



Point Dume prepares for its 15th Fourth of July parade.
Malibu Life: B1

Beach Basics
A look at the weekend beach totals:
298,900 total visitors
158 rescues
1,300 citations issued

The Malibu Times

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Diesel and Howdy's closing Country Mart locations

Two local art spaces are also closing or already closed. Howdy's owner plans to open new restaurant in old Granita's space.

By Melissa Caskey
Managing Editor

Patrons of the Civic Center shopping area are in for a shake-up, as owners of Diesel, A Bookstore and Howdy's Taqueria confirmed this week their businesses are closing up shop at the Malibu Country Mart in the fall.

Diesel owners have no plans for a new Malibu location, but Howdy's owner Howdy Kabrins

said he hopes to open a new cantina-style restaurant in the old Granita space sometime next year. The Malibu Art Barn at the Malibu Lumber Yard is also closing up, and the MLY Gallery closed in June.

Bookstore owner cites slow foot traffic, steep rent

Unable to keep up with rent prices, Diesel owner John Evans said he and partner Alison Reid plan to close sometime in the fall, depending on summer business.

"The store will close and it won't be open in the fall. Whether it'll be closed three weeks, six weeks or nine weeks from now, we don't

See Diesel, Howdy's, page A5



Diesel opened a Malibu location in 2004. Co-owner John Evans is pictured above at an author event last month.

Plenty of questions, few answers on Civic Center project

Malibu homeowners left the public workshop on the wastewater treatment facility wondering about cost, time and necessity of the new sewer system.

By Emily Sawicki
Staff Writer

City officials last week failed to shed light on the price homeowners will have to pay for the city to construct a \$41-million waste-

water treatment site in the Civic Center, a project that has made many residents skeptical.

During a public workshop hosted by the Malibu Planning Commission on Wednesday, many were left with more questions than answers as officials tried to clear the air on the city's plans for a wastewater treatment plant set to be built in the Civic Center, near Webster Elementary School and Our Lady of Malibu Catholic Church.

See Civic Center, page A12

Seeing double



Nell Brickman stops to take a look at the tutu she made during a ballet camp offered through the City of Malibu. See more photos on page A10.

Hey, Sprint, can you hear me now?

Sprint responds to complaints about cell phone service from city officials.

By Jimmy Tallal
Special to The Malibu Times

After months of complaints and frustration from local customers, Sprint officials have finally agreed to install new equipment that should fix service problems in western Malibu by the end of September.

Councilwoman Laura

Rosenthal, Mayor Skylar Peak and most of western Malibu's Sprint customers have become exasperated with spotty cell phone service and dropped calls over the past 18 months, which seemed to worsen over the last few months.

Both Rosenthal and Peak wrote letters to Sprint CEO Dan Hesse and Chief Network Officer John Saw on June 17 demanding they "address the situation immediately and come up with a reasonable and timely response plan."

Rosenthal said even though service has been steadily declining for a year and a half, locals have become more outraged over the past six months as service became "increasingly unreliable" in terms of dropped calls and failure to connect.

A Sprint cell customer herself, Rosenthal is unable to make calls while driving on PCH, which she finds "frightening," saying it creates a "dire situation" from a public safety point of view, since she'd be unable to call her family or even dial 911 in an emergency. She told Sprint that as a parent and public servant, the lack of service is unacceptable.

In addition, she wrote that Sprint's customer service department

See Sprint, page A7

Smooth sails for city, mayor says

Mayor Skylar Peak and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky address group at State of the City event.

By Melissa Caskey
Managing Editor

throughout the address, starting it off by joking, "We're putting City Hall up for sale and we're going bankrupt."

But as he highlighted the city's strengths, he pointed to its \$15.7 million reserve fund.

See State of the City, page A11

Starfish dying off Malibu coast

Mysterious disease wipes out millions of starfish along Pacific coast in the biggest die-off on record.

By Jimmy Tallal
Special to The Malibu Times

From Alaska to Malibu to the Mexican border, the starfish population has been nearly obliterated.

The epidemic was first observed in Washington last June and attributed to a mysterious "wasting" disease

See Starfish, page A12

I like to move it, move it



Children had fun dancing the "Macarena" as Dave Winstone played during an event at the Malibu Library last week. See more photos on page A9.

Fourth of July Fireworks Display in Malibu

- Malibu Colony Road
- Paradise Cove
- Broad Beach

All displays begin at 9 p.m.

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