

Manhattan Beach Sun

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Sunny

82°



Saturday

Sunny

78°



Sunday

Mostly Sunny

72°



Heaters Silver Win Division



The Manhattan Beach Heaters Silver baseball team won their 11U division championship in a 3-day United States Travel Ball Association (USTBA) tournament in San Diego over this past Labor Day weekend (September 5-7). They worked hard for the win. Lost their first 2 games and then clawed their way back to the find themselves in the championship game. Won the championship in the last inning, 7-6. Great effort from the whole team. Their new motto is WE > ME. Standing left to right: Manager Mark Lipps, Jackson Michalski, Coach Ian Bothwell, Jay Sterner, Evan Brock, Spencer Greene, Tommy Bothwell, Max Akita, Asst Coach John Brock, Asst Coach Eric Christian, Kneeling left to right: Graham Lipps, Zac Christian, Reese Alexiades, Anand Sarathy, Hunter Tiedemann, Tyler Bonsky.

Roundhouse to Celebrate Three Decades of Education

By Evan Ortega

When residents celebrate the 30th anniversary of the non-profit corporation that operates the City of Manhattan Beach's iconic Roundhouse Aquarium in October, Judge Dick Fruin will be on hand to thank residents for their support. Fruin, who banded with other residents to build the aquarium in the late 1970s, said the event will be an opportunity to take stock of the organization's accomplishments. "It means a lot to me, which is why I put so much time into it for the last 30 years, and I think it's important to the community, judging from the letters we get," he said. "I think it's a place that Manhattan Beach takes a lot of pride in. We're lucky enough to be using the most recognizable building in Manhattan Beach and we want to live up to expectations, and I think we do."

Members of the public will be able to attend the anniversary on Friday October 9 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Hyperion Outfall Serenaders will perform and Rock'n Fish will provide refreshments during the event, which will feature a PowerPoint presentation, photos and a raffle with items donated by local businesses. "The purpose of it is to celebrate that the aquarium has existed this long and to share with the various people in the community this celebration and to have some fun," board member Lynne Gross said.

People will have the opportunity to buy 15 framed 16- by 20-inch photos of beach and ocean subjects priced at \$250 each. The photos were taken by board member Paul Blieden, class instructor Eric Martin and his son, Cody Martin.

The non-profit corporation that operates the aquarium, Oceanographic Teaching Stations, Inc. (OTS), teaches science to 11,000 students a year and its roundhouse aquarium boasts 125,000 public visits a year. Though the aquarium offers free admission, it's able to sustain itself through grants and donations by

large corporations, small businesses, grants, class fees and members of the public. "We also have a once a year campaign where we send letters to donors and we get a sizeable amount of money every year," Blieden said. "Even in this environment, it's pretty good; I think people like us."

Blieden said that if the economy continues to suffer, the organization's ability to raise money might be negatively impacted, but "so far, so good."

When Fruin and other residents began their quest to create the aquarium in 1979, the then-vacant Roundhouse at the end of the pier was a local headache. "There were all kind of problems... the pier had been closed because there had been vandalism and there was a stabbing and a shooting out there," Gross said. "There were all kinds of stuff prior to 1979 and the City... they certainly

wanted to make changes."

During that time, Fruin and his wife were raising two boys. "There wasn't a spot where they could learn about the marine ecology, but that was what I was interested in, which was promoting the marine life which is on our shores," he said.

Fruin remembers how the Roundhouse, which used to be a restaurant, was home to sea life before aquariums were installed. The single-floor, single-room building was dirty, unused and full of debris. "There were old fish stuck on the walls ...smelly fish," Fruin recalled. "They had dried out; they were just thrown against the wall."

In order to get control of the roundhouse, Fruin and the other board members decided to expand their aquarium concept into a mechanism for teaching children about the

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School Board Hears of High School Designs

By Erik Derr

Opening Day enrollment at Manhattan Beach schools was higher than last year's numbers, but slightly less than district predictions. So said Ellyn Schneider, executive director of student services, at the regular meeting of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District's board of trustees Sep. 2 --- the first day of school. Overall district, said Schneider, numbered 6,564 students, up from 2008's starting count of 6,406. Schneider's department had expected to reach 6,678. Of course, she explained, any head counts are tentative at best through the first few weeks of school, as at least some students likely moved away from the district over the summer but haven't officially changed

schools yet. Some families as well may have opted to extended their children's vacations through the Labor Day weekend. And then, Schneider continued, the tally of accepted permit applications can't be finalized until the district knows exactly how many open school spaces need to be filled. "There's been a lot of shifting," she said. Each grade level at Mira Costa High School numbered over 600 students, bring total attendance the first day to 2,430, down from the anticipated 2,490, but up from 2,333 last year. All of the district's elementary schools showed similar trends: Grand View logged 702 first-day students, while 711

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