

Longboat Key News

September 8, 2006

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SOLD!

Suri Seeks Silence

Will TomKat and company soon arrive on Longboat Key? Sources close to Hollywood tell Sold! the probability rises every day.

After his acrimonious divorce from billionaire Viacom-Paramount chief Sumner Redstone, Cruise and his production company have been playing host to money from various hedge funds (now investors and the SEC can finally learn where those hard earned dollars actually go.) A few tens of millions seems to have fallen into their hands, but both Cruise and future wife Katie Holmes now desire a place to rest from the paparazzi. To obtain solitariness and proximity to family, Longboat appears the place to visit.

A major advantage of staying on Longboat Key is that Scientology teaching appears to privilege silence

Sold, Page 4A



The Cruise Family

Longboater's Boat Nabbed Commission May Alter Town Plaza



Rick Law

Longboater Rob Welling found his boat (pictured above), The Winnie, run aground off South Longboat Key. It was stolen from its slip at Marina Jack's on Monday.

Jeff Berlinicke
Staff Writer

For almost 24 hours, Edward "Ted" Long thought he had the perfect life.

Beautiful boat, two female bartenders at his side, a lot of liquor, and the sunset of Longboat Key to frame the perfect picture. For 24 hours, he was Longboat Key's version of a young Jimmy Buffett.

Then, the Longboat Key Police Department came and spoiled the party. Long would have to watch the sun set from the inside of a police car.

Long, 42, was arrested on Sept. 4 after allegedly stealing a 42-foot trawler that

has belonged to Longboat Key resident Rob Welling for three years.

Welling, who is a captain at Mote Marine and also owns Simpatico Marine, a yacht delivery service headquartered in Sarasota, arrived at the Marina Jack's boat docks early on Sept. 4 and found his boat missing. He learned from the captain of the boat normally docked next to his, that the boat was last spotted at 9:30 p.m. the previous night. Welling pulled up his car and his girlfriend Crystle asked where his boat was.

"I was literally stunned and stared at

Theft, Page 4A

Mote Offers Stingray Safety

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

The recent death of Television personality Steve Irwin by a stingray puncture has fueled numerous inquires into the safety of swimming alongside the prolific creatures. But according to Mote Marine, the animals pose little risk to humans if even minor steps or a slight shuffle is taken.

Stingray, Page 3A



Against All Odds: Katherine Harris

Lia Martin
Associate Editor

U.S. Senate candidate Katherine Harris lives on Longboat Key with her husband, Anders Ebbeson. On Tuesday morning, she cast her votes at Town Hall by 9:30 a.m. She admits to being a person who likes to be home.

In fact, she says that when she is not working in Washington, D.C., she comes home for the weekends.

"I want to be the people's Senator," Harris said in an interview on Wednesday. "I come home every weekend."

Floridians know Harris by name and face because of her rise from Florida

secretary of state, as a Florida state senator, and then her stint as U.S. Rep for the 13th District of Florida, which began Jan. 7, 2004.

Now that she has won the primary election in her goal to be a United States senator, Harris admits that she is under fire from her opponents.

Harris has been called everything from a moron to a clothes horse. She has also been criticized for the way she dresses and taking money from a developer to fund her campaign.

As her upper-level staff began dissolving and leaving her campaign, she did not crumple and stop as many expected her to do including LeRoy Collins, Jr., William McBride, and Peter Monroe, who ran against her in the primaries.

Harris, Page 5A

Lia Martin
Associate Editor

Planning and Zoning board members are recommending to the Town commissioners that they approve the Town Plaza I land use changes they studied several months ago after Dead River Properties pleaded their cause to the board on June 26.

This recommendation in part was a suggestion by Monica Daigle, who is the planning, zoning and building director for the Town.

Dead River Properties is a land management company located in Portland, Maine, who say that if they could have restrictions eased it would be easier to lease properties in the Avenue of the Town, Page 5A

Town to Set LBK Tax Rate

Lia Martin
Associate Editor

Longboat Key's Finance Director Terry Sullivan provides different millage rate models each fiscal year for Longboat Key Town commissioners to study.

Knowing that commissioners like to keep \$2 million in unallocated reserves in each Town budget, Sullivan says that the concern about selecting a millage rate is its sustainability.

"If the millage rate is cut deeply this year," Sullivan questions the Commission, "Will it cause a need to increase the millage rate next year?"

This is one of the reasons Sullivan provided a "generalized" model last fiscal year, so that the commission could look into the future three years ahead to see how the unallocated reserves would react if the millage rate were not changed.

Sullivan is providing eight models at millage rates between 1.3900 and 1.4650, which it is currently, to discuss during the Monday regular meeting.

Sullivan says the millage model must follow these assumptions: \$1 million would be added to the budgeted prior year ending balance as a starting point of the new budget, property values would rise by 8% annually, operating costs would rise by 5% annually, capital costs would remain the same, and transfers to canal dredging would remain the same.

On Aug. 1 when the county tax roll was determined, Sullivan recommended to the commission that the millage rate continue at 1.465 mills.

In a table model — which is presented to the commission ahead of their meeting next Monday to study — Sullivan outlined different models using different millage rates.

For instance, at a 1.3900 millage rate with all the criteria outlined in the last paragraph with an 8% increase in taxes, the 2007 unallocated reserve for the Town of Longboat Key would be \$2,066,551.

Millage, Page 4A