

Malibu Times' cartoonist Fred Purucker shares about his work. **Malibu Life: B1**



Tom Hirsch, local dentist, invents a light to help see into patients' mouths. **Malibu Life: B1**

The Malibu Times

January 16, 2014 | www.MalibuTimes.com

Malibu's Award Winning Community Paper | Since 1946

25 Cents | No. 3

Brush fires burn near Malibu



Charles Potts

The PCH Fire sparked on Tuesday afternoon on a steep hillside in Pacific Palisades. Traffic was logjammed for hours as crews fought to put out and contain the flames. No one was injured in the fire.

PCH Fire threatens hilltop homes and creates treacherous traffic for commuters; Topanga brush fire chars two acres, leaves structures unscathed.

By Melissa Caskey
Staff Writer

Firefighters battled and subdued two small brush fires Tuesday near Malibu as low humidity and heavy winds continued to keep fire authorities on high alert.

The worst of the two fires occurred shortly after 3 p.m. on a hillside in Pacific Palisades next to

Pacific Coast Highway, burning approximately two acres, snarling rush hour traffic and inching perilously close to several bluff-top homes. A second fire, which sparked around noon in Topanga Canyon, also burned two acres and was subdued about three hours later. A small fire was also reported in Topanga Canyon on Sunday.

No major injuries were reported in either fire, but one firefighter suffered a minor injury in the Topanga brush fire when ash blew into his eye.

PCH Fire burns 2 acres, creates traffic nightmare
The PCH Fire was reported

around 3:15 p.m. as a cloud of smoke and red flames engulfed the hillside in the 14800 block of PCH just north of Chautauqua Blvd. A few blufftop homes were briefly threatened by the flames, but firefighters fought down the flames as they approached the top of the hill.

Approximately 150 firefighters and several helicopter "super scoopers" responded to the hillside blaze, with some crews spraying water uphill from PCH as super scoopers made aerial drops. Firefighters were also posted in the backyards of several hilltop homes to douse the properties as a precaution.

See Fires, page A10

How fire officials determine danger

A complex, daily calculation of humidity, temperature, wind and vegetation moisture factor into the signs you see along the road.

By Knowles Adkisson
Associate Editor

Three brushfires that occurred over Sunday and Monday in the Malibu area have everyone from residents to firefighters on high alert.

See Fire danger, page A10

Inbreeding found in local mountain lions

DNA results underscore need for safe wildlife corridor across the 101 Freeway, advocates say.

By Jimmy Tallal
Special to The Malibu Times



Kim Barker

Mountain lion kittens

DNA tests performed on a litter of mountain lion kittens recently born in the Santa Monica Mountains indicate the kittens are the result of inbreeding. Wildlife experts say the results tell a tale of limited mobility for big cats in the Santa Monica Mountains, and underscore the need for a wildlife corridor across the 101 Freeway to allow wildlife to safely pass back and forth between the Simi Hills and the isolated Santa Monica Mountains.

The three kittens—one male and two female—were born in the Malibu Springs area in November and ear-tagged by National Park Service biologists in early December. Preliminary tests per-

formed by a specialized biology lab at UCLA identified the father as Puma-12 (P-12), who is also the father of the kittens' mother.

"There are fewer than 10 mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains, which is not enough for a genetically diverse population," Dr. Seth Riley, an urban wildlife expert at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) said. "They have the lowest genetic diversity of any mountain lion population in the region."

See Mountain lions, page A7

Preferential parking approved at Pt. Dume

New striped spaces will place 90-minute public parking max from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. Parking passes to be required for longer stays.

By Melissa Caskey
Staff Writer

Point Dume condo residents upset with a lack of street parking got their wish Monday night, as the City Council voted unanimously (4-0) to create a preferential parking pass system along Heathercliff Road and Dume Drive—only the second such system in Malibu—after years of what residents call a battle for street parking with Point Dume Village Shopping Center employees.

"It only takes a few employees to monopolize 16 parking spaces," said Jonathan Selig, president of the Heathercliff Homeowners Association.

However, Mayor Joan House insisted on adding a 90-minute grace period to the 18 spaces so shoppers grabbing a bite to eat or picking up groceries still have the option of parking on the street.

"I talked to a few residents today and a lot of people who shop at the center...they said they don't like to park in that parking lot at that Pavilions, but they like to go

CITY COUNCIL

to the market," House said. The city-striped spaces would allow a 90-minute maximum public use of six spots along Heathercliff Road and 12 spaces on Dume Drive every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For longer stays, though, city-issued preferential passes will be required.

See Council, page A7

INSIDE

Pieces of Wayne Thiebaud's work are on display at Pepperdine. **Malibu Life, B1**

More than 180 boys and girls came to the Malibu Little League try-outs. **A8**

DUI checkpoint nets 16 arrests Friday night. **News Briefs, A3**

Calendar	A2
Classified	B9-11
Crossword	B11
Dining	A6
Opinion	A4
Real Estate	A12-13
Business & Services Directories	B7-11
Legal Notices	B6-7

Six Candidates Vie for Two Council Seats

As the city gears up for election season, six people have submitted paperwork with the intent to run for City Council. Current councilmembers Lou La Monte and Laura Rosenthal are running for re-election with their two seats up for grabs in the April 8 election. They face four challengers.



Lou La Monte
• elected in 2010
• key issues: rehab clinics
• director and producer



June Louks
• Malibu Agricultural Society founder
• key issues: too much development, local control of schools



Andy Lyon
• 2010 candidate
• key issues: tougher restrictions on commercial development, Civic Center sewer system



Hamish Patterson
• 2010 candidate
• key issues: prevent Civic Center treatment system, commercial development, PCH safety

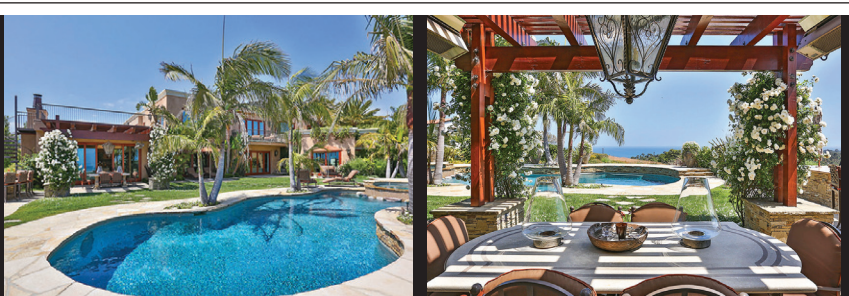


Laura Rosenthal
• elected in 2010
• key issues: public art, rec field space



Jacky Tomlinson
• worked council campaigns for Andy Stern, Sharon Barovsky
• key issues: strengthen support for small businesses

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