

ManhattanBeachSun

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Cloudy

65°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

64°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy

65°



Water Polo Team Going on the Road



Team members going to Greece this year are Evan Bronner, Conner Davidge, Travis Elliott, Spencer Neste, Devin Norris, Deven Ramand Jason Veris.

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Gator Run Generates Greenery for Schools

By Evan Ortega

Hundreds of people hit the pavement for the 14th annual Grand View Gator 5K Run and Walk early Saturday morning, helping to raise an estimated \$50,000 for the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation.

Participants ranged from Mira Costa High School Cross Country Team runners to toddlers lounging in strollers pushed by winded parents. Mira Costa sophomore Jimmy Breen of Hermosa Beach won the run with a time of 18:09. "The competition was pretty good," Breen said. "I was pretty tired going up that last hill. Someone told me the guy behind me was walking so I felt I could ease up a little."

The event created an opportunity for Grand View parents, students and teachers to mingle, and for alumni to reunite with teachers from years past. "The greatest part for me is I get to see current students run with their families, but also former students who are now older," physical education teacher Monica Wood said. "And it's great to see people come together in such a great way for Manhattan Beach schools."

Younger children had the opportunity to run a mini Gator route and win prizes. Perhaps the biggest prize was won by kindergarten teacher Kelly Spondike, who was named Gator Queen. She led the run in a blue 1963 Oldsmobile. "It was an honor," she said. "My babies, my first class, they are now fifth graders. I have some of their siblings in my classes now who I've known since they were in strollers."

Spondike added that she had only one request after being named the run's Gator Queen, and it concerned her glamorous wardrobe. "I said if you are going to give me a crown, then you had better let me wear my prom dress," she said.

Doug Bond lives near the school and noted that he has missed only one Gator Run since he ran the first one in 1996. "Everyone in the neighborhood supports the school, so

it's a great event," he said. Bond runs the course slower now because he likes to do so with his children, who are fifth and second graders at Grand View. "I think all the kids look forward to it," he said. "I think they have done a good job of setting the race up with the kids' course."

Grand View principal Rhonda Steinberg said the money is especially needed to maintain programs at the city's seven schools, given the Manhattan Beach Unified School District's budget problems. "The run directly benefits all of the students in the District by hopefully bringing back some of the programs we are in fear of losing, such as our librarians, physical education teachers, science specialists, computer aides and instructional aides,"

Steinberg said.

Steinberg added that she was grateful for the contributions of the dozens of sponsors, more than 75 volunteers, and estimated 1,500 participants. The Grand View volunteers are amazing," she said. "It's just a really fun, feel good school event."

Manhattan Beach Education Foundation President Ellen Rosenberg emphasized that the money will help fund core academic programs like math and English, and supplemental academic programs not mandated by the state. "The state cuts are so deep that we're are paying for critical academic programs," Rosenberg said. "There's no fluff in the system, so every dollar is important."

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An Evening in Paris

EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR RICHSTONE FAMILY CENTER

By Karen Russo

What could pull at your heartstrings harder than children being abused? That is why so many in our community give so much support to the Richstone Family Center. For it is Richstone that for 35 years has provided a safe haven for abused children and their families in the South Bay. From counseling to parenting classes to after school programs, broken hearts have been mended and hope restored thanks to Richstone.

To support the center's mission of preventing and treating child abuse, strengthening families and preventing violence in families, schools, and communities, an "Evening in Paris" was the theme of this year's annual Richstone fundraiser, An Affair of the Heart. The gala was held in the tree-lined, high ceilinged

University Hall at Loyola Marymount University. University Hall was originally built and owned by Hughes Aircraft as its World Headquarters. In 2000, LMU bought the building from Raytheon, contributing to the university's rating by the Princeton Review as the seventh most beautiful campus in America.

On June 6, the halls were turned into a Paris street scene, lined with colorful awnings, Paris street signs and lights, and wine stations with premium wines donated by Geoff Nichols of Bristol Farms and Manhattan Beach resident and longtime Richstone supporter Brad Scott.

Guests attired in black, white or red, berets and feather boas sampled wines, enjoyed passed hors d'oeuvres, thronged to the vodka martini bar, and bid on an array of silent auction items, while Guitarist Zuma provided music. "It was

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