence. We appreciate your engagement and look forward to hearing from you.  
Best regards,  
Tina Adams  
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO  
Town of Longboat Key

## FDOT Removing “Gulf of Mexico” Road Signs on SR 789; Local Name Remains Unchanged

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
The name Gulf of Mexico dates back to the 1500s. Do not change the road name because POTUS doesn’t understand history. When we have sane people running the government the name will be returned to GoM.  
Jacob Pollack  
Longboat Key

## Testimony regarding the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
Thank you very much for considering my testimony regarding the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive, which is attached and also embedded below in this email.  
Abigail Roth  
Longboat Key

## Testimony regarding the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Thank you so much for considering my testimony regarding the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key. I strongly support keeping the road’s name as is: Gulf of Mexico Drive. I, like so many others, have known of this road, which as you know runs through the entire key, as Gulf of Mexico Drive for decades—over 55 years in my case. There are numerous reasons to maintain the name.

Practically speaking, it is confusing to change the name. So many people know it by its current name and directions are embedded far and wide using that name. It would be disruptive and expensive for all the signage on the road and giving directions to the road to have to be changed, and for every person and business with property on that road to have to change their address and all the references to their address.  
Additionally, there is a strong chance that in several years new leadership at the Federal level

will return to calling the body of water at issue the Gulf of Mexico. If and when that happens, it will make no sense to have this major road called Gulf of America Drive. This will require another name change—upending things again and being a waste of money again for the town, businesses, and residents. We should avoid changing names based on the current political mood.  
A name change also risks driving away tourism. I know many people who already are hesitant to travel to Florida and spend money in Florida based on concerns about the state’s policies. Maintaining the status quo avoids antagonizing potential tourists from visiting Longboat Key.  
I also philosophically disagree with the name change. I say this as someone who spent over a decade working for the federal government and cares deeply about our country. Again, thank you for considering my testimony and for your service to the community.  
Abigail Roth  
Longboat Key

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month Memorial Dedication for Erin Craft and Jazmin Catano

To: Longboat Key Commission  
On behalf of Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, we invite you to join us for a memorial dedication ceremony on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Honorable R.B. “Chips” Shore Historical Courtroom located inside the Historic Courthouse at 1115 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205.  
In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we will dedicate two spaces of our Violence Protection Division in honor of Erin Craft and Jazmin Catano, former Clerk & Comptroller team members. Both Erin and Jazmin tragically lost their lives to domestic violence.  
This ceremony will include brief remarks from speakers including Clerk Angel Colonnese and Erin Craft’s mother, Tiffany Tompkins. We will also offer time for attendees who wish to speak in memory of Erin and Jazmin an opportunity to share a few words. A reception with light bites and beverages will take place immediately following the ceremony.  
We hope you will join us in remembering Erin and Jazmin and reaffirming our shared commitment to supporting survivors and raising awareness. Please RSVP by replying all to this email.  
Barbara L. Owsianka  
Executive Associate to the Clerk  
Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

## Possible issue for the Emergency Management Policy Committee

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold  
Thank you so much for bringing this issue to my attention! I’m sharing this with Allison Payne so that she can notify the FAST committee League’s legislative policy committees are limited to addressing issues of state legislation, rather than federal, so the FAST committee is the appropriate forum to address this. Allison is cc’d above in case you’d like to reach out to her about the next FAST committee meeting.  
I’m sorry you’ll miss the first meeting, but I look forward to seeing you in October.  
Rebecca O’Hara  
Deputy General Counsel  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

## Possible issue for the Emergency Management Policy Committee

To: Florida League of Cities Deputy General Counsel Rebecca O’Hara  
I was happy to see you are going to be staffing FLC’s Intergovernmental, Transportation and Emergency Management Policy Committee this year.  
I am writing to suggest that the Committee consider some new legislation that is being crafted by Florida Congressman Greg Steube.  
The concept, described in a staff memo below, would alleviate some of the distressing FEMA procurement requirements, causing unnecessary backlogs and delays. Since so many Florida cities have been impacted by this, it is probably worth reaching out to Congress Steube’s team in advance of the September Policy meeting to see if this would be a good fit for our Committee’s emergency management discussion.  
This memo was originally sent to Commissioner BJ Bishop of the Town of Longboat Key by the Congressman’s national Security Advisor, Sam Araboghli, and subsequently shared with our Town Commission. Here is a copy...

