

Year in Review

From page A6

Leader of the pack



MHS baseball players surround Bronson Bard after he hit a home run against the Santa Paula Cardinals. Sharks pitchers Ezra Allen and Noah Simon combined to throw a no-hitter, and Malibu gave up just one unearned run in a 5-1 win in March. *Devon Meyers*

JUNE

■ A newly developed smartphone app that identifies Malibu beach public access points drew praise from open beach advocates and criticism from many in Malibu who were concerned about the idea of sending visitors to many beaches without lifeguards, parking problems near access points and a lack of toilets or sanitation.

■ Joan House was sworn in as mayor for the fourth time, three before term limits, a never-to-be-repeated record for the City of Malibu. Skylar Peak, who had previously been passed over for Mayor Pro Tem, finally got the job, a sign



Joan House

that his colleagues were comfortable with his rehabilitation.

■ LA County officials came to the City Council meeting to explain financing plans for a sweeping \$266-million water system overhaul for Malibu and Topanga. The 20-year project is scheduled to begin in 2015. The good news was the first phase, about \$57 million, would come out of accumulated reserves and bond money.

■ Two weekend brushfires sparked: one on Point Dume, which came perilously close to some mobile homes, and another in Encinal Canyon. The county fire department indicated both were suspicious in nature and arson investigators were assigned.

■ The proliferation of many high-end rehab and sober living facilities in Malibu created problems in many neighborhoods, where facilities are frequently clustered. State law, limiting each facility to six patient beds, governs the facilities. City officials indicated they were gearing up for a major crackdown on drug and alcohol treatment, many of which allegedly operate in brazen disregard

*"This is a \$100 million industry operating in the City of Malibu."*

LOU LA MONTE  
MALIBU CITY COUNCILMAN, ON  
REHAB CENTER PROLIFERATION

of local zoning laws.

JULY

■ An early summer heat wave brought 455,000 visitors to Malibu beaches, launching the beginning of a season that generally brings 11 million visitors to Malibu. A bigger crowd was expected for July 4, with four fireworks barges spread out from La Costa Beach to Paradise Cove Beach.

■ The predictions proved correct and 655,000 visitors hit the beaches over the Fourth of July

weekend, producing more than their share of serious medical problems. In what looked to be a freak (but not totally unusual) accident, a young man in his 20s dove into the shallow ocean near the Malibu Pier and hit a sandbar. Over the weekend there were 15 major medical responses and 288 rescues, proving again that the ocean can be dangerous if you don't know what you're doing.

■ California State Parks officials who, along with the Army Corp of Engineers, want to remove the almost 100-year-old Rindge Dam, had a sampling of the kind of opposition they are going to face when they actually try to start the estimated \$100-million-plus project. In a public workshop, charges flew back and forth, and "boondoggle" was one of those words spectators used often and with vehemence.

AUGUST

■ The controversial chain store ordinance being advocated by the Preserve Malibu group and its anti-development allies was stonewalled at the Planning Commission, which voted 4-1 against the pro-

*"Maybe this app will help reduce conflict since signage is inadequate. Maybe it will help facilitate action by public agencies so that everyone benefits. People still say 'private beach,' when the beaches are for everyone. There needs to be a shift in consciousness."*

JENNY PRICE  
CO-CREATOR OF "OUR MALIBU BEACHES" APP



Grant Adamson (left), 55, died in a hot air balloon crash in August after hitting a power line in Switzerland. His wife Terry (right) and daughters Lauren and Megan were seriously injured. *Janet Lard*

posed ordinance. Preserve Malibu and its allies walked out of the hearing, vowing a ballot measure to bring before voters.

■ Broad Beach homeowners who have been desperately searching for environmentally acceptable sand to replenish the severely eroded beach may have found a solution. Apparently most coastal towns have proved reluctant to give up their sand, but a couple of commercial sand quarries in Fillmore and Moorpark, which don't appear to have much of a coastal erosion problem, have said that might do the job when trucked to Malibu.

■ In a tragic hot air balloon accident in Switzerland, 55-year-old Grant Adamson, a descendant of Malibu's founding Rindge family, was killed. His wife Terry and two daughters Lauren and Megan were seriously injured. All three are still recovering from injuries, some of which have required multiple surgeries and

*"The bottom line that I would say to you...is that there's a lack of trust here."*

LAURA ROSENTHAL  
MALIBU CITY COUNCILWOMAN,  
TO STATE PARKS OFFICIALS  
DISCUSSING RINDGE DAM  
REMOVAL PROJECT

extensive rehabilitation.

■ Normally softhearted animal rescuers drew the line when it came to establishing a tiger rescue/housing facility on a 19-acre parcel in the Deer Creek Road area in west Malibu just over the Ventura County line. Plans to store up to five rare white Bengal

See Year in Review, page A9

Concert for a cause



Malibu singing group Cimorelli, made up of sisters (from left) Amy, Christina, Dani, Katherine, Lauren and Lisa, performed a concert on May 5 to aid the family of tow truck driver Ronald Carver, who was killed in an accident on Pacific Coast Highway in February. A large number of locals and visitors turned out to show their support and enjoy the music. *Emily Goodman*

Acting out



Actors Oscar Best and A Martinez act out a scene from a production of "Blood Knot" during rehearsal. The play, directed by Oscar-winner Louis Gossett Jr., opened in May at the Malibu Stage Company. *Julie Ellerton / TMT*