



Local Jane Sullivan, 97, recounts six decades of Malibu living in new book. **Malibu Life: B1**



Malibu native Trevor Jacob will compete in the Winter Olympics. **Malibu Life: B1**

# The Malibu Times

January 23, 2014 | [www.MalibuTimes.com](http://www.MalibuTimes.com)

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## Highest-paid city workers average \$135K

The salary numbers are from 2012, the latest figures released by the state. Highest paid school district employees average nearly \$140K in base salary; City attorney's office earned \$555K in counsel/litigation fees

By Melissa Caskey and David Mark Simpson  
The Malibu Times

The city's 15 highest-paid employees averaged \$135,000 in annual salary in 2012, according to recent figures released by the California State Controller's office. The top 15 earners in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District took home an average of \$139,000.

The 2012 salary numbers are the most recent released by the state controller's office, which began requiring California cities to

disclose salary information in 2009 after a widely publicized employee salary scandal in the City of Bell, Calif. that year.

Approximately 31 city employees earned at least \$100,000 in salary and benefits in 2012. That number is a marked increase since 2009, when only 16 workers earned more than \$100,000 in salary and benefits.

City Manager Jim Thorsen remained the city's highest earner with \$273,606 in total compensation, making \$209,229 in salary and \$64,377 in benefits. Stacked up against similar-sized cities, Thorsen earned relatively less than city managers in Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and Calabasas where city manager salaries ranged from \$225,000 to \$236,000 in 2012.

Malibu Public Works Director Bob Brager pocketed the second-highest city salary in 2012, bringing

See Salaries, page A5

## Fun in the sun



Emily Goodman / TMT

Three-year-old Caterina Groisman, of Los Angeles, goes to town during Family Art Day last weekend at Pepperdine University. Groisman and her grandmother, along with other attendees, came to make art and enjoy the university's Wayne Thiebaud art exhibit. See more photos on page B7.



June Louks



Jacky Tomlinson

## Louks back in council race, Tomlinson disqualified

Some voters listed wrong addresses on election petitions, creating a headache for potential candidates and city officials.

By Knowles Adkisson and Melissa Caskey  
The Malibu Times

It's been a roller coaster week for two locals vying for spots on

the Malibu City Council.

June Louks, a Malibu resident whose attempt to run for City Council was initially denied by Los Angeles County officials, is back in the race for the April 8 election, city officials said. But Jacky Tomlinson, another prospective candidate attempting to get on the ballot, has been disqualified because of insufficient petition sig-

See Council race, page A8

## 2014 shaping up as driest year in state history

With Gov. Jerry Brown recently declaring a statewide drought emergency, weather experts say this year could top 2013 as the driest ever in California.

By McKenzie Jackson  
Special to The Malibu Times

Hot on the trail of a pair of brush fires that sparked near Malibu last week, officials are warning the public to be aware of the dangers Southern California faces as it deals with record-high winter temperatures and a statewide drought.

In response to the parched weather that has stretched across the state, Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency on Jan. 17. Brown said California is perhaps facing the worst drought it has seen in a century. He encouraged people to voluntarily con-

serve water.

"I think the drought emphasizes that we do live in an era of limits, that nature has its boundaries," Brown said.

The Los Angeles area only had 3.4 inches of rainfall in 2013, 11.34 inches below average. That total was good for the

driest year in California since the state started measuring rainfall in 1849, before statehood, according to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Co. Meanwhile, officials are already predicting 2014 to fall far short of the 14.74-inch annual

See Drought, page A5

## New firm to handle Malibu High PCB removal

Costs mounting for school district in environmental testing at Malibu High School.

By David Mark Simpson and Melissa Caskey  
The Malibu Times

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education last week hired a new firm to oversee the next phase of environmental testing at Malibu High School, following months of health concerns over possible con-

tamination at the campus.

The board gave district staff approval to negotiate terms with environmental firm Environ. The firm would conduct soil testing at the campus, as well as additional air quality testing. But the absence of cost estimates for the testing raised questions among the board.

"As you're going into negotiations with them, I hope that one of the many concerns ... is protecting the district's financial health," Boardmember Ben Allen told Superintendent Sandra Lyon

at Thursday's board meeting in Santa Monica.

The hiring of Environ, a multinational firm with a branch in Los Angeles, comes as the district phases out current environmental consultant Mark Katchen and his company, the L.A.-based Phylmar Group. Katchen's firm will be paid \$261,000 for three months of work. In addition, NRC Environmental, a firm which specializes in hazardous materials, was paid for cleaning classrooms at MHS over winter break.

See Malibu High, page A7

## Tom Shadyac speaks at City Hall



Julie Ellerton / TMT

Director/author Tom Shadyac shares a touching moment with Malibu local David Robinson Hicks as he signs his book, "Life's Operating Manual," on Wednesday night last week as part of the Malibu Library's ongoing speaker series. More than 250 people attended the event at Malibu City Hall. Shadyac shared inspirational stories and thought-provoking ideas, encouraging people to be who they are. "We are all a note in a symphony," Shadyac said. "Be the note, be who you are."

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has arduous past

The holiday, which occurred this past Monday, took a long road before being officially recognized as a federal holiday.

By Paula Kashtan  
Special to The Malibu Times

While he is now regarded almost universally as a modern-day saint, it took many years before the civil rights leader who believed that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" was honored with a national holiday.

With the first efforts starting four days after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in

1968, it took 15 years for supporters to establish a federal holiday commemorating the civil rights leader.

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. rose to prominence with his leadership during the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. His message of nonviolence, justice and empowerment, delivered with powerful oration, soon made him the face of the burgeoning Civil Rights movement in America. King would be arrested 30 times for his activities on behalf of disenfranchised African Americans. In the last months of his life, he shifted his attention to fighting poverty.

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Tony Baker signs his new book, "Hot Rodding in Ventura County," at Bank of Books. A5



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Seda Saar opens an exhibition of her work "Oceans II" at the Malibu Lumberyard Gallery. B8

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