

# Coastal Cleanup Day a Huge Success

By Lynne Gross

Volunteers participating in Manhattan Beach's Coastal Cleanup Day collected 344 pounds of trash. Close to 1000 people scoured the local beaches gathering bottles, cans, clothing, balloons, cigarettes, cups, and other trash—including half a boogie board and one-third of a surfboard. "This was the highest participation rate in several years," said site captain David Lloyd. "We kept a lot of nasty stuff from getting into the marine environment."

Staff, volunteers, and directors from the Roundhouse Aquarium, located at the end of the pier, provided much of the logistical support. They registered people, gave out supplies, and helped organize the material collected. The Coastal Cleanup volunteers gathered at the foot of the pier on Saturday morning, September 19, where they received

bags for collecting the trash and instructions for collecting it—recyclables in white bags, other trash in orange bags. They then fanned out across the beach collecting material from 9 a.m. until noon and keeping a log of what they gathered. Once they brought back their bags, Lloyd and his assistants weighed them and found the group had collected 44 pounds of recyclable material and 300 pounds of other trash.

Coastal Cleanup Day is part of a worldwide effort to clean up beaches and also gather information that can be used for research about the ocean environment—hence the logs detailing what was collected. The Manhattan Beach site was one of approximately 70 sites in Los Angeles County, all coordinated by the non-profit organization, Heal the Bay, in conjunction with the Coastal Commission. Lloyd has been Manhattan Beach's site captain for eight years. •

## API

from front page

Elementary was the only campus to report a drop, albeit only two points—an amount generally considered statistically negligible—to a still sterling score of 963.

District Director of Educational Services Carolyn Seaton said she was extremely proud of the schools' performances. "We grew both district-wide moving from 907 to 915, but also grew at almost all our school campuses," she said. "We continue to look for ways we can improve and we will not rest on our laurels."

Asked what may have accounted for Grand View's impressive growth, Seaton noted that it was somewhat of a flip-flop from the year before when that school's scores had dropped from 2007.

"The staff there really took a long, hard look at their STAR [Standardized Testing and Reporting] data and aggregated the kids by gender, ethnicity, individually and in clusters, and looked instructionally where their strengths were and where they might have slipped in order to better understand trends," Seaton said.

"They were determined to bring the scores back up and were successful." By "clusters," Seaton explained that instead of looking

at overall math scores, for example, staff examined the "individual pieces that make up portions of the math tests" to identify the exact areas needing extra attention.

Seaton went on to applaud District teachers for focusing on the task at hand during a difficult time when state budget cuts created major challenges potentially impacting services and job positions. "It would have been understandable if their attention might have been diverted," she said, "but they continued doing their jobs and teaching the standards and making sure their students mastered them."

Developed as a cornerstone of the state's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999, the API is California's system for measuring school performance and tracking improvement, and is based on standardized testing that emphasizes language arts and mathematics.

The index assigns a score for each campus, ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. By state mandate, schools that have yet to reach 800 are assigned annual growth targets.

If a school doesn't meet its target growth, it is put on a list of low-performing schools and may get special assistance or grants to foster improvement.

# Crime Reports

## Compiled by Evan Ortega POTATO ATTACK SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

A man was watching television in the living room of his residence in the 100 block of Evergreen Lane around 9 p.m. when he heard what sounded like a loud explosion. The man told police it sounded like a firecracker, followed by screeching tires. The victim went into his garage, finding pieces of glass from a broken garage door window strewn about on his 2006 model Porsche 911s. Police and the victim think somebody threw a potato through the window, because of the chunks of potato strewn about the car and garage. Police took photos and the victim will wash his car to see if there was any damage to the paint job.

## SENIOR VICTIMIZED MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Somebody stole a 70-year-old woman's wallet while she was shopping at a supermarket in the Manhattan Village Mall around 7 p.m. The victim had \$700 in cash, a payroll-type check and several credit cards, although she could not remember which cards she had. The officer told the victim to go home, place stops on her accounts and call the companies to see if there were any unauthorized transactions. About two hours later police called the victim, who said two credit cards were used to make two separate purchases totaling nearly \$3,800 at a computer store in the Manhattan Village Mall. A card was also used to purchase \$1,332 worth of goods at an electronics store in Plaza El Segundo. The supermarket manager said she would scan video surveillance to locate the theft and suspects, and burn a DVD for police. The assistant manager of the computer store said the suspect was a "cute" young black female who was well dressed and spoke with a heavy accent. The manager also said the suspect presented the victim's credit card and a red covered passport from an unknown country as identification. She would not provide any more information to police without permission from corporate security.

## UNHAPPY MEAL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

A woman was eating at the bar of a restaurant in the 200 block of Manhattan Beach Boulevard around 12:45 p.m., sitting three stools away from a white female. A few minutes later a white male sat down on the victim's left side. The woman on the right then asked the victim to move a few stools over as if she was expecting company. The victim complied, leaving her purse at her feet. She the woman texted on her phone the whole and didn't eat anything. The male left after a few minutes and the woman waited a few minutes longer before she also left. An hour later the victim tried to pay for her meal

but could not find her wallet in her purse. The victim took time to retrace her steps in hopes of locating her wallet, which contained about \$700 in cash and three credit cards. The victim's credit card companies told her somebody made two unauthorized transactions worth a total of \$7,000 at a computer store in the Manhattan Village Mall and a total of \$3,700 in purchases at two department stores. The victim cancelled all her credit cards. Police went to one of the department store locations in Manhattan Beach to no avail. When police went to the computer store, the manager would not provide police with any information without permission from corporate security.

## STOLEN PALLETS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

An employee at a grocery store in the 1800 block of Rosecrans Avenue told police that \$1,000 worth of plastic pallets used for food deliveries have been stolen since August 5. The pallets are kept behind the store in order for delivery trucks to have access to them during off-hours. The employee told police that thefts seem to occur three to four times a week between 12:30 and 3 a.m. when employees are usually inside the store, and also between 2 and 5 p.m. The pallets are worth about \$10 each and as many as 15 go missing at a time. Two different vehicles have been seen by employees in connection with the thefts: a white moving truck with a rear rollup gate, and a white oversized van. A video camera is mounted 15 feet above the area where the pallets are stolen and a sign states the camera is conducting video surveillance and recording 24-hours a day. Employees told police the camera is inoperative.

## LOTION THEFT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Two women stole \$465 worth of bubble bath solution, body cream, lotion, shower gel and "mist" from a specialty store sometime around 11 a.m. at a specialty store in the Manhattan Village Mall. Two female black adults entered the store carrying large black handbags around their shoulders, walking over to a fragrance isle on the north side of the store. At one point one of the suspects asked a clerk for an employment application. The clerk and the suspect then walked over to the counter in the center of the store, out of sight of the second suspect. A few minutes later the second suspect approached the counter and another employee joined them. The suspects discussed the application process with the employees before leaving the store. Minutes after the suspects left, the employees discovered the products missing, but waited until the afternoon to call the police. One of the employees told police they waited

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