... Wondering if you and your team at Florida League of Cities could take a look at legislation that Congressman Steube is considering introducing.  
Congressman Steube has been working on legislation to reform FEMA procurement methods, and specifically the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process. The intent of this bill is to streamline such procurement methods as it relates to using qualifications (QBS) as a primary factor, or pricing. As I’m sure you’re aware, some states (including Florida) have qualifications as the primary factor, while FEMA relies on pricing. This can lead to many municipalities encountering difficulty using federal funds (as disbursed through their state’s respective emergency management department) where state’s procurement policies are at odds with federal regulations.  
Ultimately, this bill would fix this issue by allowing local governments to use CMARs utilizing QBS procurement methods. This bill would also increase the simplified procedure rate from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000, aimed at reducing potential backlogs in FEMA audit reviews.  
We’d very much welcome your team’s support and input on this bill before we introduce. Please let me know if you may have any questions or concerns. Thanks!  
Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)  
I do hope this information will be of interest to the Committee and to FLC’s Federal action team. Unfortunately, I will be traveling and unable to make the September policy meeting, but do plan attend all other meetings of the group and the December conference.





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George  
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Judy  
Kepez-Hays  
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Kepez  
941-376-6411



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[VillaDiLancia114.com](http://VillaDiLancia114.com)

## Sanctuary



575 Sanctuary Drive #A303  
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[SanctuaryA303.com](http://SanctuaryA303.com)

## Promenade



1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #704  
\$999,000  
[Promenade704.com](http://Promenade704.com)

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105  
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[Promenade105.com](http://Promenade105.com)

## Golden Gate Point



660 Golden Gate Point #32  
\$899,000  
[MarinaView32.com](http://MarinaView32.com)

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# KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

| Address                         | Sq. Ft. | List Price  | Bed/Bath/Half Bath |   |   | Days On Market | Sale Price  |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|----------------|-------------|
| ç3491 BAYOU SOUND               | 5,405   | \$5,500,000 | 5                  | 4 | 2 | 526            | \$4,850,000 |
| 3272 BAYOU RD                   | 5,730   | \$3,849,000 | 4                  | 4 | 2 | 169            | \$3,300,000 |
| 603 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#602N  | 2,954   | \$2,395,000 | 3                  | 2 | 1 | 14             | \$2,050,000 |
| 1445 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#203 | 1,458   | \$1,540,000 | 2                  | 2 | 0 | 336            | \$1,400,000 |
| 618 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY            | 1,721   | \$1,250,000 | 2                  | 2 | 1 | 51             | \$1,190,000 |
| 4600 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202 | 1,351   | \$749,900   | 3                  | 2 | 0 | 186            | \$650,100   |
|                                 | 1,312   | \$550,000   | 2                  | 2 | 0 | 163            | \$520,000   |



4600 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202



JEFF  
RHINELANDER

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



COURTNEY  
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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.*

## Sept. 5

### Trespassing

8:28 p.m.

Sgt. Smith while on patrol, observed three adult men tying their vessel to the private dock belonging to someone who had previously lodged multiple complaints regarding trespassing incidents at the location. Sgt. Smith made contact with the subjects who advised they were seeking temporary shelter due to an approaching storm coming from the south. Sgt. Smith informed them they could not remain tied to the dock and directed them to alternative options including beaching and seeking shelter under the bridge or continuing south through the channel to the Shore or Mar Vista docks. Due to the need to expedite their departure ahead of the storm. Sgt. Smith did not obtain identifying information on the individuals or their vessel. The storm ultimately passed without impacting Longboat Key. The subjects departed the area without further incident.



now wants the case documented in case the contractor comes back to the residence. Officer Tillman also spoke to the contractor by phone and stated that he is still owed some money and will pass the information on to his lawyer. The contractor stated that there is a slight language barrier and he has no intentions of contacting the complainant. Case clear.

