

## News briefs

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### Malibu Library hosts Michael Shermer

The Malibu Public Library hosted influential skeptic Michael Shermer on Wed., March 26, as part of the city's ongoing speaker series.

Shermer, the founding publisher of *Skeptic Magazine*, has written several books about science, skepticism and belief. He has also delivered popular TED talks, including "Why People Believe Weird Things." Currently, he writes a column for *Scientific American* and is an adjunct professor at Claremont Graduate University and Chapman University.

Shermer received a bachelor of arts in psychology from Pepperdine. He then went on to earn a masters in experimental psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in the history of science from Claremont Graduate University.

For more information on the Speaker Series, visit malibucity.org.

### Lyon and Patterson say election signs are missing

City council candidates Andy Lyon and Hamish Patterson said on Monday that several of their election signs have gone missing from many homes throughout Malibu.

"These are not just in one area," Lyon said.

Supporters of their campaign took to their Facebook page to alert them of the alleged thefts. Signs have allegedly gone missing from the front yards of homes in Big Rock, Kanan Dume Road, Malibu Park and Rambla Pacifico, according to Lyon.

In a post on the Lyon-Patterson Facebook page, local Mari Stanley said removing the sign that is now missing in Big Rock would have taken great effort.

"This one was a strong-arm

removal, there were rocks supporting the legs," she wrote.

Lyon has been hearing about the missing signs for the last several days.

"I noticed a few were missing when I went into town [Monday]," he said.

### Candidates square off in first supervisor debate

Four candidates vying to replace current termed-out Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky met to discuss key issues in front of an audience on the UCLA campus last Thursday night.

Former Santa Monica Mayor Bobby Shriver, who's part of the Kennedy clan, defended his recent decision to donate \$300,000 of his own money to his campaign, thereby removing spending limits for the other candidates.

Shriver, whose uncle was former President John F. Kennedy, got into politics at the age of 50 after a dispute with City Hall over his hedges. Shriver said that his narrative is less well-known than more seasoned politicians in the race.

"I want to be able to tell my story in an effective way," he said.

He further defended the decision to spend big explaining that the money is coming from him, not a third party seeking political favor.

"He certainly hasn't evened the playing field," responded former State Senator and Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl.

Kuehl, a long-time Santa Monica resident, announced her intentions to run for supervisor early last year.

Former Malibu Mayor Pamela Ulich issued a challenge to the other candidates asking them to set aside 10 percent of their campaign chests to be donated to county charities after the election.

Yaroslavsky is on his way out

after serving 20 years on the Board of Supervisors. His replacement would represent the two million people in the Westside, Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Universal City and almost the entire San Fernando Valley.

The county Board of Supervisors is one of the most powerful elected bodies in the nation. Los Angeles County—4,000-square miles, 88 cities, 10 million residents—is more populous than 42 individual states.

West Hollywood Councilmember John Duran labeled himself a moderate after forum moderator Warren Olney called all four candidates liberal Democrats. Duran made clear that he is pro-business and spoke about making the hard decisions at council meetings despite constant vocal opposition.

The Third District encompasses a large swath of the San Fernando Valley, which Kuehl and others said needs better transportation.

Shriver said that regulations out in the valley are hurting manufacturing jobs.

"What the Valley wants ... in addition to transportation funding and good jobs, is respect," he said. "I think that's what they'll get from me because I will go out there every day."

The candidates touched on other issues, including how to correct mismanagement in the Sheriff's Department.

The primary election is scheduled for June 3.

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

### Cultural Arts Commission discusses surfboard exhibit

The Malibu Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) presented details of its first public art event,

a display of surfboard art at the Malibu Civic Theater, at its meeting on March 24 at Malibu City Hall.

According to the meeting agenda, the CAC's ad-hoc committee will have met with the chosen curator, local surfshop owner and former Malibu councilmember Jefferson Wagner, earlier to hammer out details for the exhibit such as its duration, size and theme.

Other items on the committee's list included the possibility of a limit on submissions per person, restrictions on board sizes, selection criteria, recognition of contributors, signage and securing the exhibits.

The CAC, which meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, will go on to finalize the decisions made by the committee and move them toward action.

There is no schedule for when the Cultural Arts Commission will begin taking submissions.

### SMMUSD announces technology survey

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is looking for feedback through a technology access and use survey that launched March 20.

The survey asks students, staff and parents about Internet access, devices, communication and other topics related to technology. The survey was designed by K12 Insight, an independent technology and communications firm.

"Hearing every voice is essential to understanding our district's technology needs," SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon said in a press release. She went on to say that she appreciates everyone's input as it will help determine which technologies best enhance teaching and learning.

