

Malibu's "Tomato Whisperer" shares Thorne Family Farm history. Malibu Life: B1



Local camps have options that range from soccer to sword fighting. Sports: B12 **Beach Basics** A look at the weekend beach totals:

584,000 total visitors 377 rescues 3,168 citations issued



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# Holiday weekend draws 584,000 visitors

Warm weather and large surf attracted 584,000 visitors to Malibu beaches over the weekend.

By Sarah Shmerling Assistant Editor

Despite traffic accidents, lane closures and a man threatening to jump from a bluff on Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica, 584,000 people flocked to the beaches of Malibu over the holiday weekend as temperatures hit the 80s and 90s in some areas.

Around 2 p.m. on Saturday, the Santa Monica Police Department issued an alert saying PCH was shut down in both directions near the California Incline. According to various social media witness accounts, a suicidal man was threatening to jump from the Santa Monica Bluffs, the Santa Monica Daily Press reported. Lanes reopened at about 3:30 p.m.

Also causing traffic were a number of car accidents along PCH. On July 4, an injury accident on PCH at Big Rock Drive involving two vehicles blocked traffic in both directions, causing heavy delays around noon. Later in the afternoon, there was an accident at PCH and Topanga Canyon Boulevard which closed both eastbound lanes and also caused delays for those trying to leave the Malibu area.

At the end of the holiday



## Adamsons file \$53.8M lawsuit over balloon crash

According to the suit, Grant Adamson died after trying to shield his family as they plummeted 165 feet to the ground in a hot air balloon that hit power lines.

#### **By Melissa Caskey** Managing Editor

Malibu's Adamson family is seeking \$53.8 million in damages relating to a 2013 hot air balloon crash that killed family patriarch Grant Adamson and seriously injured his wife Terry and daughters Lauren and Megan.

A lawsuit filed in LA County Superior Court last week details the harrowing final moments of Grant Adamson's life and accuses a travel agent, two travel companies and a Swiss hotel of major negligence in the events leading up to the August 2013 tragedy in Montbovon, Switzerland.

The suit also alleges that the



The Adamson family before an Aug. 2013 hot air balloon crash

man who piloted and survived the doomed hot air balloon trip, Christian Dupuy, has a long history of alcoholism and had been drinking the night before the earlymorning balloon ride. He allegedly registered a blood-alcohol level between .01 and .02 percent after the crash, in violation of Swiss law. He is currently facing manslaughter charges in the Swiss court system, according to the suit.

See Adamsons, page A12

## Malibu education activist announces Board of Ed bid

With nomination of Craig Foster, Malibu hopes to be represented on SMMUSD board for first time since 2008



weekend on July 6 at around 6 p.m., an accident at PCH at El Matador State Beach closed the two westbound lanes. Lanes were all reopened around 7:30 p.m., after an hour and a half of delays.

Despite numerous accidents, Lt. James Royal at the Malibu/ Lost Hills Sheriff's Station said that the weekend went relatively well.

"We were extremely busy, but it was a good, safe weekend," Royal said. "We didn't experience an unusually high number of calls for traffic colli-See 4th of July, page A9

Emily Goodman / TMT Shea Davis proudly waves an American Flag in Malibu over the Fourth of July Weekend. For more photos, see page A9.

#### INSIDE



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# Immigration crisis has hundreds in holding at west Malibu facility

Nearly 500 minors who fled Central America and entered U.S. illegally are being detained at Port Hueneme. Feds have yet to decide on a plan for processing them.

#### **By Melissa Caskey** *Managing Editor*

A government site on the western outskirts of Malibu is now a focal point of the U.S. immigration problem that has officials scrambling for a long-term solution to the legislative and humanitarian crisis.

Nearly 500 undocumented immigrants are being temporarily detained in a 42,000-squarefoot warehouse at a Naval Base in Port Hueneme, but they make up just a small fraction of the estimated 52,000 who have crossed the border illegally since last fall. Port Hueneme is one of several southwestern locations being used to harbor the flood of immigrants, who are mostly minors or young children and their mothers.

The White House estimates 52,000 people have crossed the Texas border illegally since October 2013.

Bruce Einhorn, a Pepperdine law professor and retired immigration judge, said most migrants are trying to escape third-world conditions and persecution from Central American street gangs wanting to recruit young members.

See Immigration, page A7

# Commission OKs valet, new restaurant at Lumberyard

Beach access development, extended hours at Coogie's are also approved

**By Emily Sawicki** Staff Writer

The Malibu Planning Commission this week put its stamp of approval on a slate of new projects, including one that will create a valet parking system and new restaurant at the Malibu Lumberyard. Other approvals included project 14 years in the making to install a new staircase and parking lot for beach access on Malibu Road and an extension of operating hours at Coogie's.

Lumberyard getting valet, new restaurant

> A new restaurant in the Malibu See Planning, page A6

By Emily Sawicki Staff Writer

Local education activist Craig Foster announced this week he plans to enter this year's Board of Education race in an attempt to get Malibu a seat back at the table — six years after Malibu last had a representative on the governing body of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District See Foster, page A11

Archive photo Craig Foster is hoping to win a seat on the Board of Education and give Malibu its first representation on the board since 2008.

## American pride



Julie Ellerton / TMT

PREVIEW

Malibu residents decorated golf carts and played music in the 15th Annual Point Dume Parade on Friday morning, a truly celebratory event. For more photos, see page A10.





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