

Malibu Life

INSIDE

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SECTION



INSIDE

People B2-3
Sports B12
Pet Pourri B7
Classified B9

Local summer camps cater to all kids

Whether it's soccer, singing, science or swordfighting, Malibu plays host to a wide assortment of youth camps each summer.

Emily Sawicki
Staff Writer

Dozens of sandy-haired kids, dressed in bathing suits and carrying backpacks, climbed into charter vans in the Zuma Beach parking lot at the end of another day of surf and sand at Malibu Makos Surf Camp on Monday afternoon.

The camp, now in its 25th year, hosts more than 100 young surfers every week from all over northern Los Angeles and southern Ventura Counties. Campers range in age from five years. See Summer camps, page B4



Phoenix Mazza is ready to catch the next wave on his boogie board.



Local architect wins award. People, B2



Xena the guide dog visits Bank of Books. Photos, B4



Malibu Little Leaguers show strength. Sports, B12



Realtors recognize Yaroslavsky. People, B3



Roadrunners: Nature's good luck symbol. B3



Photos by Julie Elbertson / TMT

Above: Rows and rows of strawberry plants are a favorite for those who come out to pick their own produce. Top: Artichokes, corn, leeks and the famous "purple tomatoes" on vine. Below: Larry Thorne follows in his father's footsteps, carrying on the family farming tradition.

The Tomato Whisperer

The Thorne family has been growing local produce since 1946.

By Nancy Sagona
Special to The Malibu Times



Larry Thorne is Malibu's very own "Tomato Whisperer." Thorne, whose family has run Thorne Family Farm on Bonsall Drive in Point Dume since 1946, is up every day at 5 a.m. like clockwork, ready to pick, pack and deliver fresh batches of produce.

About 25 acres of the Thorne Farm feature a bounty of fruit trees, strawberry fields and other crops. The rare "purple tomatoes" dangle on vines preciously tended to by Thorne, who talks or "whispers" to the vine-ripe tomatoes his customers favor.

The hues of berries, corn, avocados, herbs, leeks, onions, broccoli,

oranges, beans and zucchini add to the agricultural landscape.

Thorne's father, Albert, started the family farming business in the 1930s, first with a farm in Culver City in 1938, before eventually starting one in Malibu in 1946.

Larry Thorne credits "getting the sleep of the just" as to the reason he gets up every day and keeps the family tradition going.

"There is nothing Hollywood going on here. I just get satisfaction from the site of soil going through the plow," he joked.

Thorne and his wife, Laurel, grew up in Malibu and raised two children here. Laurel is a teacher at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School.

See Thorne, page B4



Malibu's Best Shot

Anson Williams captured his daughters, Stella and Gabriella, playing with "nature's jump rope" on a recent afternoon at Westward Beach.

To submit your Best Shot, send a high resolution (300 dpi) jpeg photo by email to melissa@malibutimes.com, along with information indicating where and when the photo was taken, what the subject is and the photographer's name. Please indicate in the email subject line: Best Shot submission.



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