## Suspicious

5:29 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a woman around age 60 years old approached the complainants who were fishing from the pier. They said that the woman appeared to be under the influence and was stating that if she were a lot

younger she would teach them a few things. The complainants were not in fear or intimidated, they were only concerned for the woman's intoxication level. The woman was seen leaving the area going south over the bridge prior to the officer's arrival. Case clear.

## Sept. 6

### Suspicious

3:09 a.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Rountree Drive for a suspicious incident call. Upon arrival, Sgt. Smith met with the complainant who advised that as she woke up in her bedroom, she thought she saw an intruder crouching in the corner of the bedroom with the lights off. Patrol units cleared all rooms, garage and lanai area which were all found to be secured. No signs of attempted forced entry were observed. Nothing seemed out of place in the residence and an area canvass of all the side streets was conducted with negative results. All entry points were secured prior to leaving the residence. Case clear.

## Suspicious

5:00 p.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 1600 Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a traffic crash with injuries reported by an iPhone crash notification. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos didn't observe any vehicles involved in a crash. Officer Miklos located a damaged phone on SOS crash notification in the turn lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos was able to speak to an emergency contact who provided their names. The man advised he was a neighbor in New York. Officer Miklos made contact with one of the people who stated they were staying at the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos was able to turn the phone over to the woman without further incident. Case clear.

## Dog

8:11 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to North Shore for an animal problem call regarding a dog left in a black Ford Bronco with the windows open after sunset. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the caller and the owner of the vehicle who returned to the vehicle at the time of the officer's arrival. The dog was not in distress and was in good health. The owner stated that he had left the dog in the vehicle to take photographs at the beach for a few minutes. Case clear.

**Sept. 7**  
**Civil**

3:14 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to St. Judes Drive in reference to a civil disturbance. Officer Tillman contacted the complainant by phone and she said that she was not available to come to the residence and was out of state. Complainant stated that she needed to file a report in case of future incidents that may arise. The complainant stated that she hired a painting contractor to do some work on the residence and was not satisfied with the work completed. The complainant fired the contractor two days ago and paid all debt owed. The complainant stated that she

## Sept. 8 Property

10:02 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a property damage. Upon further investigation, the incident appears to have occurred near Harbour Sound Drive at the intersection with Harbour Side Drive. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke spoke with Bay Isles Harbor HOA President. He advised that a white truck owned by a contractor, struck the intercom system of the gate which grants access to the private community. Although the intercom is still operable, the audio no longer functions. The intercom is an estimated \$3,000-\$4,000 in value. The HOA President merely wanted the incident reported for documentation purposes, he's unsure whether he will file an insurance claim. Case clear.

## Sept. 9

### Suspicious

10:06 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort was dispatched for a report of fisherman fishing in between the signs on the Longboat Key Bridge. It was further reported by the bridge tender that he requested the subjects to move and they subsequently refused. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene within a short time, and observed several juveniles fishing in between the signs. The juveniles moved upon request and Sgt. Montfort departed the area to return to service. Case clear.

## Sept. 10

### Suspicious

7:58 p.m.

Officer Maple and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to the 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive at the hotel. A marine rescue call came regarding two kayakers that were 500 feet from shore, with darkness approaching, and the caller believed they were in distress. The call was later updated to a call due to the personnel not returning to shore right away with law enforcement presence in the area and not displaying any lights or acting as a prudent mariner. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the Longboat Key Fire Department personnel who stated they had a boat enroute from the marina. The Fire Department identified their response vessel as Marine rescue one. The paddleboarders were spotted from shore by utilizing a handheld search light, since it had made it to shore safely. Officer Maple questioned the kayakers about their situation and circumstances. The kayakers were not in distress and had just gone offshore to watch the sunset. The individuals were approximately twenty years old and were not involved in any criminal activity. Officer Maple reminded the kayakers of the rules for paddleboarding in the area. Fire Department personnel stood down from their rescue operations. Case clear.

## Property

6:00 p.m.

