

Malibu Life

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The Malibu Times | January 30, 2014



Julie Ellerton / TMT

For 10 years, Cindy Linke (above) has overseen annual packing parties at the Point Dume Clubhouse to send care packages to U.S. troops overseas. Last week's party yielded a record 3,000 packages, but with hostilities winding down, Linke says this year's event was likely the last.

From Malibu, with care

By Emily Sawicki
The Malibu Times

It has been 10 years since Malibu resident Cindy Linke organized her first annual "Troop Packing Party" to send care packages to American troops on active duty abroad. The parties coincided with the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003, and Linke says there's a simple reason why she and others kept up their work as American forces remained engaged in conflicts overseas.

"I wanted to express my gratitude," she said.

Linke is the Malibu coordinator for Operation Interdependence, a national non-profit that provides means to support troops

As overseas conflicts wind down, organizer calls time on annual troop packing party.

on the front lines, as well as their families. Just as continuous warfare takes its toll on members of the military, volunteers such as Linke make financial and time sacrifices to support their cause.

With America disengaging from Iraq and Afghanistan, Linke announced that last

Tuesday's packing party would be the last large-scale event under her direction.

"Well, I've done it for 10 years, and they're supposed to be starting to come home from Afghanistan soon, so it seemed like a good time to stop," she said.

If that's the case, the Malibu chapter of Operation Interdependence went out with a bang. More than 100 volunteers and around a dozen local businesses, organizations, clubs and schools helped to make this year's Troop Packing Party the most successful ever hosted in Malibu. A record 3,000 care packages were assembled and mailed.

The seeds of this year's success were sewn 10 years ago, when Linke's idea first took root. **See Troop Packing Party, page B8**

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Malibu Playhouse chimes in with 'Belfry'

Set in small-town Ireland, new play examines love in the vestry.

By Melonic Magruder
Special to The Malibu Times

"Cead mile fáilte!" This Gaelic phrase means "One hundred thousand welcomes," a fitting invitation to audiences for the Malibu Playhouse's newest production, "Belfry."

Written by Irish playwright Billy Roche, "Belfry" is set in the small town of Wexford, Ireland. **See 'Belfry,' page B4**



"Belfry," the Malibu Playhouse's latest production, opens Friday.



Malibu's Best Shot

George Willis captured this pelican letting it all hang out on New Year's Day earlier this month at the Malibu Lagoon.

To submit your Best Shot, send a high resolution (300 dpi) jpeg photo by email to knowles@malibutimes.com, along with information indicating where and when the photo was taken, what the subject is and the photographer's name. Please indicate in the email subject line: Best Shot submission.

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