

Community leader teams help shape center's future

SKY BOX

SKYLER ARCHIBALD



The author, longshoreman and philosopher Eric Hoffer wrote, "A busy life is the nearest thing to a purposeful life".

While I can appreciate moments of relaxation and even occasional idleness, my days are purposefully filled with opportunities, conversations, and growth.

Though I cannot recall a time in my employment history with the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District in which I was not busy, my schedule in recent months has intensified. There is always work to do and so much of my work revolves around networking, communicating and listening.

One of those opportunities has come about lately and has been an energizing and productive portion of my schedule.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors has developed several strategies and priorities since the district took ownership of the Sunset Recreation Center in January.

Above all, they have wanted to help the community become more aware of the opportunities that could come because of that acquisition and they sincerely desire to listen to our community and provide services and programs that benefit all our residents and guests.

The board formed three community leader teams to correlate with their three priorities in assessing the opportunities of the SRC: recreation for all, sports tourism and child care and youth programs.

Those teams were formed with



Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District
Members of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District community and district board working together at a community leader team meeting in the Sunset Recreation Center on Monday.

strategic requested involvement from community leaders in those specific areas. The teams formed and have been meeting for the past few weeks. The results of that process have been dynamic, fruitful, and inspiring.

Team members include elected officials like Seaside city councilors and local business owners that have helped us evaluate how sports tourism can benefit our local economy. They have included representatives from local nonprofits like Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association, Pacific Basketball League and Seaside Kids Inc. as well as local artists and photographers as we look at what the building can

offer to enhance wellness and recreation through creative programming. And they have included parents, school administrators and other folks who serve the children and youth of our community.

These teams have met with open discussions and conversations about the potential of the SRC, which has been incredibly helpful for the board and staff. Great ideas have been circulated and while there are unique perspectives in those meetings, a few themes have emerged:

The community needs more space to serve both our adult population, especially senior citizens, and the youth of our community.

The property is large enough

that it can accomplish several objectives including meeting demand for recreation and child-care space but also potentially meeting needs in workforce housing, office space for local nonprofits and space for potential business partners.

It is crucial that the district have the right mix of recreation, wellness, arts and culture and youth programs available, and the property is uniquely situated to accommodate all those objectives.

There are many in our community that have completely supported and endorsed the property acquisition, recognizing the tremendous value and potential that the building has.

These themes have validated the decision to purchase the building by the district board of directors. That decision was reached after a thorough review of the other options available and the condition of the building. From my perspective, the board understood the great potential of the building and were able to effectively measure that potential with any potential challenges that the property would have.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to be busy, productive and have purpose in my professional life and happy to work in a community where we value the opportunity for recreation for all in the future.

Seaside High School Thespians induct six new members

Seaside Signal

Seaside High School's International Thespian Troupe #2977 inducted six new members May 7 during the end-of-the-year Thespian banquet and "Addams Family" watch party.

The International Thespian Society, founded in 1929, is an honorary organization for high school and middle school theatre stu-

dents located at more than 4,900 affiliated secondary schools across America and abroad. The mission of ITS is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts. It is similar to the National Honor Society, but is for actors and technicians.

SHS's Troupe #2977 currently has 22 members. The new members included: David "Lucas" Ethridge, senior; Skyler Archibald, junior; Gra-

cie Klemp, junior; Isabella Rodriguez, junior; Lillian Taylor, junior; and Parker Davis, sophomore.

In order to be inducted into the society, students must earn at least 10 points and have been in at least two productions. Points are earned through various roles and activities. Additional Thespian honor ranks are awarded at 60, 120, and 180 points.

Two juniors, Eliza-

beth Jesberger and Sophia Reynolds, have earned the next level of "Honor Thespian," which signifies more than 60 points accumulated during their high school career.

In addition to the induction ceremony, Ethridge was honored as a graduating senior. He, along with seniors Jude Gomez and Hayden Spratt, will be given Thespian cords to wear during graduation.



David Ethridge and co-president Sophia Reynolds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, CONTINUED

participation and outstanding service. Each one brings their unique life and professional skills to benefit and guide our beloved district. You can trust in their commitment to ethically and strategically collaborate with our community to best serve all. The community engagement process has set the bold vision for the district to continue to improve the quality of life through inviting us all to play. Your current directors are doing just that, following a sound plan that will be in our communities best interest.

Check out Progress-ForSEPRD.com.

Join me in voting for our current board, get your mail-in ballot by the May 18, due date!

Mary Blake
Seaside

Thoughts on the coming election for SEPRD board

The election is near and certain facts have not changed.

Broadway Middle School is still contami-

nated with asbestos, black mold and lead paint. Nothing has been done to remediate these toxins and your current board continues to pretend that it is safe to occupy. Where is an engineering report that states given the presence of the above toxins, Broadway Middle School is safe to occupy? You will never see such a report because Broadway Middle School is not safe to occupy. If it were, any competent engineering firm would tell you so.

Sunset Empire Park and

Recreation District does not have enough income to pay for the operation of Broadway Middle School and continue to fund recreation programming at the levels we used to have. Funding just utilities like gas and electric will cost more than \$80,000 per year.

Sunset Pool, which is the reason the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District was founded, is still not being properly cared for. Just drive by and take a look at the building. See for yourself.

In observing the budget process, I learned your district board wants to heavily increase administrative costs. Every dollar spent on administration is a dollar that can't be spent on recreational opportunities for our citizens. Not only is the board robbing current programs to fund the middle school, they also intend to hire more people and use more dollars that way.

Do you want to have a board that is 80% appointed or would you

like to have a 100% taxpayer-elected board? Do you want to have a board that will continue to spend large amounts of your tax dollars without your consent? Or, would you prefer a board that will listen to the taxpayers?

The utter incompetence of the current board is obvious. Please vote for John Huismann, Patrick Duhachek, Jackie Evans, Al Hernandez and Stephen Morrison.

John Huismann
Seaside



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