

Unified

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sistant coach, the words “Coach S,” emblazoned across his back.

“It felt amazing to win last year, but that’s not the only goal,” Silcox said. “Everybody cheers everybody here. It’s like family.”

Creating nicknames for each athlete and teammate is part of the fun. Some monikers are straightforward; others have long stories attached. Among them are “Coach K,” “Birdie,” “Big Hoss,” “Sea Bass” and “Cash \$.” Twins Camden and Carson Brock are “Thing 1” and “Thing 2,” and Tristian Catrett is “God of Gods,” a reference to role-playing games.

From now through February, Silverton Unified will practice every Thursday and play games on Tuesdays, typically

preceding the boys’ JV team. The first home game is Tuesday, Jan. 22, against Milwaukee.

The team has its own spirit squad and supportive parents, who cook meals and consistently provide rides and snacks. For the athletes, recognition at games translates into real recognition in the halls, Glynn said. And their partner teammates, charged with passing, guarding, screening – everything but shooting – enjoy the experience, too.

“The athletes make it fun because it’s so exciting and so new for them,” said teammate Liza Dahl. “Being here makes them so happy.”

This is Dahl’s second year on the unified team. A senior, she just finished her final season playing volleyball for the Foxes, and, after graduation, she plans to study nursing at Boise State University. For now, though, she’s going to

school, working part-time at the Oregon Garden and being a big part of practices and games for Silverton Unified.

“I want to help make it a good year,” she said. “I think the team really wants to win a tournament again.”

Bringing Special Olympics to Silverton High was an idea originating with Therese Gerlits, a former administrator here who’d seen the program work in other Oregon towns. At each location, its positive ripple effects spread far beyond campus, so, Glynn, Silverton’s PE teacher and golf coach, jumped at the chance to encourage social inclusion and acceptance.

“This program has benefited everyone in our community,” he said. “Every student in this building has been supportive of something they might not otherwise even have thought twice about.”

In fact, the basketball program was

Silverton Unified

Jan. 15 at West Albany

Jan. 22 v. Milwaukie*

Jan. 29 v. Wilsonville*

Feb. 5 at Oregon City

Feb. 12 v. McMinnville*

Feb. 23 State Tournament at OSU

* Home games

so successful that Glynn initiated a unified PE class during the school day. With curriculum help from Special Olympics of Oregon, he now offers a course that’s open to both general and special education students. Moving forward, he hopes to expand further into other sports, including softball and soccer.

Forgiven

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the brink of closure.

Marion County – which was an initial investor in the project – became further involved with \$5 million in revenue bonds for the garden in 2002. The county has been obligated to make bond payments when Oregon Garden Foundation couldn’t.

The garden went into receivership of Marion County in 2005.

The Oregon Garden has since been managed by Moonstone Hotel Properties, which built a resort on property next to the garden.

After a year of work, all invested parties – Marion County, Silverton, the

Oregon Garden Foundation and Moonstone – finalized an agreement in November to transfer Marion County’s outstanding debt on the garden into a grant.

“And it has been lottery dollars,” Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron said. “It’s not general fund dollars.”

Silverton, Moonstone Resort and the Oregon Garden Foundation have developed a plan to pay off the remaining debt of over \$1 million, which is due to Silverton and other parties that initially invested in the garden.

“We project it will be paid off in the next six to eight years,” said Tamra Goettsch, Marion County’s Community Services Director.

Had the county not forgiven its portion of the debt, projections suggested it would have taken 37 years for the gar-

den to pay off the full amount.

By Marion County forgiving its portion, the county can use future lottery dollars allocated by the state for other economic development initiatives.

The Oregon Garden Foundation’s 2018 budget estimated it would cost about \$400,000 to operate while the revenues would be about \$580,000, without the bond payments.

But after 17 years of operation, the garden is in need of repairs and infrastructure improvements beyond its updated budget, such as work on bridges and water.

On Wednesday, the Marion County Commissioners approved using up to \$400,000 in lottery dollars to fund a series of infrastructure improvements at Oregon Garden including buying a new tram to replace the current 15-year-old

tram.

In the past year when the current tram has broken, visitors to the garden were unable to see much of the 80-acre site.

“We just want to make sure when they leave that they want to come back,” said Oregon Garden Foundation Oregon Garden Foundation Development Director Allison Pennell.

Though the county is going to be financially off the hook for Oregon Garden’s future survival, commissioners expressed hope the garden will now be self-sustaining.

“Not that we’re not still interested, not that we still don’t care,” Brentano said, “but don’t look to the county from this point forward.”

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Lynn

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was with him, and he asked her to turn down the music. It was difficult to hear because of passing cars.

Dwayne turned right onto River Road NE and out of the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of a tiny red light. He wasn’t sure what he heard or saw, but in his gut, he knew he had to stop and investigate.

He turned into the filbert orchard, which has an estimated 1,500 trees, and followed a dirt path parallel to the road and on the other side of the ditch.

After instructing his daughter to stay in the car, he got out and looked around. But not before they came up with a safety plan. Dwayne’s a retired officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections, so he took precautions. If he rubbed the top of his head, that was the signal for her to call for help.

It was so muddy — Dwayne cringed because he was wearing his new white Air Jordan sneakers — and so dark. His daughter hollered for him to use the flashlight on his smartphone.

When he did that, he saw Faye’s white car between trees. Inside, she was slumped over, soaking wet from the rain coming through the shattered windshield. A signpost was on the hood.