Students will take the survey at school, while staff and parents whose email addresses are on file will receive email invitations to participate. Parents may also access the survey through the district's website, [smmusd.org](http://smmusd.org). Responses are confidential and the survey closes April 10.

## Simental

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He will be remembered for his unique airbrushed black Bronco, his black vest, black Stetson hat and iconic belt buckles, and his fist full of gold rings.

He is survived by his wife, five brothers, two sisters, 11 children, 32 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Ely Sr. will be on March 26 at 12 p.m., with a prayer service at 6 p.m. at the Garcia Mortuary Chapel, 629 South A Street, Oxnard. Graveside services will take place at 11 a.m. on March 27 at Santa Clara Cemetery in Oxnard. For further information, please call 805.486.9148.

## Teachers and Educators Support Laura Rosenthal for City Council

The undersigned are just a few of the teachers from our local public schools and preschools who have known and worked with Laura Rosenthal for many, many years. Her selfless dedication to our schools and children is well known throughout the Malibu community. We stand beside her as others try to misrepresent her work, her courage and her advocacy on behalf of our teachers and students.

Laura has always been accessible and honest in her dealings with us, and we are confident that she remains so today. To quote from her 2006 Point Dume Marine Science School PTA Golden Oak Award, "Laura has worked tirelessly to create an environment in Malibu that benefits the students in our school district and the entire community. She has repeatedly demonstrated her ability to recognize the needs of our children and to advocate for principles that she believes in. Laura is a true leader in our community."

Kris Jennings, Margo Dunn, Angela Whitman, Anne Payne, Dee Dee Cooper, Chi Kim, Beth Levin, Shari Latta, Kay Gabbard, Joe Dimercurio, Sarah Ryan, Sean Ryan, Rachel Stowell, Rebecca Owens and Chris Cullen

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## Letters

From page A4

### The price ain't right

Hey, Vintage Grocers-, take a page from Trader Joe's and cut your prices in half. Do it now. Do not wait. You are going to go under very soon.

The place is a morgue. Pavilions is packed at 5:30 with shoppers. At Vintage, at 5:30, you could shoot a canon off in there and it would not hit anyone.

Staff is lovely. Store is lovely. But the rich people you are counting on don't live here. It's what all the froufrou stores that come here think. Most of them can afford to take a loss. I don't think you want to or can.

Cut prices in half and you'll be a hit. Do it, or we'll be writing your obituary.

Susan M. Tellem

### Stopping rodenticides

Ever since the appearance of a cancer cluster among Malibu Middle School teachers in the year following the removal of 48 truckloads of pesticide and PCB contaminated soil, a group of Malibu parents and teachers have advocated comprehensive environmental testing and remediation at the campus.

Despite the obvious urgency of the matter, the parents' demand for comprehensive testing was agreed to only after navigating a Byzantine, bureaucratic process driven by a procession of School District-employed environmental companies overseen by a high-priced corporate law firm, all at a cost to the taxpayers of over \$500,000. And no remediation has yet been commenced or agreed to.

This experience has reinforced the importance of preventing, or at least limiting, the use of toxins in our community in the first place. June Louks, a Malibu mother of four and founder of the Malibu Agricultural Society (MAS), has already made significant inroads against the use of toxins in Malibu. In 2013, June led MAS who convinced all six sellers of rodenticide in Malibu—including a national chain—to discontinue sales in Malibu. Rodenticides are anticoagulants that poison domestic pets, owls, hawks, mountain lions and other wildlife higher in the rodent food chain. June was also instrumental in persuading the Malibu

City Council to pass a resolution against the use of rodenticides city-wide.

Ken Miller

### Restrictive policy

I am writing about the take-over actions of the Coastal Commission. Arbitrary rules and regulations placed on my home and land continue to be self-serving, unfair and probably illegal. The Coastal Commission continues to limit property owner rights and I am writing to voice my objection. The recent decision to prevent agriculture is ridiculous. I cannot even plant a lemon tree anymore! Agriculture is part of our heritage, and has been in the Santa Monica Mountains long before there were housing subdivisions, or the National Recreation

Area. Agriculture is beautiful, and enhances the National Recreation Area, drawing thousands of visitors every year. Agriculture is a priority use in the Coastal Act, given priority over residential, commercial, or industrial development.

We very much want an LCP to be adopted, but this LCP proposes to ban all new agriculture, when in fact the LCP should be promoting appropriate agricultural uses.

Agriculture includes organic farms, orchards, and vineyards, all of which would be banned by the LCP, with a ripple effect on bee keepers, wineries, wine tasting rooms, tour charters and farmers markets.

We urge the Coastal Commission to modify the LCP to delete the ban on agriculture, and replace it with policies that promote agriculture.

Gail Copley



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