Officer Miklos, Officer Tillman and Officer Martinson were dispatched to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a property damage report. Upon arrival, Officers made contact with the complainant and a witness in the parking lot of the complex near a burgundy Ford. The complainant stated that at approximately 6 p.m. he was leaving the parking lot in the F150 and the vehicle was new to him and he was having difficulty adjusting to a new vehicle's gas and brake pedal causing him to squeal his tires. The complainant stated that as he drove away, a piece of wood struck his passenger door and windshield. The piece of wood caused a dent above the passenger door handle and shattered the windshield in two places. The windshield had a strike mark approximately one foot into the window from the A pillar and heavy damage where the window meets the A pillar. The A pillar and passenger window was not damaged by the wood. Officers attempted to gain further information on the wood strike. The witness stated the piece of wood was thrown over a fence onto the vehicle as it drove away. The witness stated he heard the man yell "scumbagi!" as the vehicle drove away. The witness advised he was standing in the parking lot by the maintenance shed. Officer Martinson made contact with the woman in the unit. She advised that she was unsure what occurred last night. The woman advised she was inside when she heard loud squealing from a vehicle's tires as it drove past her unit. The woman stated the vehicle's tires continued to squeal as it exited the parking lot onto Gulf of Mexico Drive. The woman said she didn't have any surveillance cameras in the area. Officer Martinson advised that he would be completing a property damage report for the incident and provided the case number. The complainant was told by Officer Tillman that he could not prove criminal intent and that he would complete a property damage report. Case clear.

The advertisement for LBK Liqueurs features a pink flamingo standing in the center, its body partially overlapping the text 'LBK' and 'Liqueurs'. The text 'LBK' is in a large, black, serif font, while 'Liqueurs' is in a similar but slightly more stylized serif font. To the right of the flamingo, the phone number '941.953.1835' is displayed in a clean, black, sans-serif font. Below this, a line of text reads 'The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits' followed by 'Come check out our competitive prices!'. Another line of text states 'Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome'. Below that, it says 'Locally owned & operated'. At the bottom, the address 'Whitney Beach Plaza' and '6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL' is provided. The entire ad is framed by a thin black border. On the left and right sides, there are decorative elements: on the left, three stylized liquor bottles in yellow, teal, and pink; on the right, three stylized liquor bottles in pink, teal, and yellow.



# EditorLetters



**Letters, from page 8**

Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Gulf of America Drive**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
It's important that the Commissioners vote for Gulf of Mexico Drive to be changed to Gulf of America Drive.  
The last thing we need is:  
to have maps refer to our main road as State Road 789,  
to have signs on our road identifying it as State Road 789.  
Will those who live on Gulf of Mexico Drive have their driver's license, which is a State issued document, as well as county property tax records convert to State Road 789? Please vote to change the name to Gulf of America.  
Joseph J. McElmeel  
Longboat Key

**A road by any other name**

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
I believe that changing the name of an internationally recognized body of water requires international approval. Just because a politician says so, doesn't make it true. If you travel outside the US, Google maps still uses Gulf of Mexico, as do eight billion people.  
It seems some political whims can be very expensive and require huge amounts of other people's time and effort, just to have to do it all over again in three years.  
Gene Jaleski  
Longboat Key

**All is transient**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Given that we have had single term presidents in recent history, renaming GMD to GAD may be fleeting. Is there any federal mandate that GMD be renamed? If so, then what about the name of the road that parallels the Gulf on Anna Maria? Must it also be renamed?  
Gene Jaleski  
Longboat Key

**Not able access portal**

To: Andrew Litvin  
I mentioned to Allen Pardons, Head of Planning and Zoning, your issue regarding permits granted on your Beach Place property that had not been approved by you. He was not familiar with the problem but will look into it.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

**Not able access portal**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I cannot locate the four unauthorized permits due to accessing the website. If needed I can provide this week. The town has a record of the 4 permits.  
Andrew Litvin  
Longboat Key

