

Summer weather is gone, but Aquatic Center is there for you

Angela Williams
Staff Writer

Water slides, wave action pools and an espresso bar are just a few of the things that you will find at the new North Clackamas Aquatic Park.

The park was created after three years of work and planning by the North Clackamas Park and Recreation District. The aquatic park cost \$8.9 million and has a \$1.6 million per year operating budget. Most of the money in the yearly budget goes to staffing. There is an average of 25 people on staff at one time, 15 or 16 of whom are lifeguards.

June 9 marked the grand

opening of the new aquatic park, and though the building and operating costs may seem staggering, the summer has proved that the cost is not outrageous.

Between the months of June and September, well over \$1 million in revenue was raised by the

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-Manager

Lori Stirn

park.

In the first three months of operation, the park entertained 110,042 adults and children with the pools, party rooms and outdoor activities that are offered.

The largest pool is the wave/splash-down pool. It holds 185,953 gallons of wa-

ter. The lap pool retains 124,288 gallons, the diving pool holds 114,893 gallons and the whirlpool holds 7,480 gallons. A wading pool for kids holds 3,239 gallons.

“The park has been received very well by the public considering the little publicity that it was given,” said Aquatic Park Manager Lori Stirn.

The park is not all pools and play. There are conference rooms in which a group of people may have a meeting, or even a birthday party. The rooms are very affordable, and each one has a large window which provides a clear view of the park area for a little added entertainment.

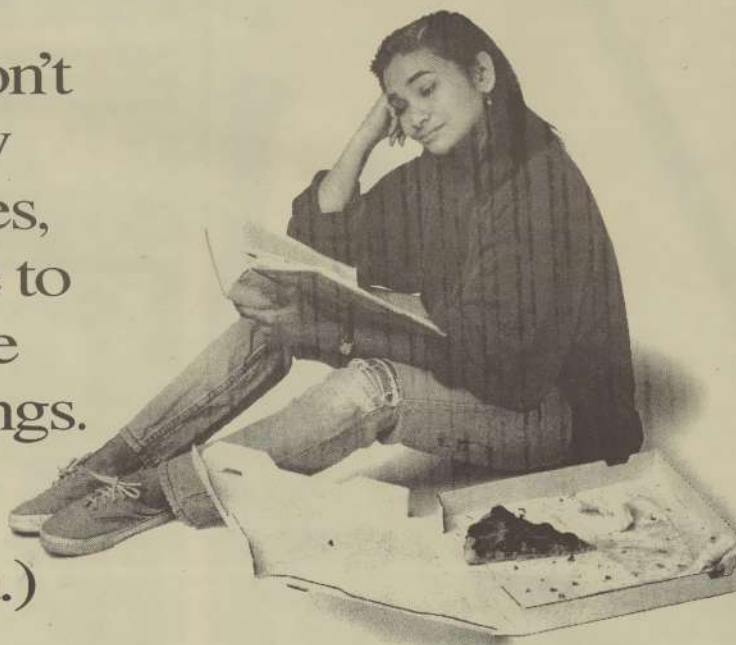
Admission prices at the park range from free of charge for children under three to \$9 for customers ages 18 to 61. Seniors are \$6.

“The cost is more than a typical community pool, but people enjoy it. And once they see it, they are not shocked about the price,” Stirn said.

One charge which has been a debate is the spectator fee of \$1. The main purpose for this fee is crowd control, but with the dollar also comes a free drink at the concession stand.

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Cougars to face big test

by Jesse Sowa
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cross Country team is looking forward to their biggest test of the season so far: the Southern Regional Championship meet at McIver Park in Estacada this Saturday.

Head Coach Mike Hodges believes his athletes are ready, willing and able for this week's big meet. The men will challenge last year's regional champion Clark College for the title, while the Clackamas women play the role as favorite and will be chased by Mt. Hood, Clark and Lane Community College.

The men will be led by Brian Buckingham in the chase for the title. Hodges believes that although there are no individual stars on the Cougar squad, they work together as a team to do well in the meets. The Clackamas men have won the regional title six out of the last eight years, and Hodges knows that his team has a great chance to surpass Clark as the best team in the region. Hodges believes that it will be Clackamas and Clark near the front with no other teams challenging for the title. He says that his men's team is healthy right now with no nagging injuries to worry about.

The Clackamas women have taken the regional title five of the last eight years and are slight favorites going into this year's meet. Hodges said that the women are not huge favorites because Mt. Hood, Clark and Lane will be close on their heels looking for any small mistake or falter by the Cougars. The only key injury for the Clackamas women is Annie Boitano who has been sidelined for nearly three weeks with a sore foot. Although the women have felt the absence of Boitano, Hodges does not think that this can keep the team from taking first.

“We worked real hard last week and this will be a much easier week,” Hodges said. He hopes his team will have a “mini-peak” on Saturday in preparation for the NWAACC meet on November 12 at Spokane.

The women's race will start at 11 a.m. and the men's race at 11:45 a.m.