



Malibu author Ken LaZebnik releases his first book, 'Hollywood Digs: An Archeology of Shadows.'  
**Malibu Life: B1**



Kids can enter to win movie tickets with the Malibu Times Easter Coloring Contest.  
**Malibu Life: B7**

# The Malibu Times

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## Peak becomes youngest Malibu mayor



Julie Ellerton / TMT

Family and friends of the new Malibu Mayor, Skylar Peak, joined the 29-year-old as he took the mayoral oath Monday night at City Hall.

Colleagues express faith in Skylar Peak, 29, after rocky early tenure.

By Matt Sanderson  
Special to The Malibu Times

The reorganization of Malibu City Council on Monday night brought the appointment of Skylar Peak, 29, once steeped in political uncertainty, as the city's youngest mayor in its nearly 23-year history.

Nearly 100 residents filled

city council chambers for the 5-0 vote for its next mayor and swearing in ceremonies.

"It's been a pleasure to work for the city and service our community," Peak said during his appointment, highlighting the prominence of Malibu being among "a very unique number of cities" in the county with a youthful person first in command.

"I take this job seriously and invite all citizens to participate in the process," Peak added.

The night also saw the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem John Sibert and the end of Mayor Joan House's fourth term. She will continue serving on the City Council until 2016.

Confidence in Peak's leadership abilities took a positive swing amongst his colleagues in 2013 following a plea of no contest to a reckless driving charge in a Christmas Day 2012 car crash on the Pacific Coast Highway, which followed an unprecedented city council

denial of the mayor pro tem seat for Peak in August 2012 due to a police investigation during that time.

When Peak was sworn in as mayor pro tem last June, council members, including Sibert, said Peak had grown into his leadership abilities.

Following Monday's council meeting, Peak said he is "absolutely" ready to be mayor.

"The people of Malibu spoke in 2012 and I'll do everything to

See Skylar, page A10

## Parents want independent expert for MHS testing

Criticize school district for dragging feet, lack of transparency.

By Knowles Adkisson  
Managing Editor

Roughly 50 Malibu High School parents and students representing a new advocacy organization scolded the Santa Monica-Malibu board of education (BOE) last week for taking too much time to test for toxins on the school's campus, and demanded a role in the testing.

The group, called Malibu Unites, said the district's response since the presence of toxins were revealed in October had engendered distrust in the Malibu community, and requested that an independent expert be hired to verify testing results.

"We will never be able to remove the cloud of suspicion and concern that surrounds the campus unless people trust the results of the testing and the people trust the results of the remediation [cleanup]," said Malibu Unites President

See BOE, page A9

## Coastal Commissioners appeal Paradise Cove 'No Parking' signs

City officials pressed for the signs last year as a means to improve safety of pedestrians walking along the PCH shoulder to access Paradise Cove.

By Melissa Caskey  
Staff Writer

Summer has yet to arrive, but a battle over parking is already under way.

A pair of California Coastal Commissioners have appealed the

installation of 10 "No Parking" signs along Pacific Coast Highway near Paradise Cove Road, arguing that Caltrans and the City of Malibu failed to mitigate for the loss of spaces when parking was banned along 1,000 feet of a narrow shoulder last year. The appeal was filed on March 14 by Commissioners Dayna Bocho and Mark Vargas.

Citing the city's local coastal plan (LCP), Bocho and Vargas said the city did not look at other

See 'No Parking' signs, page A8

## County addresses equestrian concerns over new coastal plan

LA county reps tell locals they worked closely with the California Coastal Commission to ensure horse-owners in unincorporated Malibu maintain their rights.

By Jimmy Tallal  
Special to The Malibu Times

Responding to an overwhelming number of questions from the equestrian community about the

Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan (LCP), LA County staffers met with nearly 100 people at a Monte Nido home last Friday in an attempt to allay fears.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the LCP on February 11, and the plan is due before the California Coastal Commission (CCC) on April 10. Because the public was given eight weeks to review the 800-page document, the equestrian community asked the

See Monte Nido, page A10

## City council campaign turns testy in final weeks

Incumbent Laura Rosenthal says public records requests by opponents that revealed email exchanges suggesting the ouster of MHS athletic director, knowledge of toxins at Malibu High, amount to smear campaign.

By Melissa Caskey  
Staff Writer

City council candidates Andy Lyon and Hamish Patterson have ramped up pressure on city council incumbent Laura Rosenthal over the last few weeks, publishing email



Laura Rosenthal



Andy Lyon

exchanges obtained via public records requests and criticizing her involvement in ongoing Malibu High School environmental issues.

Rosenthal says the publication of the exchanges constitute a smear campaign, a charge Lyon and Patterson refuted this week,

saying Rosenthal's words are being made available for the public to draw its own conclusions.

"It's not the Malibu that I want to live in where people smear and misrepresent other candidates, because it puts a damper on quality people," Rosenthal told The Malibu Times.

Lyon scoffed at claims of a smear campaign.

See Campaign, page A9

## City Council candidate profile: June Louks



June Louks

The Malibu Times will run one candidate bio and profile each week leading up to the April 8 election. The order of the candidate profiles was selected at random. For full transcripts of each interview, visit [malibutimes.com](http://malibutimes.com).

By Melissa Caskey  
Staff Writer

A political newcomer and founder of the Malibu Agricultural Society, June Louks looks to foster community discourse and encourage more public participation if elected to the city council. Louks, an architect who also spent 16 years working for Mary

See Louks page A10

## Hook 'em



Emily Goodman / TMT

Mr. Smee, played by Kylie McNulty, teams up with Captain Hook, played by Emily Russo, to concoct a strategy to foil Peter Pan in a production of the musical version of "Peter Pan" last weekend at the Malibu Playhouse. For more photos, see page B8.

### INSIDE

Rory Kennedy and Mark Bailey do a Q&A at a sold out screening of 'Last Days in Vietnam.'  
**Malibu Life, B1**

The Ventura County Planning Commissioners rejected a western Malibu tiger compound.  
**News Briefs, A3**

Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue hosts the first annual Hand in Hand Spring Formal dance. **Photos, A8**

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