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Procedures Act  
To: Office of Rep. Steube Sami Araboghli  
Sami Thank you for sending this. We will review and get back to you. Thank Rep. Steube for me.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Procedures Act  
To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Hope you're doing well! Wondering if you and your team at Florida League of Cities could take a look at legislation that Congressman Steube is considering introducing.  
Congressman Steube has been working on legislation to reform FEMA procurement methods, and specifically the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process. The intent of this bill is to streamline such procurement methods as it relates to using qualifications (QBS) as a primary factor, or pricing. As I'm sure you're aware, some states (including Florida) have qualifications as the primary factor, while FEMA relies on pricing. This can lead to many municipalities encountering difficulty using federal funds (as disbursed through their state's respective emergency management department) where state's procurement policies are at odds with federal regulations.  
Ultimately, this bill would fix this issue by allowing local governments to use CMARs utilizing QBS procurement methods. This bill would also increase the simplified procedure rate from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000, aimed at reducing potential backlogs in FEMA audit reviews.  
We'd very much welcome your team's support and input on this bill before we introduce. Please let me know if you may have any questions or concerns. Thanks!  
Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

Proposed change in budget  
To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
For the last several years, and in response to previous concerns the Policy Board raised about SBEP's financial management, we have been receiving quarterly accounting reviews from an outside firm. This is in addition to the external audit that we complete each year. As you know, the results of our external financial and programmatic audits have given us the highest marks

See Letters, page 13

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# Gannet spells mystery, power

*Everything about gannets spells power, agility and mystery. These 37-inch seabirds, that breed on rocky cliffs in the North Atlantic and winter at sea, are uncommon migrants to Florida.*

**Michael Givant**  
Contributing Columnist  
givant@lbknews.com

Immature gannets as well as some mature adults soar offshore above the Gulf of Mexico where they can occasionally be seen from December through April. They always look a little too big, their wings look a little too long and a little too bent. Their bills point down toward the water, their heads are slightly tilted downward and their tails are tight and tubular. If you could design a bird to come from on high and circle over the water reconnoitering for fish, it would be the gannet.

The most I'd seen at any one time was two or three until one morning this February; there were eight or nine on Whitney Beach. Over three hours later on another spot on the beach, I counted about 22. That morning I got a crash course in what they looked like in flight and in plunge diving.

Gannets' wings taper to a point and span six feet. Those wings sometimes shimmy before the bird dives. Other times they are slightly arched, and yet other times they straighten to full length. These birds can and do turn on a dime and will sometimes turn around once or twice as they plunge at a 90-degree angle.

Gannets can dive from heights of about 90 feet reaching speeds of approximately 60 miles per hour. During these dives their wings, initially bent at impossible angles, straighten a split second before the bird enters the ocean like a bullet, leaving only a splash. What prevents gannets from injuring themselves during such dives are internal air sacs around the face and chest, which act as shock absorbers.

They will stay under a short while and, despite weighing six-and-a-half pounds, gannets bob to the surface with the buoyancy of a cork. While I didn't see them eating, gannets take small fish underwater. Most remained on the surface a short time before flying. When they did take off it was difficult to see their initial liftoff. However they quickly rose to a low height, flying parallel to the water for five or six seconds until they started to gain altitude. As they gained altitude, if their rears were toward me, I could see a white spot or band at the base of their tails. As they flew they sometimes disappeared between the crests of two waves for a few seconds causing me anxious moments. However after watching many dives and flights I felt like a parent of an adventurous adult child in whom I had full confidence. I knew that they would appear unharmed.

At the end of that morning having walked up and down the beach following them I sat on the sand taking notes.



Gannets can dive from heights of about 90 feet reaching speeds of approximately 60 miles per hour.

Skeptical that I was going to see so many again, I kept watching. Just when I told myself I'd really had enough, one plunged from a height greater than any I'd seen before. It was like watching old newsreel footage of fighter planes being shot down in WWII Pacific naval battles.

The next day I did see some gannets and enjoyed looking at the striking differences between adults, which are black and white with some yellow on their heads. I really enjoyed seeing the immature ones of which there are a lot more than there are mature adults. They are the ones whose dirty white and brown bodies spell power and mystery to me. There is only one other bird flying off Whitney Beach with which they can be confused, and that is the brown pelican. However as the pelican has an enormous bill and the gannet doesn't, it is easy to tell the difference between the two.

There was no other day that matched the sheer number of gannets I saw that morning. I was in the right place at the right time. A few weeks later when walking with my wife on Beer Can Island, a rich brown immature gannet was flying close to shore. It plunged into the water less than 25 yards from shore and floated for a while. I could see the blue gray of its eye but somehow it was more exciting seeing gannets from afar. Knowing that they are not going to come ashore here is part of their mystery.

