

News Briefs

Man found dead in pool

A 72-year-old Malibu resident died on Sunday, Jan. 12, after he was found floating in the pool of his Point Dume residence, according to the Los Angeles County Coroner's Officer.

The coroner's autopsy concluded the man, identified as Spotswood Grant Vandevere, died of accidental drowning.

"At noon, a family member was looking for the decedent and asked her son if she'd seen him. The son went looking and found him in the pool," said Assistant Chief of Investigation Ed Winter.

Medical crews were called to the scene and pronounced Vandevere dead at 12:48 p.m., according to Winter. Foul play was not suspected.

Tobacco control report gives Malibu 'C' grade

In a report released by the American Lung Association (ALA), Malibu received a "C" grade when it comes to tobacco control and discouraging tobacco use.

The report, entitled "State of Tobacco Control 2014," assesses cities and counties within California based on overall tobacco prevention and control spending, smoke-free air, smoke-free housing and reducing sales of tobacco products. Each city and county then receives a letter grade based on its success in these areas.

With an overall "C" grade, Malibu is on par with the LA County average. Although some cities, namely Baldwin Park, Calabasas, Compton, Glendale, Huntington Park, Pasadena, Santa Monica and South Pasadena, earned "A"s on their reports, another 44 cities in the county earned "F"s.

Malibu's "C" grade reflects a "C" in enacting policies toward smoke-free outdoor air, an "F" in smoke-free housing and an "A" in reducing sales of tobacco products, which combine for the overall tobacco control grade.

Education Foundation nearly \$1 million short

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is roughly \$1 million short of its fundraising goal heading into the last week of its campaign to get \$4 million to reduce class sizes, hire more teachers' aides and provide arts instruction for every elementary grade.

Officials with the Ed Foundation are encouraging families, community members and business leaders to donate to the Vision for Student Success before the Jan. 31 deadline.

In November 2011, the Santa

Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education designated the Ed Foundation as the sole organization to raise money for personnel and professional development at all schools. The foundation is charged with raising \$4 million annually.

The Vision for Student Success was borne out of that policy and will be enacted in 2014-15. The program focuses on reduced class sizes in second and third grades, training for aides, literacy coaches, art instruction for every elementary grade and teacher professional development.

To learn more about the fundraising campaign, visit www.smmef.org.

A version of this story originally appeared in the Santa Monica Daily Press.

City considering public art fee for new construction

City staff is currently vetting an ordinance that would require new commercial, public works, institutional and multifamily developments in Malibu to pay a "public art fee" or incorporate public artwork into their project as part of the construction process.

The ordinance would establish a fund for the "Public Art and Policy Program," another arts proposal set to be discussed by the City Council on Feb. 10.

"The ordinance provides that the minimum value of the artwork shall be equal to at least 1 percent of the project's total construction cost. The property owner has the option to acquire and install the artwork or pay an in-lieu contribution to the Arts in Public Places Fund," according to a city staff report.

For example, a \$5-million project would necessitate a contribution of \$50,000 to the fund or incorporate artwork valued at \$50,000.

Malibu's Cultural Arts Commission and Zoning policy subcommittee ZORACES were both set to discuss the fee proposal at separate meetings on Tuesday. The fee proposal will also be considered by the Planning Commission on Feb. 18 and later by the City Council on March 24, according to city staff.

California drought results in CAL FIRE staffing increase

A statewide drought emergency has prompted the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to increase statewide staffing, according to a press release from CAL FIRE.

Unseasonably high temperatures, limited rainfall and moisture

levels similar to the state's peak fire season has resulted in extended seasonal firefighting forces in Southern California and the hiring of 125 supplemental firefighters in Northern California.

In Southern California, aircraft staffing have been kept on to allow for eight air tankers and four air tactical planes to be immediately available.

King tides to hit California coast

King Tides, high tides that occur when the gravitational pull of the sun and moon are in alignment, are to hit the LA County coast Jan. 29-31, including Malibu shoreline, Marina del Rey, Port of Long Beach, Broad Beach and Port of Los Angeles.

When these tides occur, water levels rise and could cause coastal flooding.

