

# Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

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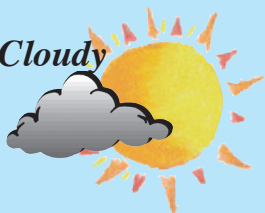
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## Weekend Weather Forecast

### Friday

Partly Cloudy

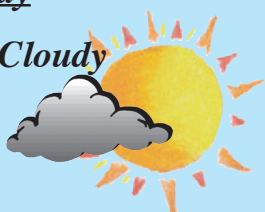
66°



### Saturday

Partly Cloudy

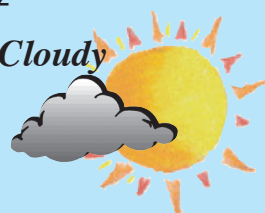
65°



### Sunday

Partly Cloudy

65°



## Thanks to our Advertisers



Boyd Jeffery of William Shaw and Heidi Maerker, C.E.O. of Herald Publications, which publishes the Manhattan Beach Sun, enjoying the festivities. Photo by Rob Fiore.

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## Council Approves Up to \$320,000 for Staff Bonuses, Raises

By Evan Ortega

Council members voted unanimously to approve up to \$320,000 for raises and bonuses for 64 city management employees to be approved by City Manager Geoff Dolan. The employees aren't members of unions and will only receive increases based on merit, Dolan said.

Councilmember Wayne Powell said the potential raises are discretionary and have already been budgeted. Councilmember Nick Tell said the city staff is phenomenal and that the Council shouldn't shortchange the people it counts on the most. "Our job is to kind of find ways to find and pay for the critical parts of our city and one very important critical part is our staff," Tell said. "It makes it all possible, so thank you and I appreciate all that you've done."

Dolan thanked the Council on behalf of city staff. "Politically this isn't necessarily easy right now. We are in a tough economy and we know what some of our other municipalities have done," Dolan said. "We really appreciate this recognition."

### Water Ordinance

The Council made minor changes to the city's water conservation ordinance by adjusting its language in some parts to make it easier to understand and to allow residents to run drip irrigation systems on restricted days and hours.

As a member of the Water and Stormwater Subcommittee of the city's Environmental Task Force, David Pederson said residents have reduced their water consumption by about 22 percent so far this year. "What we're trying to accomplish here is a long term conservation goal of 20 percent...we think we are on target. We just have to stick with it, that's all."

Under the current Phase Two drought restrictions, residents are only allowed to water their greenery for 15 minutes between

6 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. Thursday, and for 15 minutes between 6 pm. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

Council members asked subcommittee members of the about the possibility of changing the ordinance to allow people to water for 10 minutes three times a week after receiving correspondence from residents who've complained about dying plants.

Pederson said the subcommittee felt residents would be inclined to water for more than ten minutes and that it would be harder for city staff to monitor water use.

Subcommittee chairman Bob Siemak said if people's plants die then they aren't California native. Regarding peoples non-native plants

dying as a result of the restrictions, Siemak called it "plant Darwinism." He said residents need a shift in thinking. "Your plants are tropical plants, Hawaiian plants, that don't belong in California."

Environmental Programs Manager Sona Kalapura mentioned the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden offers classes for residents interested in planting native plants. She suggested residents plant drought tolerant plants and other measures to deal with the water restrictions. "I've seen kind of a fun sign you put in your lawn that says, 'Our lawns may not be green but we are.'"

See City Council, page 18

## Teen Jazz Ensemble Looks to Score More Work

By Evan Ortega

When Mira Costa seniors Devin Norris and Matt Gafney hit the stage at last year's Hometown Fair with a couple of other high school friends to play jazz, it was the first time they played together in front of an audience as a band. Things didn't go exactly as planned for the group, which now calls itself the Manhattan Beach Jazz Quartet Featuring Kieran Lorenzen, although Norris recalled they entertained a supportive audience. "We had maybe my parents, Matt's parents and two other people watching us," said Norris, who plays keyboards. "And we played pretty horribly, but it was the first time we played in front of anybody." Added bassist J. Tyler Johnson, a junior

at Mira Costa, "We weren't feeling it; we were all just screwing up."

Since then, the band switched drummers (the first one went to college), brought on a singer and landed a steady gig at the Lido di Manhattan restaurant every other week. They say they sound a lot better too. The band consists of Norris and Johnson, Gafney on saxophone, vocalist Kieran Lorenzen vocals and drummer Julian Trivers.

Their turning point came in January when Gafney's dad hired the band to play during his 60th birthday celebration at the Lido restaurant on Rosecrans. "The management of the restaurant got a bunch of comments and compliments from our

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