

News Briefs

Small fire extinguished in Malibu Canyon Sunday

Fire authorities extinguished a small brush fire in Malibu Canyon Sunday afternoon after dry conditions apparently sparked logs near Tapia Park, authorities said. The fire was small and was quickly extinguished.

A Los Angeles County Fire Department arson unit investigated the fire at about 2 p.m. Monday, concluding that a “warming fire” ignited a couple of logs, said Fire Captain Derek Bart of Fire Station 65.

In this particular instance, Bart said a warming fire is where logs appeared to warm in dry conditions and then caught on fire. The Malibu area has been under a Red Flag Warning due to extremely dry temperatures and low humidity recently, increasing the chances of such fires.

However, wind speeds were not high at the time of the fire, which limited its scope.

“Had the winds been there it would have been terrible,” Bart said.

Malibu and surrounding areas have seen little rainfall in the past two years and are very dry due to the high winds and low humidity percentages. Bart said the dryness has increased the normal potential for fires.

“This is one of the worst seasons we’ve had on record,” Bart said.

Student arrested in Malibu for using a fake gun

What started out as a student movie project ended in an all-too-real encounter with local law enforcement on Thursday when a student was arrested for removing the safety tip from a replica handgun during an unauthorized film shoot on Little Dume Beach.

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff’s deputies responded to a call around 10:30 a.m. last Thursday after witnesses reported seeing a man pointing a handgun at a female’s head in the Little Dume area.

As California State Park rangers, county helicopters and Sheriff’s deputies searched the bluffs in the area, they ultimately came upon a group of seven people, one of whom was filming a male pointing a gun at a female.

“An examination of the realistic-looking gun revealed it was a replica handgun with the orange plug tip removed. The orange tip was installed

by the manufacturer to ensure people would know it was not real,” according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The group told authorities they were filming a project for school but had not alerted law enforcement, obtained proper permitting or security or posted signs to warn about filming in progress.

An unidentified 20-year-old male film student from Valencia was taken into custody and charged with removing the fake gun’s safety tip, a misdemeanor under state law.

Trancas owners name new grocer



After months of uncertainty and rumblings over what store would replace the old HOWS Market at the Trancas Country Market in western Malibu, center representatives have confirmed the successor as Vintage Grocers, a new independent market.

Several banners went up on Wednesday displaying the new name and center representative Scott Rozier said he is hoping for a March 1 opening, with possibly a soft opening around Feb. 19.

Rozier had originally estimated a January opening but said he faced “a lot of delays during the holiday season.”

The banners detail services to be offered at the grocery store: brick oven pizza, sandwich bar, juice bar, hot buffet and salad bar.

Rozier could not estimate how many people Vintage Grocers would employ, but a management team should begin the hiring process in the next few weeks.

Erewhon Natural Grocers had agreed in principle to occupy the former HOWS space in 2012, but backed

out of the deal in September 2013, citing prolonged construction delays.

The Trancas Country Market shopping center is owned by Paige and Bo Dubbert. Paige Dubbert is the daughter of Wal Mart heiress Laurie Walton.

Sheriffs arrest 16 at DUI checkpoint

Sixteen people were arrested, including three for DUI, on Friday night in Malibu at a DUI and driver’s license checkpoint.

The checkpoint was staged on Pacific Coast Highway at John Tyler Drive and ran from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. Saturday morning with 1,225 vehicles going through. One person was also arrested for an unspecified felony, one was arrested for driving under the influence of a controlled substance, and five were arrested and sent to court for driving without a license, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Residents report increase in coyote sightings

As Malibu residents are reporting more coyote sightings, especially in the Point Dume area, the city is advising residents to protect homes and pets from potential attacks.

According to councilmember Laura Rosenthal, “[Coyotes] are actually coming up on people’s patios, backyards, even when there are people around ... I know with the drought, it’s getting worse for them and they’re coming down from the mountains.”

The City of Malibu website provides some tips for keeping properties safe from coyotes:

•Keep your cat or small dog indoors at night or any other time when a coyote is known to be in the area.

•Accompany your small dog in a well-lighted area at night for comfort walks.

•Walk your dog on a leash whenever you take it off of your property.

•Confine poultry and rabbits in covered enclosures constructed with heavy mesh wire. Coyotes can break through ordinary chicken wire.

•Keep all outdoor trash can lids securely fastened to trash containers.

•Pick backyard fruit as soon as it ripens and keep rotten fruit off the ground.

See News Briefs, page A8

Obituaries

Beverley Jean Higgins

On Dec. 3, 2013, after a battle with cancer, Beverley Jean Higgins passed away at her home surrounded by family.

Beverley was born in Portland, Ore. on Sept. 8, 1932. Growing up, her interests were singing and song-writing. For six years, starting at age 15, she worked at Portland radio station KEX where duties included singing, doing commercials and freelancing whenever a female voice was required. It was here that she met her first husband, Bob Amsberry.

Beverley and Bob had two sons: Kelly and Kevin. Within a few years, they moved to California where Bob became one of the adult Mouseketeers on Disney’s “Mickey Mouse Club.” Beverley also wrote the lyrics to a song for Disney, “Smile and Face the Music.”

