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News briefs

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Pepperdine hits \$450M fundraising goal

Pepperdine University has reached a \$450-million fundraising goal after spending three years campaigning for donations. Approximately \$125 million of that money will go toward student scholarships, according to S. Keith Hinkle, senior vice president for Advancement and Public Affairs. "Additional faculty resources and enhancements to programs [have] also been an area of success — approximately \$120 million raised. We have many more institutes and centers now in place thanks, in part, to the campaign. All new funds are intended to help Pepperdine become a premiere global Christian university," Hinkle said in an email. But the campaign isn't over, Hinkle said, and the school plans to continue its drive until the end of 2014.

Ellison helps raise \$600K for California Wildlife Center

Larry Ellison and his girlfriend, Nikita Kahn, worked together to host a fundraising event, "Appreciating the Wild," at his restaurant, Nikita Malibu on Sunday, July 20. The event, which raised \$600,000 for the California Wildlife Center (CWC), featured performances by David Foster, Charles Perry and Fairground Saints. Kahn, who is an animal activist and philanthropist, got involved with the CWC after she saw how they handled treating malnourished young seals. The CWC is a nonprofit organization located in the Santa Monica Mountains that rescues and rehabilitates sick, injured and orphaned

native wildlife, ranging from seals to deer to bobcats. Money raised at the event will help build a new facility and surgery center at an alternate location that will allow the organization to take in a wider variety of animals than they previously could due to space issues.

CCC approves portion of Santa Monica Mountains LCP

The California Coastal Commission unanimously approved the Local Implementation Plan portion of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP) at its meeting July 10. Members reached the decision after voting to include a number of changes, corrections and clarifications to the document. The plan will provide protections for ridgelines, views, environmentally sensitive habitat area, dark skies, streams and native plants and animals. Some pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides are prohibited in the area covered by the LCP.

Partners Trust acquires Areté Estates

Partners Trust, a real estate office located in Malibu, has acquired Areté Estates, a Malibu-based luxury real estate firm known for representing high-net-worth clients and properties. The acquisition was a result of a 25-year friendship with the top agent and Associate Broker at Areté Estates, Katie Bentzenm, and founding partner or Partners Trust, Richard Stearns, that began when they worked together at Fred Sands. The Malibu headquarters has been rebranded as Partners Trust, and will serve as its sixth location in

the greater Los Angeles area. Other locations include Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Brentwood and Pasadena.

Teen airlifted after falling at Pirate's Cove

A 15-year-old boy was airlifted to UCLA Medical Center with serious injuries after falling off a cliff at Pirate's

Cove in Malibu on Saturday, July 19. Sheriff deputies with the Malibu/Lost Hills station along with Los Angeles County Lifeguards and the Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to the scene at Point Dume around 4:15 p.m. Upon arrival, the victim's brother directed the teams to the exact location of the victim. Lifeguards also accessed the victim from a boat.

The teen was hiking and fell from the cliffside approximately 30 feet on to the rocks, according to a release from the Sheriff's station. Due to the rising tides and rough terrain, the boy had to be airlifted from the scene to UCLA Medical Center in Westwood and arrived at the center before 5 p.m. The boy appeared to suffer head trauma and a possible broken leg.

Canvasing Malibu

Julie Ellerton / TMT

After sketching out a design, artist Gabriel "G.G." Gimenez begins his mural on the exterior wall. Gimenez's works, "Transitions" are being featured at the CANVAS Boutique and Gallery in Malibu's Civic Center. His work can be seen through mid-August. For more photos of Gimenez and information on his art, visit malibutimes.com.

MHS

From page A1

hands by removing caulk samples from classrooms at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, Malibu High and Malibu Middle School. "We're trying to give people the facts of what's at the school because the school district has been negligent," said Paula Dinerstein, an attorney with PEER. The groups have been criti-

cal of a district cleanup plan that could leave PCBs in place for up to 15 years. That plan has yet to be finalized, and Environ, a firm hired by the school district, is still conducting its own tests of the campus during the summer. When asked who had gathered the samples, Dinerstein said the person or persons would remain

anonymous. "The school district has expressed a strong intent to shoot the messenger of whoever gathered the samples," she told *The Malibu Times*. PEER says it represents more than 20 teachers and staff members at the three schools, many of whom fear that PCBs or other contaminants in classrooms and campus soil could be related to three diagnoses of thyroid cancer and other thyroid illnesses among teachers who first came forward with the issue last October. Lyon told *The Malibu Times* the district would not pursue any legal action against the groups that took the sampling. In a statement issued to the community, she reiterated that the district is following standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Dept. of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC). "Samples were apparently sur-

reptitiously gathered over a month ago and test data was released in a manner that was most certainly designed to incite concerns," Lyon said. Since releasing their test results, MU and PEER have demanded the district move potentially contaminated classrooms into trailers, remove any PCB-containing caulk within a year if it tests above the federal threshold of 50 parts per million and reallocate more bond money to remediate the situation. But Lyon and the district have no plans to give in to MU and PEER's demands until Environ is done with its assessment. "I cannot allow PEER and Malibu Unites to force action that fully dismisses the authority and scientific expertise of the government agencies," she said. Sarah Braff, vice president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association

(SMMCTA) called the testing methods "rogue" and insisted that any group doing research should follow the ethical standards of practice and transparency. Braff said the unions' first concern is for the safety and health of the teachers, staff and children in the SMMUSD. "The SMMCTA relies on experts such as the EPA and the DTSC because we are not environmental scientists," Braff told *The Malibu Times*. She said the union is not working with PEER but is aware that some of its members are involved with PEER. Councilwoman Laura Rosenthal, who has been involved in school district affairs for several years, said she is working to get each of the interested groups into the same room to prevent further "misunderstanding" of the environmental situation. "I'm trying to see ... if we can put a panel discussion together with all of the interested parties so that everyone can sit down in the same room."

Jennifer deNicola, MU president, was incensed by the test results, which showed high levels in Juan Cabrillo classroom 19, where she said her child was moved after classrooms were relocated from Malibu Middle School last fall. "Sixth-grade students, including my own child, were unnecessarily exposed when relocated to a room that was more toxic than the room they were moved from," she said. Seth Jacobson, a Malibu parent who sits on a district-led environmental task force, questioned the timing of MU and PEER's decision to release the independent test results. "I'm frustrated that they've taken this much more confrontational attack by doing secret testing and waiting until the third week in July to release data," Jacobson said. According to the four pages of a 19-page report posted online by the groups, the samples were submitted to a lab in El Dorado Hills, Calif., on June 13 and results came back on July 7. "We have yet to see the new data [from Environ], so for [MU and PEER] to release this data ahead of Environ reports ... it seems like we're not all operating as a community which is not positive and not helping anybody," he said, "and to try and scare parents, it's not good for us. "We need to all work together and not debate this with press releases," he added.

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