

Architects look at new gym, classrooms

by Robb Fulcher

Architects courted by the Hermosa Beach City School District have toured the Valley and View campuses and the now leased-out North School site to plot out the possible construction of a gymnasium, and new classrooms to meet future enrollment.

"We're asking architects to look at all three sites and see what configurations they might recommend," said district Superintendent Robert "Duffy" Clark.

A School Facilities Advisory Committee has been meeting to discuss possible future construction, and to wade through enrollment predictions to determine what will actually be needed.

Enrollment projections, while far from an exact science, suggest that the K-8 district could grow from 1,020 students to anywhere between 1,130 and 1,250 students within 10 years, according to the committee's figures.

The larger number would require at least six new classrooms at the 3-8 Valley School, Clark said. In addition, educators would like to do away with four portable classrooms.

A possible gym at Valley School, or perhaps off the campus, has been a subject of much discussion.

Many Valley parents want a gym for their kids' winter sports, while neighbors of the school have expressed concerns about non-students on campus and additional traffic on their narrow streets.

An offer of funding by the Beach Cities Health District has been met with less than open arms by school board members. However, three new board mem-

bers, who won election last month, have said that they will consider accepting the funding. The health district wants to build the gym and then hold some of its classes and meetings there after school hours.

The new board members also have said the need for a gym should be weighed against anticipated needs for new classrooms and other facilities.

The architects' visit also focuses attention on the old North School site, now leased by the private Sea Sprites preschool. The three new school board members all have said the site cannot be refurbished as is for district classroom space, but they agree that the school district should continue to retain ownership of the site, and possibly build a new school there in the future. *ER*



Abel Ybarra shows off the evergreen joy that is the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Christmas tree lot at the Community Center on the southwest corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Pier Avenue. Proceeds from sales at the popular lot raised \$70,000 for charities last year, and Kiwanians hope for all that and 10 percent more this season. Photo by Robb Fulcher