The LA Waterkeeper participates in the California King Tides initiative by encouraging the public to view and photograph the tides throughout the state. Sea level rise is a serious and imminent threat to the environmental and economic infrastructure of the LA County coastline," says Liz Crosson, Executive Director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper in a press release. "King tides are a unique opportunity for us to envision the flooding, erosion and damage that will inevitably occur unless policy changes and community action in response to climate change start now."

Mountain lion kitten killed

A mountain lion kitten was struck and killed by a car Monday of last week on Kanan Dume Road, south of the 101 Freeway, according to National Parks Service authorities.

The kitten was not tagged by biologists at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), leaving open the possibility that there are more uncollared lion kittens in the area.

Samples of DNA from the kitten, which was about three or four months old, are currently being tested by UCLA in the hopes of identifying the father. Specialists also hope the genetic testing will give some details about the mother of the killed kitten.

Earlier this month, *The Malibu Times* reported that kittens born in the Santa Monica Mountains in November were the result of inbreeding. According to officials at SMMNRA, this inbreeding is an indication that local mountain lions cannot cross busy freeways to diversify their gene pool.

Pepperdine to create "green" dorm

Pepperdine University has pledged \$150,000 toward converting a student dormitory on campus into a "green" residence hall.

In addition to the environmental benefits of having a new "eco-friendly" building on campus, school administrators hope the residence will educate students about the importance of sustainability.

"While sustainability practices are important in that they teach by example, it is those practices that involve student participation that are most likely to have a lasting effect on students," said Rhiannon Bailard, director of Pepperdine University's Center for Sustainability.

The grant will allow for several new features, including visible utility

and water sub meters for students to view energy consumption, solar panels, low-flow plumbing fixtures, occupancy sensors to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms, a water-filling station to encourage students to carry reusable water bottles and a kiosk in the lobby where students and visitors to the dorm can be educated on sustainability at Pepperdine.

National Park Service hosts artist-in-residence program

The National Park Service is accepting applications for an artist-in-residence program. Artists from all disciplines are invited to apply to the program, which hopes to connect young people to the Santa Monica Mountains.

"We're looking for either estab-

lished or emerging artists who consider themselves 'teaching artists,' meaning they are a practicing artist who also engages the community in learning about the arts," said Kate Kuykendall, a park ranger with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will partner with the Santa Monica Mountains Fund to select three artists and provide a \$2,750 stipend for a three-month term. Artists will be required to host an exhibition or performance of either their own work or the work created by people involved in the project.

There will be an information session on Feb. 22 and 26 at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center in Calabasas. For more information, contact 805.370.2325.

Obituary

George Raymond Brewer

George Raymond Brewer, 91, died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 7, 2014, in his home in the Carmel Highlands, Calif. He was a resident of Malibu from 1959 until 1985.

George was born in New Albany, Ind. to Alma Holzbog Brewer and John Raymond Brewer on Sept. 10, 1922. He spent his childhood in Jeffersonville, Ind., playing in his grandfather's wagon manufacturing shop with the wood and metal-working equipment. It was then that George decided to pursue a career in electrical engineering.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree, he worked at the MIT Radiation Laboratory for a year before volunteering in the U.S. Navy in 1944.

While at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., George met a secretary named Elaine Schmitt. They married in 1945, living in Ann Arbor, Mich. while he obtained master's degrees in electrical engineering



and physics and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan.

George joined Hughes Aircraft Company in Culver City in 1951 and bought a house in Palos Verdes in 1952. He entered the field of ion propulsion, eventually transferring to the new Hughes Research Laboratory in Malibu. George and Elaine raised their

two daughters, Lynn and Wendy, in Malibu where he enjoyed riding horses. He and Elaine visited Carmel where he took up photography as a hobby. Elaine passed away in 1982.

In 1984, George married Mary Lou Forster. They moved to Carmel where they built their home overlooking the coastline at Point Lobos.

George is the author or co-author of three published technical books, as well as a book on the history of the Carmel Highlands Fire Department, where he served on the Board. In 2013, he published a cookbook, "Cooking with a Touch of Science," comprised of recipes he had developed over many years of gourmet cooking.

George is survived by Mary Lou, Lynn Merideth (Ken) and Wendy Brewer Lama (Karma); three grandchildren, Katie Austin Miranda, Kevin Austin and Chris Merideth; three great-grandchildren, Cecilia and Talia Bersamin and Ethan Austin Miranda.

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