

Year in Review

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The best is yet to come



Graduates from the Malibu High School class of 2013 throw their caps in the air in celebration during June's commencement ceremony on the school's athletic field. *Devon Meyers*

tigers to be used in filming got a less-than-warm welcome from potential neighbors.

■ A study commissioned by the city to try and help solve some of the PCH dangers and traffic flow problems came up with a number of suggestions, including paid parking on PCH to solve the problem of drivers cruising around looking for free parking and creating traffic hazards when they stop and look. There were 79 other recommended fixes, but none that could solve the principal problem of PCH, which is its function as both a main street and a freeway. We also identified the 10 most dangerous PCH intersections in Malibu, No. 1 being the most dangerous:

1. Las Flores Canyon Road
2. Malibu Canyon Road
3. Kanan Dume Road
4. Webb Way
5. Paradise Cove Road
6. John Tyler Drive
7. Cross Creek Road
8. Carbon Canyon Road
9. Corral Canyon Road
10. Westward Beach Road

For full details, search "10 Most Dangerous Intersections in Malibu" at malibutimes.com.

■ The California Coastal Commission for many years has sought the power to impose fines directly onto property owners rather than going through the annoyance of trying to convince an impartial judge that the fines are justified. This year they thought

A league of their own



Karis Hughes prepares to catch the ball as Sydney Morrison slides into home plate during one of the last Malibu Little League games of the season at Bluffs Park last June. *Devon Meyers*

they would finally have a bill to give them the right to directly fine owners: AB 976 passed through the more liberal State Assembly 42-32 but got sidetracked somewhere in the State Senate, probably by a combination of Republicans and Central Valley Democrats. Many of them are not great fans of the Coastal Commission and

Driver killed after truck plummets off Mulholland



Covina resident Mike Ramirez, 34, was killed in July after his work truck fell 350 feet over the side of Mulholland Highway about one mile north of Pacific Coast Highway. *Courtesy of Malibu Search and Rescue*

hesitant to give them powers that would allow them to fine those evildoers up to \$1,250 per day.

SEPTEMBER

■ Casa Malibu, a historic PCH hotel operating on Carbon Beach, closed, soon to be replaced by a smaller, newer and much more upscale Nobu Hotel by billionaire owner Larry Ellison, who bought the property back in 2007 for \$20 million.

■ Ellison, a local real estate baron and founder of the software company Oracle, came in third again in Forbes Magazine's list of wealthiest Americans, with an estimated worth of \$41 billion. Over the years, Ellison has been a steady buyer of Malibu real estate and businesses. He owns upscale eateries Nobu and Nikita, the Malibu Racquet Club, the former Casa Malibu Inn (now in extensive renovation), and numerous properties on Malibu's Carbon Beach and in the Serra Retreat neighborhood. He recently picked up 98 percent of Lanai, an island in the Hawaiian chain.

■ The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the settlement of two of the cases in connection with the 2007 Malibu Canyon fire caused by overloaded poles. The \$51.5

million settlement includes \$37 million from Edison and \$14.5 million from NextG.

OCTOBER

■ The crash of a small private jet at Santa Monica Airport took the life of Malibu resident and Morley Construction CEO Mark Benjamin, 63, and his son Lucas Benjamin, 28, also an employee of the company. The accident happened during landing at the airport when the small jet suddenly veered right and hit a hangar, immediately bursting into flames. The Benjamins and two other female occupants perished in the crash. Mark Benjamin had been active in educational and environmental causes in the Malibu community.

■ Because of the ongoing questions about the safety of some Malibu High School buildings, Supt. Sandra Lyon announced at a local meeting the district would move classes out of the middle school building into trailers or the adjoining Cabrillo Elementary School. The district has brought in experts to test for contaminants, such as the carcinogen PCB, through both soil, dust and air studies. Preliminary mold tests showed "no unusual findings."

■ Pepperdine University and the See Year in Review, page A11

Longtime singing clerk retires from Ralphs



Deborah Caraway, the longtime Malibu Ralphs clerk known for her singing voice and cheerful demeanor, retired from the supermarket. Above, Caraway and local fixture Dick Van Dyke share a laugh at a fundraising event. *Amy Williams*

Chumash Day 2013



Hundreds of Malibu residents and visitors visited Bluffs Park to witness the ceremonial Grand Entrance. Native Americans from all over the United States wore their traditional clothing representing their tribe during Chumash Days this year. *Julie Ellerton / TMT*