A few years later, Bob passed away in a car accident.

Beverley later met her second husband, Ed Higgins, who was



involved in the development of real property. They moved to Malibu in 1957 where she was actively working with Ed in real estate in Malibu, Topanga and the Valley. They had two sons, Eddie and Matthew, and lived on Broad Beach Road.

Beverley became a licensed Realtor in 1978 and worked for Fred Sands, Merrill Lynch, Jon Douglas, Pritchett Rapf and Coldwell Banker. Family members said, “Beverley had a natural instinct and expertise for

both buying and selling real estate and truly enjoyed working with both her colleagues and her clients, most of whom she befriended and represented for years.”

Beverley also enjoyed her daily morning swim, rarely missing a day for decades. She was a painter and longtime member of the Malibu Art Association. She worked in oils and often painted boats and seascapes.

Beverley’s love extended far beyond her own children, and she embraced so many who grew up considering her their “other mom.” She maintained those relationships for decades, up until the day she died.

Beverley is survived by her sister Diane; sons Kelly Higgins, Kevin Amsberry Higgins, Ed Higgins and Matt Higgins; eight grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Byron Page

Former Malibu resident Byron Page passed away at the age of 71 on Jan. 6, in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Page, who was born in Tacoma, Wash. on June 11, 1942, was the son of Maxwell Page and Frieda Rehn. The family moved to Astoria, Ore. in 1952. He is survived by his brother, Colin Page of Portland, Ore.

Page lived in Hollywood and Malibu where he met many good



and lasting friends. He returned to Oregon to live.

Missing the sun and warmth of California, Page moved to Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage for his last years. His constant companions for the past few years were his dogs, John and London.

A memorial service will take place in Malibu in February and a celebration of life will take place in Astoria in the spring.

Deirdre Tichenor Brass Cowan

Deirdre “Derry” Tichenor Brass Cowan died in her home on Dec. 17, 2013, due to a recurrent brain tumor. Her last moments were spent in her Malibu home, surrounded by family and friends: daughters, Juliette Lerner and Laurie Campbell; granddaughters Holly and Ashley; brother Kevin Tichenor; adopted family and neighbors Lori and John Armstrong and their daughters Amellia and Daisy; and friends Toni Colvin and Jackie Gould.

Derry was born in Santa Monica to Frederick and Bridie Tichenor



on April 17, 1938. She was a California beach girl and excelled in tennis, winning several Junior


Championships in the 1960s. After graduating from UCLA, she began her teaching career, finding her “home base” at Las Virgenes School District where she taught for nearly 40 years.

For many years, her life revolved around teaching and mentoring her students, tennis and her love of Malibu. Over time, running, swimming and time with her German shepherds were replaced with slower walks with her grandkids. Golf replaced ten-

See Tichenor, page A8

WHEN BUYING, SELLING
OR TRADING

confidence
IS
precious.



Tiffany & Co. Platinum Diamond Necklace

Estate Diamond Exchange deals in gold and all precious metals, diamond and gemstones, fine jewelry, timepieces, and estates, and is staffed by experts who are uniquely able to evaluate these pieces.

We are your ultimate resource whether you are looking for an offer to buy, are interested in trading your pieces towards something else, shopping for an exquisite gift, or a discreet loan. We also specialize in evaluations and appraisals from individual heirlooms to entire estates.

Estate Diamond Exchange
5017 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(Kanan Road at the 101)
yournextdiamond.com | (818) 865-8160

“THE SUPERB ENSEMBLE
CAST SCORES KNOCKOUT PUNCHES FROM START TO FINISH.”
-Marshall Fine, THE HUFFINGTON POST

3 SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST ENSEMBLE CAST
BEST ACTRESS • MERYL STREEP BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS • JULIA ROBERTS

USA TODAY
“JULIA ROBERTS
GIVES THE BEST PERFORMANCE
OF HER CAREER.”
-Claudia Puig

Entertainment
“MERYL STREEP
DELIVERS A BRILLIANT,
TOUR DE FORCE PERFORMANCE.”
-Owen Gleiberman

BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD NOMINEE
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS • JULIA ROBERTS

FROM ACADEMY AWARD® WINNING PRODUCERS GEORGE CLOONEY AND GRANT HESLOV

August: Osage County
DIRECTED BY JOHN WELLS SCREENPLAY BY TRACY LETTS



ATTENTION AMPAS & GUILD MEMBERS:
YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND PHOTO ID WILL ADMIT YOU AND A GUEST TO ANY PERFORMANCE, BASED ON SEATING AVAILABILITY (VALID MON-THU ONLY). SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

AMC will admit: AMPAS, ACE, ADG, BAFTA, CAS, MPEG, MPSE & WGA. Cinemark/Century will admit: AMPAS & WGA (Guild member only). Laemmle will admit: AMPAS. Landmark will admit: AMPAS & WGA. Pacific/ArcLight will admit: AMPAS, ACE, ADG, BAFTA, CAS, MPEG, MPSE & WGA. Regal/Edwards/UA will admit: AMPAS & WGA. Additional theaters are subject to individual restrictions. FOR SAG MEMBERS (plus a guest) RSVP for a screening here: WEINSTEINCO.COM/SAGAwards