The last time I saw gannets, I was leaving the beach one windy morning and by chance turned around. Two immature ones were flying fairly close to shore. The day had just turned partially cloudy leaving the Gulf water dark toward the beach and a bright green further out — theatrical lighting provided by Mother Nature. The birds, a rich brown, were flying low and making a wide circle over the



water. When they reconnoiter the water like that I become transfixed. What restrained power and agility. They flew off toward the horizon but only one came back. Then I lost sight of both. Somehow, fittingly, they were gone. But for a minute they brought their mystery and majesty to bear leaving this admirer smiling.

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10 And Under High Performance:  
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Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College. Call Payne Park Tennis center at 941-263-6641 to schedule. Payne Park Tennis Center, 2050 Adams Lane, Downtown Sarasota, 34237



Letters, from page 11

Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

While not a resident of LBK, my wife and I do own property on GMD. If the name is changed will all the property deeds along the Drive have to be changed to match the new name? That seems to be an unfair expense for the owners and for the town and county administrative staffers. As mentioned, the next Administration may restore the current name in three years. Then we would have the additional expense of restoring the original name. I recommend the town not change the name. Allow FDOT to designate it as SR789. Thank you for considering this comment.

Richard Shaw  
Longboat Key

GOM Drive Rename Suggestion

To: Janice Van Dyck

To be clear, the decision to re-name GMD or not rests with the Town Commission. The issue has not yet been discussed, no less decided. The first formal conversation on the matter has been scheduled for our October 20 workshop. Hope to see you there.

Ken Schneider  
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

GOM Drive Rename Suggestion

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

I understand the push to rename Gulf of America Drive as well as I understand the practical cost and resistance. I understand your latest communication to tell us that it will, regardless, be renamed in the near future.

I believe the lowest cost and trouble for the town and its residents would be to rename the road Gulf Drive.

(1) Residents could continue receiving mail however it is addressed with no confusion. Gulf of Mexico Drive would be read Gulf Drive. If the two words are not removed, minimal confusion would result in delivery to Gulf Drive in 34228.

(2) The town would have minimal adjustments to make now, and if future governmental authorities change it back to Gulf of Mexico in a few years' time.

Low cost, low confusion, no political position. I believe that's the most practical answer.

Thank you for all you do to make LBK a great place.

Janice Van Dyck  
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I couldn't agree more. Not only would renaming GMD be a silly waste of time and money, but it introduces unnecessary and divisive partisan politics to our island where the vast majority of our issues are non-partisan.

I would note the Gulf of Mexico was named by the Spaniards in the 1600s who, after all, discovered it. Keeping the GMD name doesn't make us any less patriotic but it does send a message to Tallahassee to keep their nose out of our local affairs.

James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive rename

To: Longboat Key Commission

I never heard of anything so needlessly divisive and just plain dumb. This is going to be not only expensive but also a problem for those of us who have a Gulf of Mexico Drive address. We are going to have to change all of our addresses on all our accounts, starting with our checkbooks. And what happens when the next politician comes in and decides to change it back. I have always been against changing street names - whether it's for democrats or republicans- and maybe this is the time to stop that practice. I can't be at the meeting, but do want my voice heard via this email.

Diane Goldberg  
Longboat Key

Gulf of America

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letters@lbknews.com

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please direct change of signs, literature, etc., to show Gulf of America to replace Gulf of Mexico.

James "Jim" Quinn  
Longboat Key

Name for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Henry Smith

Thank you for weighing in. The naming issue will be addressed at the 10/20 commission meeting.

Debra Williams  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Name for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Please log our opposition to changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Our magnificent Town should not even consider imposing the resulting burden on taxpayers and burden on homeowners with Gulf of Mexico Drive addresses. Thank you for your service to our paradise.

Henry and Donna Rae Smith  
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thank you for all the work that you do on the Town Commission. I have loved LBK for a long time. My husband and I own a condo (we do not rent out our unit) at Gulf of Mexico Drive, and we oppose changing the street's name. Beginning in 1984, various members of my family, including my parents, have owned property on Gulf of Mexico Drive, and the name always has had a special meaning for us. The name is part of Longboat Key's history. We do not think that the name

should be changed based on political considerations of those who do not have a stake in that history.