Signaling for help

Faye’s 2000 Buick Century went through the intersection and took out two road signs straight ahead, rumbled across a wide but shallow ditch, then came to rest about 100 feet into the orchard. One of the trees was just inches from the passenger side door.

The driver side airbag didn’t deploy, but Faye’s seatbelt held strong. Her cell phone slid onto the floorboard.

She was disoriented and it was so dark she couldn’t tell where she was. She recalls seeing the headlights of two vehicles as she went through the intersection and thought for sure one would stop or call 9-1-1. Neither did.

Faye couldn’t move. She was in pain and probably in shock. Now she was worried. Help was not on its way. What terrified her just as much as not being found was the thought of having a heart attack or stroke. She’s had three of each.

But being the plucky survivor that she is, she began thinking of ways to draw attention to the car.

It was all she could do to move her hand a few inches to honk the horn. She always thought it was hard to push, but not on this night. She also tapped the brake lights when she could, but that was painful because her fibromyalgia was flaring up.

She was cold, thinking if only she could reach the blanket and heavy lamb’s wool coat in the back seat.

She’d almost given up

That “T” intersection is busy during the day. Traffic around mid-morning includes hay trucks, John Deere tractors, and passenger vehicles. But at night, traffic is light, with mostly commuters from Salem and Keizer taking the back roads home.

Facing the filbert orchard, the green sign Faye took out points to Woodburn 7 miles to the north and Keizer 9 miles to the south.

For drivers unfamiliar with the area, especially at night, it’s a dangerous intersection. Emergency responders are all too familiar with that stretch of road, where accidents are common. The ditch by the orchard is littered with plastic car parts, including what looks to be the driver’s side mirror from Faye’s white Buick.

The signs she took out that night have since been replaced by Marion County Public Works with larger and more reflective signs.

It was 5:56 p.m. when Dwayne made the 9-1-1 call. While talking to the dispatcher, he opened the car door and tried to rouse Faye, who was asleep or unconscious. He gently shook her shoulder and pinched her arm, trying to wake her.

When she came to, the first thing she said was: “I’ve been honking for hours

and no one stopped.”

She’d almost given up.

Timing of rescue was vital

Dwayne noted the hood of the car was cold to touch and the battery was dead.

While they waited for paramedics from Woodburn Fire to arrive, he asked questions about her family. Did she have kids (four), grandkids (18) and great-grandkids (21)? He told her about his son, who’s in the Army and just returned from deployment.

Dwayne, married with three children and in his 24th year of coaching, talked to her like a friend. It was calming.

“I’m a cautious person,” Faye said. “But he’s such a good man. I felt like I knew him.”

She gets choked up talking about it, dabbing her eyes with a napkin.

No one knows how long Faye was there. Based on miles traveled and the time of the 9-1-1 call, it could have been an hour or longer.

A paramedic told Dwayne it’s a good thing he found her when he did. She was far enough off the road, hidden in the orchard, that it could have been morning before the crash site was discovered. She may not have survived. The low that night was 48 degrees.

Faye was transported to Salem Hospital, and Dwayne went home with his daughter. But he couldn’t stop thinking about the woman from the accident, wondering if she had family nearby.

In case she didn’t, he went to the emergency room and sat by her side until a family friend arrived and Faye’s daughter was on her way.

Faye was lucky. She suffered only bruises and was sent home later that night.

‘We will always have a connection’

She and Dwayne have talked by phone several times in the weeks since. She calls to thank him for saving her life. He’s humble, saying only that he was in the right place at the right time.

“I’ll thank him for the rest of my life,” Faye said.

They met in person for lunch for the first time since the accident at one of Faye’s favorite places, Olive Garden. They let the Statesman Journal tag along.

“You look a lot better than the last time I saw you,” Dwayne said with a smile, giving her a hug in the parking lot.

Faye was nervous about driving to the restaurant. It was her first time behind the wheel since the Nov. 27 accident. She turned down offers for a lift, heeding her mother’s advice: “When you get bucked off that horse, you get back on and you do it again and you do it better.”

She swears she’s a good driver, and a quick check of public records backs that up.

She arrived at the restaurant in the Buick, which has a new windshield. Apart from the missing side mirror and minimal front-end damage, visible only if you know where to look, it’s in good shape.

Faye isn’t a churchgoer but believes God sent Dwayne to her rescue that night. At the very least, Dwayne believes he was guided.

“Something told me to roll down my window, hear that horn and see that little light,” he said. “Faye and I have a connection now, and we always will.”

“Forward This” publishes on Wednesdays and Sundays and taps into the heart of the Mid-Valley — its people, history, and issues. Contact Capi Lynn at clynn@StatesmanJournal.com or 503-399-6710, or follow her the rest of the week on Twitter @CapiLynn and Facebook @CapiLynnSJ.

FEC complaint against Joey Nations dismissed

Bill Poebler Salem Statesman Journal USA TODAY NETWORK



Joseph Nations

cent to Mark Callahan in the May primary election. Incumbent Democrat Kurt Schrader defeated Callahan 55 percent to 42 percent in the general election.

Nations, of Salem, was a first-time candidate and said he intends to run for office again.

“It was a huge learning experience in regard to how the powers that be in this state operate on both sides of the political spectrum,” Nations said. “It was eye-opening to me to be involved in the inner workings of both parties and see how they behaved and the way the voters react.”

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