



Photo courtesy Leslie Barrett
Local Leslie Barrett is one of five newly elected members of the California Desert District Advisory Council.

Representing Malibu

Malibu resident Leslie Barrett has been appointed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) citizen-based California Desert District Advisory Council (DAC). The DAC advises the BLM on public land issues. Barrett, who is President of Celtic Energy Corporation, will represent the renewable energy industry within the council. He was one of five new members to be elected.

Other new members include Raymond Castillo, Mark Algazy, Robert Burke and James Kenney. The 15-member DAC works with the BLM field office managers. The council was established by Congress through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 in hopes of providing input and advice into the management of more than 11 million acres of public land throughout the Southern California desert.

Showing appreciation



Photo courtesy Christine Hameline
Zev Yaroslavsky receives a gift honoring his service to the county. Pictured, from left: Yaroslavsky, Christine Hameline and Skylar Peak.

Chamber Executive Director Mark Persson and Chairwoman Christine Hameline, a local Realtor, presented retiring County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky with a photo of Zuma Beach taken by local photographer Susan Manners, Executive Director of the Malibu Association of Realtors (MAR), at this year's State of the City Address. They gave the photo to Yaroslavsky to acknowledge his service to the county throughout the years.

Realtors (MAR), at this year's State of the City Address. They gave the photo to Yaroslavsky to acknowledge his service to the county throughout the years.

Smart scholastics



Photo courtesy Amber Collins-Parnell

MHS graduate and Bank of Books bookseller Amber Collins-Parnell has been selected to receive a scholarship from the Book Industry Charitable Foundation.

Bank of Books Malibu bookseller Amber Collins-Parnell has been named a 2014 Binc Scholar by the Book Industry Charitable Foundation. She is one of 53 bookstore employees throughout the nation who received a scholarship from the foundation in recognition of their academic success, leadership qualities and participation in school and community activities. Collins-Parnell is a Malibu High School class of 2014 graduate who will attend the University of Chicago in the fall.

Intrepid roadrunner symbolizes magic and good luck

By Dr. Reese Halter
The Malibu Times

The mercurial ground-dwelling roadrunner of the Santa Monica Mountains and the American Southwest is inquisitive, quarrelsome, funny, serious, playful, caring and — above all — fearless. Because of its hunting antics, physical characteristics and general attitude toward life, the roadrunner, a member of the cuckoo family, has been given many different names including: chaparral cock, lizard-eater, snake-eater, paisano (Spanish for compatriot or fellow countryman) and corre camino (Spanish for runs the road).

Known to millions of children worldwide because of Warner Bros. cartoons, this diminutive critter is wonderful. The roadrunner's entire length is about 20 inches, half of which is its tail feather usually carried at an upward angle. The long, stout legs stride at about 3 1/2 inches when walking and the gait stretches to over 18 inches when it reaches a top-end running speed of over 16 miles per hour.

Both sexes have a buff-colored underside with a mixture of black, bronze and buff feathers on the breast. Backs and tails are black and white with blue-green and bronze iridescence. Both possess powerful beaks with a crest on the top of their head and an iridescent patch of skin behind each eye.

When the roadrunner's curiosity is aroused, the black and bronze-green crest feathers are raised and lowered constantly. The paisano is also known for its zygodactyl feet, which feature two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backward. When viewing the tracks it is difficult to determine which direction the bird is going. Native Americans considered this bird to be very spiritual and placed its tracks around the house of a deceased person. This, as

the folklore has it, confused the evil spirits as to which direction the spirit of the dead had taken.

The other characteristic that Native Americans revered was the bird's strength, endurance and fearlessness in hunting rattlesnakes.

Roadrunners are mostly carnivorous, resorting only to eating prickly pear apples and sumac berries during food shortages. Most of their diet consists of a large variety of insects ranging from locusts, grasshoppers, moths, centipedes, scorpions, millipedes, tarantulas, ant worms, spiders



and bumblebees. Though the quickness with which the beak moves, this speedster is able to pick-off dragonflies and hummingbirds in midair.

Roadrunners also regularly eat mice, baby rabbits, horned lizards (which spit venomous blood from their eyes!), spotted whiptail lizards, gartersnakes and rattlesnakes. Usually these snake-eaters will not successfully take on diamond backs larger than 26 inches. Sheer speed and hunting prowess enable the paisano to encircle, like a matador, and leap like a kangaroo over top the rattlesnake until finally catching the exhausted snake by its head and throwing it into the sky. I've seen this intrepid bird continue to bash the rattlesnake on the ground, rocks or sticks for at least 15 minutes until its prey is lifeless.

Another interesting hunting technique that roadrunners use is

to drop their wings and take several steps before stopping. This is done with precision to flush insects or lizards from their hiding places.

Roadrunners are perfectly designed for the heat of the Santa Monica Mountains and the American Southwest. Their nasal glands eliminate excess salt instead of using its urinary track like most birds. It reabsorbs water from its feces before excretion. During extreme summer heat, adults spread their wings to allow air to flow between their open layers, exposing the down

of the feathers. In addition, this bird will also pant to release heat.

Hawks, feral cats, raccoons, bobcats, skunks and coyotes prey upon roadrunners. Sadly, they are often found as road kill throughout the American Southwest.

