



Right: Unique artwork from L.A. and Moffat was a colorful addition to the 43rd Annual Malibu Art Festival.



Right: Canadian artist Olivier Lheureux's brilliant work was one of many acrylic painters featured at the 43rd Annual Malibu Arts Festival.

Below: Artist Wes Van Dyke's "Central Park" was on display at the Malibu Art Festival.



Photos by Julie Ellerton / TMT

Festival of art

The Malibu Chamber of Commerce hosted the 43rd Annual Malibu Arts Festival over the weekend, where artists, musicians, food trucks and other vendors descended upon the Malibu Civic Center to display and sell original creations. More than 200 painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers and other artisans set up shop Saturday and Sunday.



Zelda's Fine Arts fused glass art pieces glisten in the sunlight at the Malibu Arts Festival this weekend.



Patriotic artist David Schwartz, who uses worn and tattered American flags to create masterpieces, created a luminescent lifeguard tower and included actual sand in his painting.

Letters

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Commissioners, and then can be upheld or overridden by the majority of five City Council members.

There are approximately a dozen commercial parcels in Malibu, which have the legal right to ever create new commercial development over 20,000 square feet. One of the two parts to the Your Malibu Your Decision Act simply says that the final decision regarding project plans for these dozen projects (which will redefine Malibu) will be made not by a few individuals, but by the majority of the citizens.

Commercial property developers say this is dangerous because citizens could recklessly reject property developments that are within code, denying basic property rights, (resulting in lawsuits to the city). In reality, Planning Commissioners and City Council members also could unreasonably deny basic property rights (resulting in lawsuits). I don't believe the idea that the citizens as a whole are unreasonable, but that somehow miraculously they elect a handful of people from among their unreasonable ranks, and that handful happens to be reasonable.

Obviously commercial property developers believe elected politicians will grant more project deviations from code than citizens would and this is why they prefer the status quo. The Your Malibu Your Decision Act gives citizens the chance to change that status quo. It is purely a scare tactic when commercial developers argue that the majority of citizens (i.e. not just the extremists but the majority) would take to the extreme of denying projects which are purely to code, making the city an easy target for litigation. (And if others express this fear, they are expressing nothing more than their personal lack of faith in the community members as a whole.)

I support the Your Malibu Your Decision Act. When it passes in November, we citizens will need to deal with our new responsibility conscientiously, and I trust we will.

Lynn Norton

Change of heart

I was easily talked into signing this petition to get it on the ballot. I, like many, did not understand the many exemptions, loopholes and exclusions that are included in it.

I believe this initiative is uncon-

stitutional with many unintended consequences, one of which will prevent our very necessary Malibu Urgent Care from acquiring a new updated facility in Malibu.

Therefore, I am urging Malibu residents to vote against it, as I will.

Sally Zamarin

Border problems

The guest editorial by Amy Alcini pleading for compassion for all the children entering the U.S. from Central America demonstrates a lot of emotion, but anything but compassion. It will lead to thousands more children and adults dying in sweltering deserts and being attacked while crossing Mexico to reach the U.S.

The children are not coming to the U.S. because of violence in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The level of violence has not changed in four years. What is different is President Obama stating—by executive order—that he would not deport children. This created a tsunami of media reports and rumors in those countries saying that children who reached the U.S. would be able to stay forever. And, since we are so "compassionate," we would not want to separate children from their parents, so there is the unstated promise that eventually the parents of these kids would be granted the pathway to citizenship.

No longer trying to sneak across the U.S. border, these children run into the arms of immigration officials. They have overwhelmed our processing centers and diverted the attention of border agents from catching bad guys and stopping drugs from entering our country.

The sad truth is that, in spite of more empty words, the President has not sealed the border as promised. It is more porous than ever. Another reality is that we cannot absorb an endless number of immigrants with low educational levels and a variety of health problems. Our high-tech society already has far too many American citizens unable to find work. (The stated unemployment rate is misleading because we don't count most people who aren't working and do count part-time workers. We have the lowest labor participation rate in half a century.) How many workers with few skills can we absorb?

Scott Dittrich

Removal of Rindge Dam

With all due respect to Ronald Rindge, suggesting that the obsolete Rindge Dam be maintained as a "catch basin" for the "bad runoff" from the watershed above (Letter to the Editor, July 17) is as wrong-headed as it is ludicrous. The return of the Steelhead trout to the upper reaches of Malibu Creek is not just a concession to a small tribe of fishing enthusiasts, but rather the signal that the water quality issues of the Malibu Creek watershed have finally been addressed.

The Rindge Dam was built in the '30s to supply water to a wide-ranging cattle operation. By the mid-fifties, the dam had filled with silt to the level it is at today—within a few feet of the top—and no longer served the Rindge cattle operation. Rather than mitigating the plug of concrete and silt that choked the once free running waterway, the dam was "donated" and the land it sat on went to the state.

The problem of contaminants entering the watershed above the dam is serious, but nowhere in the country are open-pipe sources of pollution abated with downstream "catch basins." That does not address the problem; it merely moves it to another place. What is happening across the country, however, is the removal of obsolete dams, like the Rindge Dam. The federal government allocates hundreds of millions of dollars specifically for the purpose of restoring waterways to their free-running states.

The Steelhead trout fishery is not just the dream of hobbyists in waders. The State of California and the federal government are very serious about restoring the Steelhead fishery on the West Coast. An endangered species like the Steelhead trout commands the highest level of protection, and their return will bring greater scrutiny to the upstream polluters. In a manner of speaking, the Steelhead themselves will have a louder voice in cleaning up Malibu Creek than any of us ever will.

If the Rindge family wants to be on the right side of this issue, they should consider looking to the future of the Malibu watershed rather than to the past of an obsolete dam.

D. Paul Yeull

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