

Batter's up at new facility

GUEST COLUMN
JESSICA GARRIGUES

The following speech was delivered at a celebration of the new Broadway Field indoor batting facility.

It's hard to believe that one year ago on Tuesday, May 11, we broke ground on this incredible facility. Today, we celebrate the donors, volunteers, and community members who helped make this happen!

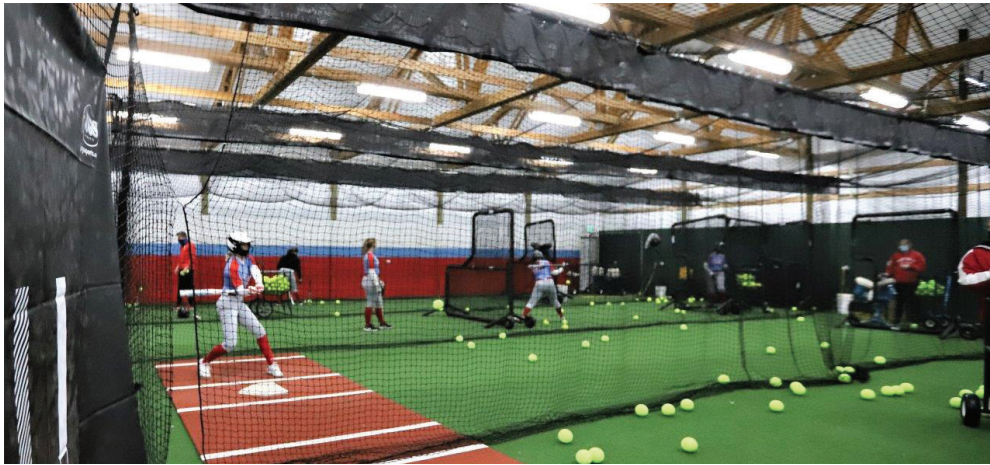
We started using the facility as soon as we were able to based on state restrictions and since then have had 17 of our community teams utilizing it. The positive impact it has already made and will continue to make include:

- A clean, safe, and dry space to work on skills during in-season and off-season athletics.
- Increased athletic space for our youth, especially with decreased fields due to the sale of Gearhart Elementary School.
- Four lanes of cages that allow us to maximize space and time during practices.
- High-quality, new equipment to help us grow in skill and fitness.
- A new concession stand that is placed where volunteers can see the athletic events occurring.

Increased and improved storage for Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District staff.

Americans with Disabilities Act accessible restrooms on the northwest corner of Broadway field, making bathrooms more readily accessible for all throughout the park.

Both our baseball and softball programs are seeing success after our short time



Jeff Ter Har

with the facility already. We see this facility as the driving force behind the continued growth and development of our programs' cultures here in Seaside. From the ground up, we can now have a "home base" for our programs from the youngest members of our baseball and softball programs, and Brett Wolfe, our new baseball coach, and I couldn't be more excited about the direction we are headed.

Chris Corder, a local coach for multiple sports including softball and basketball, was our fearless leader. He worked without rest for an entire year to get plans in place, city approval, building permits, and monetary and resource donations to make this project a reality! Not to mention, he actively had a hand in every aspect of physically building the facility. This project would not have happened without him!

Kandice Flaigg, a senior softball player, used this project as her Pacifica Project. She promoted the project, built and maintained a website and facebook page, and was a student voice in the planning process. She also, independently, wrote grants to help secure fund-

ing and volunteered her time at fundraising events.

Cash Corder and Jarred White, two junior Seaside High School students and baseball players, also worked on the facility as their Pacifica Project. It was a common sight to see them physically working on the building, whether it was digging ditches, laying piping for the floor heat, or helping at our Corn Hole Tournament fundraiser in September.

Skyler Archibald with Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation has supported the project from the beginning by attending city council meetings, participating in the planning process, and helping secure funding to make this project a reality! Darren Gooch and Levi Conner from SEPRD have also been instrumental in the process.

We couldn't have done it without these key sponsors: \$50,000 Herche Family; Tom and Mary Herche's generous donation came as a surprise and was just what we needed to make it to our goal. Today we have Mary Herche with us. Skyler will speak more on this incredible family and how we came to be so fortunate to receive

their contribution.

Grand Slam Level \$25,000-\$50,000, Autzen Family Foundation and SEPRD Foundation.

Home Run Level: \$5,000-\$25,000, AMJ Insulation, Borland Electric, Coastal Restoration, Oregon Community Foundation, Ryan Osburn Plumbing, White's Heating.

There are many more contributors listed on our donor board on the west side of the facility.

Several local businesses donated time, materials, and labor in order to bring our dreams to life. They spent countless hours of their own time to help build our facility: Keith Keranen Excavating, Mike McEwan, Borland Electric, Ryan Osburn Plumbing, Coastal Construction, White's Heating, AMJ Insulation, Corder Drywall, Butler Construction, Levi Rhea, and Quack-enbush Builders.

The impact this facility will have, and has already had, on our community is immense. I am incredibly proud to have been able to witness such generosity of time, resources, funding, and skill to create this wonderful facility. Thank you to everyone who was involved!

Park: Restrooms could be replaced

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which will remain, was recently upgraded for Americans With Disabilities Act accessibility. The boat ramp at the park

could be widened and stairs added. Restrooms also need upgrading, with a price tag of about \$200,000.

A BMX pump track on the park property, constructed by volunteers from

the North Coast Trail Alliance in 2018, gets "a lot of use" and could see an expansion with an additional lane, McDowell said. "Again this is first discussion. We're not asking

you to do anything other than start thinking about it. We're hoping at some point when we dig a hole out there we find a bucket of money to do all of this work."

Hair: Donors happy to give to other kids

Continued from Page A1

another child," Parker said. "They donated their hair and they were really proud of that and really excited to make that contribution to somebody's happiness."

Although there are different organizations that accept hair donations, the Parkers chose Children With Hair Loss for a couple reasons. First, the agency doesn't charge their recipients for the wigs. Individuals can apply for a free wig every year until they turn 21. Additionally, that they are dedicated to children and young adults "resonated really well with our family," Parker said.

She used the experience to explain to her daughters the reasons someone might need or desire to wear a wig. Children can lose hair as a result of cancer, alopecia, severe burns, trichotillomania and other rare diseases and disorders.

"It makes them think of the bigger picture outside of themselves," she said.

Fast forward to last year, when the family was just preparing for their regular haircuts: Salons shuttered temporarily because of the coronavirus. As they waited — and their hair continued to grow — they revisited the idea of giving again. This time, however, they decided to do it as a family.

Parker left it up to her daughters how much they wanted to cut and donate.

"We're not pushing them," she said. "Yes, we



Rita Lovegreen cuts 10 inches of Chloe Parker's hair.

want to make another child happy, but they also need to be happy in how they feel."

According to the girls, that was exactly the outcome. Mikayla said it "feels good to try something new. I like having short hair." Plus, she added, she appreciates the idea "that I'm giving to someone and making that person very happy."

Chloe said she likes donating to others "because it makes them happy, and it makes me happy to be giving them hair." She cut off the same length as the last time, so it didn't make her nervous.

As a fun addition, the girls got to dye their hair pink after the donation.

While donating hair is nothing new, Parker said, she sees now as the optimal time for people to consider making the decision, since many have voluntarily or involuntarily been growing out their hair for the past year or so.

"Right now, with people like myself who grew their hair out crazy long, there is this opportunity," she said.

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