

THE BEACH REPORTER

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MANHATTAN BEACH

Costa coaches play defense against parent complaints

by Carley Dryden

The Mira Costa High School baseball and lacrosse teams have yet to play a game this year, but some parents say they've already suffered crucial losses.

The removal of Chris Jewett as the varsity lacrosse coach in December has stirred up a bevy of lacrosse families who feel he was unfairly forced out by a small group of parents.

Meanwhile, the duties of baseball coach Cassidy Olson were recently restricted, with the school district forbidding him to coach or attend a game until March 25 and limiting his attendance at practice from 2 to 3 p.m.

According to complaints filed by attorney Janice Rourke Hugener last November on behalf of a group of anonymous lacrosse parents, Jewett allegedly made disparaging comments to players, created a "pay-to-play" scheme in which players felt forced to play on Jewett's paid club team in order to get playing time on the varsity team, and gave preferential treatment and unequal playing time.

The district has remained close-lipped on what prompted Jewett's removal.

"I can confirm that Chris Jewett is not being offered the coaching assignment for this spring season," said Superintendent

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REDONDO BEACH

Redondo school board passes power plant resolution

by Paul Silva

The Redondo Beach school board passed a resolution Tuesday opposing a new power plant in the city unless the facility meets all air quality standards, uses the best available pollution control technology and is deemed of "vital necessity" to the district's energy needs.

The 4-1 vote came after board mem-

A sight to see



Melina Deinum-Buck, a student at Pennekamp Elementary School in Manhattan Beach, brought along *The Beach Reporter* to keep up with local happenings as she and her father, Beau, attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama for his second term. They were part of a crowd of more than 600,000 gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to hear the president's address.

bers revised the resolution to replace the word "opposing" in the title to "position on," a change made after hearing from a packed room of resolution opponents and supporters.

The wording change was made because people had mistakenly believed the district was against the construction of the new power plant under any conditions. When Board member Jane Diehl, who cast the

dissenting vote, asked the audience, "How many people here thought this was a resolution opposing the power plant?" a lot of hands went up.

It was not a surprising response considering the original title of the draft resolution was, "Resolution 12-13:24 Opposing the Proposed Construction and Certification of the Redondo Beach Energy Project by AES Southland, LLC."

HERMOSA BEACH

Companies aren't honoring entire taxicab system contract

by Eric Michael Stitt

A year into a joint effort to improve taxi service and encourage the use of it, the Hermosa Beach Police Department and cab companies are meeting most of their goals but are still trying to perfect the system as a key part of their contract is not being honored.

The program was implemented for several reasons that include giving patrons a safe ride home after spending hours at bars, funneling taxis into pick-up lines instead of randomly stopping for people throughout the area, decreasing parking problems and organizing a chaotic scene on busy weekend nights.

The important aspect of the contract not being honored by All Yellow Taxi, Bell Cab, United Independent Taxi and South Bay Yellow Taxi is the fact that the companies are not consistently staffing a cab starter at the stands. That became apparent at the Hermosa Avenue stand near Pier Plaza on New Year's Eve when dozens of people where lined up and a starter was not present.

After midnight, a tense scene developed as numerous altercations took place after intoxicated people were cutting in line and folks toward the back were jumping into the street to cut off taxis for a ride — causing

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However, the full text of the original resolution, which several plant opponents called "beautifully crafted," stated that the district was opposed to the plant "unless" — which turned out to be a crucial word — certain standards were met.

The resolution was placed on Tuesday's agenda at the request of plant opponents, who believe local opinion will have an impact on the California Energy Commission's consideration of AES' permit for a new facility. AES has applied to the CEC for a permit to build a new plant on the land it owns along Harbor Drive because the existing plant has an ocean water-cooling system that is being phased out by new regulations.

The board also made two other important changes to the text. The word "unless" was ordered to be bolded and double-underlined,

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