Roadrunners have at least 16 different calls, including cooing emitted during courtship, whines by females during nest building in mesquite trees, hums when adults enter the nest area to feed fledglings and its most common sound, a clattering made when they rapidly pop their upper and lower mandibles together.

Like orcas rubbing their bellies on the pebble shoreline of southwest British Columbia, roadrunners enjoy dust bathing or "anting" when they come across a location where soft dirt is just right for this frivolous behavior. This remarkable little critter has adapted and accepted human activity within its home range. It is no wonder the roadrunner was chosen to be the state bird of New Mexico.

Any creature willing to face the deadly stare of a rattlesnake, often killing the reptile only after dodging its repeated strikes, is worthy of admiration, praise and preservation.

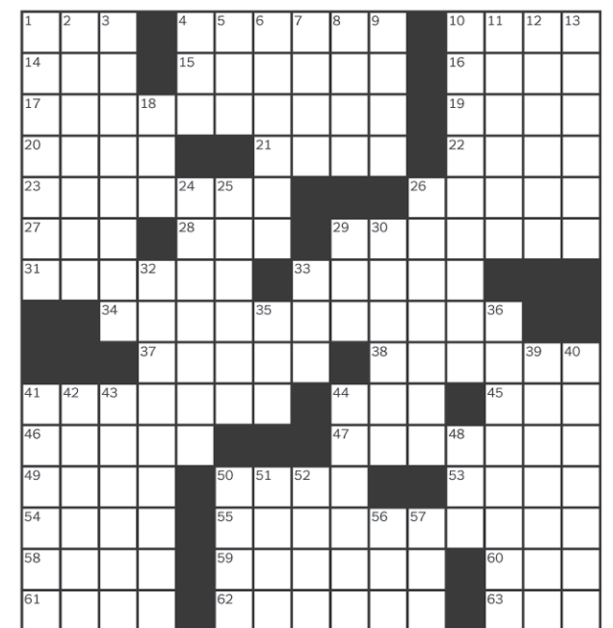
Earth Dr. Reese Halter is a broadcaster and biologist. His forthcoming book is entitled "Shepherding the Sea: The Race to Save Our Oceans."

CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0605

- ACROSS**
- 1 Presenter of "The Borgias," in brief
 - 4 Burning
 - 10 Arizona's Canyon Dam
 - 14 Owner of Moviefone
 - 15 Jackie who played Uncle Fester
 - 16 Italian beach resort
 - 17 The "American Moses"
 - 19 Hot spot in "Hansel and Gretel"
 - 20 Four stars, say
 - 21 Critical elements
 - 22 "Attendance is mandatory"
 - 23 Brewed refresher
 - 26 TV great who said "I live to laugh, and I laugh to live"
 - 27 Modern beginning?
 - 28 Use (up)
 - 29 Wasn't faithful
 - 31 Parenthetical remarks
 - 33 1990s politico from Texas
 - 34 1860s novel that is the basis for this puzzle's theme
 - 37 Flightless birds
 - 38 Electrify
 - 41 Huck and Jim on the Mississippi, e.g.
 - 44 Its Word of the Year in 2005 was "sudoku"; in 2013, "selfie": Abbr.
 - 45 63-Across, in France
 - 46 Fixes
 - 47 Waived the wake-up call
 - 49 Mission ____ Calif.
 - 50 Leave blank
- DOWN**
- 53 Shark eater
 - 54 You're not going anywhere if you're in this
 - 55 Baby boomers, with "the"
 - 58 Canal with 36 locks
 - 59 Brightest star in Aquila
 - 60 Reactor safety agcy.
 - 61 Colors
 - 62 College named for a Norwegian king
 - 63 45-Across, in America
 - 1 Audrey Hepburn title role
 - 2 "____ Odes" (classic work of poetry)
 - 3 Staple of Mediterranean cooking
 - 4 Münster "Geez!"
 - 5 Like a freshly drawn draft
 - 6 View
 - 7 Malaria symptom
 - 8 Lots
 - 9 Lots of R.P.I. grads: Abbr.
 - 10 Shakespeare play setting
 - 11 Car service
 - 12 Gertrude who swam the English Channel
 - 13 "You've done enough"
 - 18 H.S. proficiency test
 - 24 Goes through a stage of babyhood



PUZZLE BY ED SESSA

- 25 Spring time
- 26 Trite comment
- 29 Wrap (up)
- 30 Tiler's tool
- 32 Ribald humor
- 33 Foot: Lat.
- 35 ____ Americas
- 36 Subatomic particle with no electric charge
- 39 Creature in Rowling's Forbidden Forest
- 40 Price for forgiveness, perhaps
- 41 Answered, quickly
- 42 Place abuzz with activity?
- 43 Spenser's "The ____ Queen"
- 44 Pertaining to bone
- 48 Big belly
- 50 Some Swiss watches
- 51 Tuna-and-cheese sandwich
- 52 Digging
- 56 Narrow inlet
- 57 Whelp's yelp

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DAZE EPEES GWEN
UNIT PAULO AHSO
ETNA INREM YETI
TICTACTOEBOARD
SANS ERNE
ORB NEUE RATIOS
POUNDSIGN SHUTUP
RUBE STYES ESTO
ASBIG SPACEMARK
HELLNO TREN TEE
ESAU SNOW
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