

DOLLARS FOR DOERNBECHER

Students raise funds for children's hospital

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For Seaside Signal

Seaside High School's traditional Winter Week filled with festivities adopted a more philanthropic tone this school year as student leaders simultaneously hosted their Dollars for Doernbecher fundraiser, bringing in more than \$1,500 for the Portland-based children's hospital.

By mixing the fundraiser with Winter Week, junior class president Xcaret Bello said, "It kind of gave it a purpose," beyond dressing up and decorating doors.

Fundraising efforts kicked off Dec. 14 with a "money run" during a school-wide assembly, which raised \$63 and built momentum in a mere few minutes of Associated Student Body and class officers running through the crowd. During Winter Week, from Dec. 17 to 21, they conducted several fundraising activities that both students and community members could participate in.

"I was nervous when we

made the goal \$1,500," student body vice president Shelby Rhodes said.

What they received from the get-go, however, was school-based and community support in spades.

"That's what really got us in motion, just seeing how ready the community was to help us and how much they cared," Rhodes said. "We weren't alone in this."

By mid-week, the students were more than half-way to their goal. By the end, they had surpassed the \$1,500, although students leaders did not expect to have an exact total until after winter break.

Raising money for pediatric care

One successful fundraising activity featured about 200 red Christmas ornaments bearing the school's logo, which student leaders sold for \$5 apiece at lunch each day, at a Seaside City Council meeting, during the Holiday Classic Tournament games, and on an individual basis. Even after covering the cost of the ornaments, the students were able to donate approximately \$4 per ornament in proceeds to the children's hospital.

For another activity, community members were

WELL-RECEIVED

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invited to make free-throws during the Holiday Classic games held in Seaside. Everyone who made their shot received one ticket per \$1 donated to be entered into a drawing for one of three baskets, brimming with gift cards and other items donated by local businesses. Anyone who wanted to enter the drawing without attempting a free-throw could have Seaside's Everest Sibony or Lilli Taylor, talented freshmen basketball players, take the shot for them. The drawing winners were announced during the boys' championship game Saturday, Dec. 22.

Additionally, the fundraiser included a punch wall set up at the high school. During lunch, students could pay \$1 to punch through paper-covered compartments in the wall in hopes of finding the hidden prize.

Each school year, the high school's ASB officers select different goals that

address needs at the school level, community level, and national level. Dollars for Doernbecher was their national goal for the 2018-19 school year. The children's hospital was chosen as the beneficiary for the "amazing" healthcare services they provide pediatric patients, Rhodes said. She also registered the school with Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation's Kids Making Miracles philanthropy program.

Cookies, karaoke and Christmas

Although the Doernbecher fundraiser was a new endeavor this year, Winter Week is a longstanding tradition at the high school. The five school days leading up to winter break included a classroom door-decorating contest and karaoke in the cafeteria at lunch. The ASB officers also covered the cost of ingredients for the culinary arts program to bake cookies that were delivered to each student.

"We wanted to make (the school) feel homey," Rhodes said, adding they wished to counteract how rough the holiday season can be for some people. "Christmas shouldn't be sad."

What made both Winter



Katherine Lacaze/For Seaside Signal

Seaside High School junior class president Xcaret Bello sells ornaments at the school during lunch Dec. 20 as part of the Dollars for Doernbecher fundraiser put on by student leadership. During the fundraiser for the Portland-based children's hospital, which ran the week before winter break, they sold about 200 ornaments to students, parents and community members.

Week and Dollars for Doernbecher successful, according to Rhodes, was the extensive involvement from not only the ASB leadership but also class officers. Each class took responsibility for one element—such as the free-throw contest, delivering cookies, or selling orna-

ments — and worked hard from start to finish to see the task through, Rhodes said. Not only were the class officers actively involved, but the fundraiser was also well-received by the entire school.

"It's nice to see students care," Bello said.

Maggie and the Katz headline Gathering

Concert raises funds for student activities

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For Seaside Signal

Going five-years strong, the annual Tillamook Head Gathering continues promoting a mission of financially supporting the arts at Seaside High School while offering a festive, family friendly night filled with live entertainment, a silent auction and appetizing food.

The headliner at this year's fundraiser, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, is Maggie and the Katz. High school students will play music as guests are arriving, and then locally acclaimed musician Maggie Kitson and her band will take the stage at 7.

"They've been playing together a long time and it shows — they're really tight," said Mark Mizell, a former Seaside High School teacher and founder of the gathering.

Throughout the evening, guests can place silent auction bids for items donated by local artists and businesses, or receive a mini-swing dance lesson from Seaside High School teacher Vinh Pham. Additionally, The Stand will serve light fare.

Funding the arts

Proceeds raised at the annual event help cover the cost for various arts-related workshops, field trips, activities, and other tangible items. Last years, some funds were used to help offset the cost for approximately 15 students to go to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, and attend a private session with award-winning cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Mizell, who has taken several groups of students to the festival over the years. "We created some lifetime memories on that trip."

Funds also were used to bring the Dave Bennett Quartet, a nationally acclaimed band from Detroit, to play at a high school assembly, and for professional singer-songwriters to lead workshops.

This year, some Tilla-



Phot courtesy of Maggie and the Katz

Maggie and the Katz will perform at the Tillamook Head Gathering on Jan. 19.

mook Head Gathering funds are designated to purchase acoustic guitars, as per the request of choir teacher Kimber Parker, who is instructing an acoustic guitar class and wants students to be able to participate even without owning personal instruments. Funds also will help cover costs for teacher Susan Baertlein to take students to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland to attend workshops and plays.

"It's wonderful Seaside High School is creating funding for the arts rather than eliminating them as so many schools are doing," said Kitson, whose daughter Bridget graduated from Seaside. "We are honored to be asked to be a part of it."

About the performers

Kitson herself was the daughter of avid performing

artists and she grew up in the theater. She was named after Maggie the Cat, from "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," by Tennessee Williams, whose brother was her godfather.

"That connection prompted me to act in most of (Williams') plays and procure the performing 'bug,'" she said.

In 1979, she segued into music, seeing it as a tenable way to make a living. Through the years, however, music has become "the essence" of her life, and she doesn't consider performing a routine job she's obligated to do.

"It's my vocation, my heart and soul," she said.

She sings and plays light percussion with Maggie and the Katz, whose core members include Richard Thomasian — a virtuoso guitar player and vocalist — and

Dave Quinton — "a great steady bass player who keeps us in line and has a velvety voice," Kitson described. For large venues, the group sometimes adds a nine-piece horn section, and other musicians occasionally sit in for select performances.

Kitson, Thomasian and Quinton's music covers a broad range of genres, but they tend toward blues, soul, R&B and "anything New Orleans," Kitson said. They emphasize three-part vocal harmonies, as Kitson loves "the fullness of sound, vibration and soul they deliver." The group typically plays small venues, involving the audience and creating a temporal yet poignant connection with them.

"For me, that connection and shared emotion is what it's all about," Kitson said.

Jazz concert coming to Times Theatre

Ensemble, high-schoolers onstage

Seaside Signal

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, the Seaside High School Jazz Ensemble will be performing a joint concert with the North Coast Big Band at the newly renovated Times Theatre in downtown Seaside.

The North Coast Big Band is a community jazz band made up of adult/student musicians from all around the North Coast area. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and admission is free.

Each band will perform a 30-40 minute set of classic jazz standards from the 1930's and '40s. Families are welcome and dance space available.

The Times Theatre is located at 133 Broadway; 503-739-7188.

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