We appreciate your consideration of this letter, and we would be happy to provide any further information that may be of use to you.

Barbara Milano Keenan  
Alan Rosenblatt  
Longboat Key

Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Procedures

To: Office of Rep. Steube Sami Araboghli

I have had conversation with Allison and Casey at FLC. Their initial response was positive, but they wanted to review carefully. I will follow up with them Monday. As President of the Manasota League of Cities I will hopefully get the towns in Manatee and Sarasota on board as well. Again, thanks to you, Greg and staff for this legislation.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Procedures

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Thank you for the support! We're glad to promote these needed reforms. Do you know if your colleagues at FLC would be supportive also? We'd love to have them as an endorsing group. The National Association of Counties have just given their endorsement as well. Please let me know if there's anything you may need from us. Thanks!

Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

KeyCrossword

Hands and Feet

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Stinger  
5 Certain South Africans  
10 Put away for another day  
14 Sport fish  
18 Legal rights gr.  
19 Hydrophyte-like organisms  
20 Substitute for cocoa  
22 Westerns writer Wister  
23 Sign from Siskel  
25 1936 Rodgers and Hart hit  
27 Home wreckers  
28 Cookware glass  
30 Pitchman's partner  
31 Genesis site  
32 Williams or Crawford  
33 King of the range  
34 View from Vesuvius  
37 Itchy canine concern  
38 Patterned upholstery fabrics  
41 Debbie or Gracie  
42 Skaneateles and Seneca  
44 Short snort  
46 Nelson's "On the Again"  
47 Ray, of "Battle Cry"  
48 Supplicant's sign-off  
49 Hoodwink  
50 Coquettish  
51 Penurious  
55 Felicitous  
56 Branch  
58 Chad and Rob  
59 Recalcitrant  
60 Warner who played Chan  
61 LEM part  
62 Robed in purple  
63 Stir up  
64 Street of Blues  
65 Used as insulation  
68 Ancestral image  
69 Moochers  
71 On a roll  
72 Cheeky chatter  
73 Undaunted  
74 Excessively suave  
75 "\_\_\_ No Angels"; Bogart film  
76 Intuition  
77 Oasis of the Golden State  
81 Be generous  
82 Without zeal  
84 Hepburn's "\_\_\_ Holiday"  
85 Clemens pitch

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- 86 Actors Griffith or Kaufman  
87 Elect members summarily  
88 IOU  
89 Thanks, in Thiers  
91 Disney dog  
92 Companion at sea  
96 Like a fat cat  
98 Not comforted  
100 Man or Wight  
101 Swipe  
102 Scandinavian  
103 Author/humorist Lardner  
104 Carriage  
105 Elwes or Grant  
106 Fred, of "Hunter"  
107 Uncomplicated

DOWN

- 1 One joule per second  
2 Craving  
3 Aspersion  
4 Beat badly  
5 Moistens roasting vegetables

- 6 Of a bygone era  
7 Selves  
8 Immature  
9 Aware of  
10 Harridan  
11 Dred Scott  
Decision chief justice  
12 African antelope  
13 Court  
14 Themes  
15 MP's problem  
16 \_\_\_ over; pass out  
17 Off opposites  
21 Kalahari desert nomads  
24 First State senator Joseph  
26 Cassowary kin  
29 "Picnic" playwright  
32 Creek craft  
33 Encrusted  
34 Sleep starter  
35 Stand-offish  
36 Flirt, in a way  
37 Center  
38 Fonteyn and Markova  
39 No genius he  
40 Toy terrier type

- 42 Outpouring  
43 Subsequent  
45 Sail in a tacking pattern  
47 By oneself  
49 Forced labor camp  
51 Deep rift  
52 See 96 Across  
53 Ancient district on the Aegean  
54 Super Bowl MVP Lynn  
55 Nigerian capital  
57 Pivots around  
59 Black or blue fruit  
61 Hits terra firma  
62 Film units  
63 Rake over the coals  
64 Temperate  
65 Make parallel  
66 "Casablanca" actor Peter  
67 Take the tiller  
68 Child's abbreviation  
69 Little Miss Flinders  
70 1939s Mr. Chips, Robert  
73 Villains

