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Weekend  
Weather  
Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy

74°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

75°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy

76°



Mayor’s Cup Champions



Manhattan Beach Little League Major’s Mayor’s Cup Champions, the Beavers. From Left Back Row: Coach David Witz, Manager Steve Reilly, Coaches Art Fox and Yukon Chen. Middle Left to Right: Nick Harry, Cameron Witz, Tyler Summers, Peter Neal, David Arrendondo, Matthew Reilly, Marcus Hiem and Zack Chan. Front Left to Right: Quantyn Kowata and Adam Fox. Not Pictured: Coach Nick Memmo and Player Vince Memmo. The Manhattan Beach Little League Beavers Majors team completed an amazing undefeated playoff run to win their division and the Mayors Cup Championship. The team went on to compete in the South Bay Tournament of Champions where it beat Palos Verdes, El Segundo, and placed 2nd to Silver Spur. Congratulations Manhattan Beach Beavers!

Manhattan Open Goes Back to Its Roots

By Evan Ortega

Hundreds of volleyball players and thousands of spectators will hit the sand for the Manhattan Beach Open, which runs through Sunday at the Manhattan Beach pier. The event is considered by many to be the most prestigious of the AVP Crocs tour, said Alison Shapiro, AVP public relations manager. “I think our league and the city have a sort of symbiotic relationship,” Shapiro said. “It’s a sport that was born in that city, so to hold a professional tournament every year, no city in the world understands the sport of beach volleyball like Manhattan Beach.”

Manhattan Beach Recreation services manager Mark Leyman explained that the local City Council has embraced the tournament because of its status and tradition. “The Council supports it as one of our major special events,” he said. Leyman added that the tournament is a favorite among players because the winners get their names etched onto volleyball-shaped plaques on the pier’s “Volleyball Walk of Fame.”

Manhattan Beach resident Kevin Cleary founded the AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals) with Leonard Armato and Sinjin Smith in 1983. He noted that the event started as a popular local event with big crowds, but no promotional budget or sponsorships. “The locals still attend,” Cleary said. “But there’s definitely more people from out of the area who come to watch the event than from earlier years.”

According to Shapiro, the event is big not just for Manhattan Beach, but also Southern California as a whole. “It’s not just the volleyball community--it’s the Los Angeles community that will be turning out,” he said. “I’ve got friends that aren’t huge volleyball fans that want to come out to the event because it’s a cool thing.”

Leyman hopes the tournament will help the sport further develop and grow in popularity.

“It hasn’t been a mainstream sport, but I think with all the excitement from the Olympics, hopefully we will have more and more youth play volleyball,” he said. “Some of those guys will actually play through the qualifiers and some will play in the professionals.”

The Open is special, Cleary maintained, because it allows amateurs to compete with professionals if they are able to make it through the qualifying rounds. “Part of the tradition of the Manhattan Open is that the local community kids and kids from Mira Costa get to play against the best players in the world,” Cleary said. “I personally have great experiences from that.”

When he was just a teenager, Cleary was

able to play in the Open after his team made it through the qualifying rounds. When team began the match, a small group of friends sat on the sand and watched. “I remember looking up halfway through the second game and all a sudden we had this huge crowd around our court,” he recalled. “We ended up beating them, and I think it created a lot of excitement for the event.”

Cleary sees the event as a way to give kids in the South Bay an opportunity to push the tournament’s top teams to the limit. “Mira Costa has had numerous number one men and women’s teams,” he said. “It’s probably one of the few high schools where a lot of

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Petanque Comes to  
Manhattan Beach

By Karen Russo

Balls, balls, balls. There is no doubt about it; ball games have been part of every culture since the beginning of civilization. The Egyptians played something like handball. The Greeks and the Romans played a form of soccer. The Mayans threw a ball around the walls of a stadium without it touching the floor. Whoa to the losers. They became sacrifices to the gods. In ancient China, they played a precursor to golf. Victorian ladies in long skirts played croquet. The great American pastime is baseball, while Laker tickets go for more than most peoples’ mortgages. And what would college be without football? For 20 years, I was a tennis fanatic. Then an old skiing accident kicked in, leaving me

with a knee replacement and relegated to struggling with golf. But for the infirm, or those not so infirm but attracted to games that are cheap, social, and close to home, forms of boule are popular. The latest to come to Manhattan Beach is petanque, a French form of English lawn bowling and Italian bocce ball. I had casually noticed lawn bowling being played in resort cities like Santa Monica and Laguna Beach, but never paid much attention. Then in New Zealand, I discovered that every town seems to revolve around its lawn bowling clubs. People of all ages, decked out in white, come to play. The lawns are lush and green surrounded by gardens bountiful

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