

# Manhattan Beach Sun

The Weekly Newspaper of Manhattan Beach

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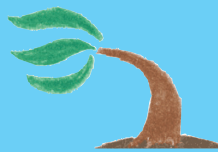
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## Weekend Weather Forecast

**Friday**

Windy

59°



**Saturday**

Sunny

62°



**Sunday**

Sunny

61°



## The River Cats Win!



The River Cats are the 2009 14-U Junior Division Champions of the Manhattan Beach/Hermosa Beach Little League after coming from behind in the last inning of the championship game on May 21 to defeat the MBL Mud Cats by 8 to 4. The River Cats were undefeated in the playoff series. L to R: Jackson Casady, Braden Casady, Connor Rafferty, Joey Markus, Gregory French, Greg Briskin, Tyler Young, Brian Sydow, Nick Kringen, Carter Casady, and Alex Geffner-Mihlsten. The team was coached by Todd French and Derek Nicholson. Photo by Tina Steck.

## School Board Gearing Up for Cuts as Propositions Fail

By Chris Strait

In the wake of education funding propositions not passing in the May 19 elections, the inevitability of major cuts has become more obvious. For the residents of Manhattan Beach, this has only sped up the act of giving. Last week, Manhattan Beach Education Foundation President Ellen Rosenberg told Manhattan Beach School Board members that the goal of funding has risen for their district from \$2.6 million to \$4.1 million. While this may seem like an ominous number, Rosenberg was quick to remind everyone that the Ed Foundation has faced more drastic increases, as far as percentage goes. "We did it before, and we'll do it again," was her confident statement, regarding the raising of the required funds.

School Board President Nancy Hersman spoke of the uncertainty that still remains after the failure of propositions 1A through 1E. Governor Schwarzenegger is reportedly still considering massive cuts to the school year that is currently in progress. "We only have 45 days left," noted Hersman and Board member Ida Vanderpoorte, who speculated that there may still be a reduction in number of school days for even this year. Numbers were gathered by many sources as to the community's biggest concerns when facing cuts. Leading far and away was the prospect of class sizes becoming too big.

Both teachers and parents provided input when surveys were taken informally at the elementary school level. Community members who spoke to the Board said the goal should be to make sure we have "priorities in order" before making any decisions on cuts. The loss of library faculty as well as physical education were also top concerns from the community, as these are typically some of the first items on the chopping block when facing cuts. Science labs and computer access were also concerns mentioned frequently.

In perhaps the most touching move of philanthropy that has taken place since fundraising efforts began, two Robinson Elementary School students made a presentation to the Board, donating their birthday money for education. Alex and Sean Parsa made this announcement to a happily stunned Board room and received a standing ovation. In a show of impeccable timing, older brother Alex, a fourth grader, waited for applause to die down before telling of the amount. "We have \$2,000 here", he said, garnering another gasp from those in attendance. Sean, a second grader, then spoke of how much he loved his school, teachers and principals, and wanted "to save them."

A presentation was also made to the Board

regarding the "Response to Instruction" (RTI) status report. Previously called 'ExCEL', the acronym was Excellence, a Commitment to Every Learner. This program was first implemented over three years ago at Grandview, Meadows and Pennekamp Elementary schools. Pacific joined the program in the fall of 2007. English and Language Arts are the focus of this program, and improvement through the use of differentiated instruction is the goal. Students are placed in flexible groups by ability and skill levels and are taught according to their individual needs.

Early intervention, a topic which had come up earlier in the meeting, was the method used to identify learning or reading difficul-

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## City Gets Keys to MINI Coopers



Peter Trepp and his new MINI E.

See Mini's, page 4