- 75 James who played Truman  
77 Make a collar  
78 Without shame  
79 Cheer  
80 Capture and confine  
81 Mistakes  
83 Conference  
85 Mouse  
87 Lucid  
88 Opted for  
89 Interlock  
90 Jazz great Fitzgerald  
91 Petition  
92 Use a crystal ball  
93 Inter \_\_\_  
94 Sawbucks  
95 Irritable  
96 Its cap. is Madison  
97 List's last, briefly  
99 Ibsen's homeland; abbr.



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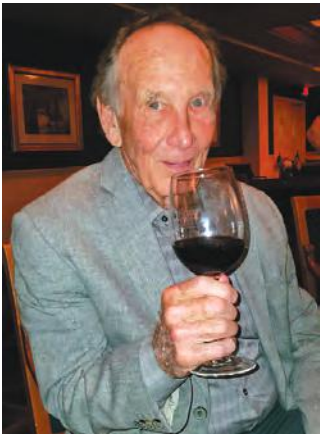
# WineTimes

## Wine: Next New Thing

*We selected a bottle of the 2024 Ile de Conas RosOrange from a display at Trader Joe’s in Sarasota Florida. Having written about “orange wine” earlier, the orange cast of the wine looked interesting and, for \$7.99, worth a try.*

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

Our recent discovery of the next new thing in wine turned out to be ancient news by social media standards. We selected a bottle of the 2024 Ile de Conas RosOrange from a display at Trader Joe’s in Sarasota Florida. Having written about “orange wine” earlier, the orange cast of the wine looked interesting and, for \$7.99, worth a try. We sampled the bottle and found the taste pleasant and refreshing, befitting a late summer wine. We returned and bought a few bottles. The wine expert Freddie at the Trader Joe’s on South Tamiami Trail told us that the RosOrange wine was enjoying a wave of popularity. We thought that we had made an interesting find and searched for more information on the wine.



The RosOrange blends Rosé from the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France with extended white grape skin contact (Örange) wine. Extended skin contact during fermentation gives a white wine depth, and the fresh Rosé adds floral aromas and sweet fruit tastes. The Alcohol By Volume (ABV) percentage in this wine of 12.5% suggests that fermentation has reduced residual sugars to the level of a typical dry wine. The sweetness comes mainly from fruit flavors. The Languedoc-Roussillon region is transitioning from cheap red wines to the lighter white and Rosé wines popular in the Provence and Southern Rhône wine regions to the east. This shift seems promising in light of the increasing demand for lighter wines in France and worldwide.

Grapes in the RosOrange wine are native to southern France: Grenache, Cinsault, Vermentino, and Grenache Gris. The Macabeo grape, also known as the primary white grape Viura in the Rioja region of Spain, adds a touch of spice. Winemakers in the Languedoc-Roussillon region have access to a rich palette of white and red grapes.

After our “discovery” of this next big thing in wine, we realized that wine writers in the UK had scooped us by a long margin. Writing for the venerable Guardian newspaper in Manchester UK, Hannah Crosbie had more than a month earlier reported the Rosé-Orange wines best new thing as old news. In her review, she featured several Rosé-Orange wines other than RosOrange. (Incidentally, the Guardian is asking for well-deserved \$5/week support for its honest news coverage

An April 2025 review of the RosOrange wine by Jack Marshall of the Lancashire Post (UK,

established 1886) mentions unveiling of the RosOrange wine at Aldi stores during 2024. We missed the leading edge by a year or so.

We do hope readers will remember our timely report of blue wine early in its ascendancy and before it became decisively passé. We may not win the race to report wine trends first, but we think that Rosé-Orange wines will outlive the end of summer and enjoy a long run as the next best thing,

*S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research data-bases 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 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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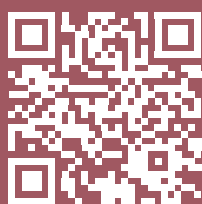
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