



After federal complaint, softball team could get a level playing field

School district will improve the softball field

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

In an agreement a decade in the making, the Seaside School District will improve practice and playing fields for softball to remedy disparities with baseball that deny equal opportunity to female athletes.

The noticeable differences between the baseball and softball diamonds at Broadway Field create potential violations of Title IX, the federal law meant to protect against discrimination in education.

Under a resolution between the school district and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the school district must develop a plan to ensure equity between the baseball and softball programs by next June and complete the plan by June 2023.

"The girls softball team has been discriminated against forever," said Randy Anderson, whose daughter, Whitney, was a junior varsity softball



R.J. Marx

Randy Anderson has pursued an almost decade-long push to bring equal male and female sports facilities to Seaside.

player for the Gulls. "From the beginning. They're not an equal part of the school system, the sport system."

Superintendent Susan Penrod said the school district worked collaboratively with the Office for Civil Rights. "We are dedicated to meeting all of these timelines and are working with SEPRD (Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District) and the city of Seaside to determine the best location for the softball facility," she said. "We have already set aside funds to

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Seaside focuses on homeless solutions

Forums end with a plea for help

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Using city-owned lots or buildings for shelters and overnight parking. A resource center. Showers and port-a-potties. A warming center and improved access to mental health and drug treatment services.

These options were among the proposed solutions at Seaside's fifth forum on homelessness held last Wednesday at City Hall.

"You lose your self-esteem when you are homeless," Michaela, who chose to only use her first name, told the audience.

Michaela, 55, said she was four days away from being homeless and living in Mill Ponds, a natural history park where some homeless people have chosen to stay.

"These people have been out there so long, they get so down," she said. "You can't get off the streets when you're there at ground zero with nothing. You're so broken. You're sleeping on the sidewalk. And it's hard, and it's cold.

"You wake up in the morning and you've got to go to the toilet. Where do you go? The bushes. There's nowhere to go. It's gross. Nobody wants to live like that. None of these people want to be like that."

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Melissa Claybaugh and her daughter, Caroline, look for books from the Seaside School District Bookmobile at Broadway Park.

Photos by Katherine Lacaze

BOOKMOBILE BRINGS READING-TO-GO TO SEASIDE

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

As children and their guardians shuffled through a diverse selection of materials at the Seaside School District Bookmobile earlier this month, they had some assistance from 12-year-old Isair Leon-Mejia and 10-year-old Zander Leon-Mejia.

The boys, both students in Seaside, had tagged along with their mother, Daffne Mejia, a teaching assistant, to oversee the bookmobile during its weekly stops at Broadway Park and Cartwright Park.

Throughout the afternoon, the boys not only spoke with passersby and showed them which section of the table had the best books for their grade level, but they also made sure each child was offered a sticker and an Otter Pop to enjoy with their new reading material.

"They like to help out," Mejia said, adding the boys themselves would also enjoy building a library over the summer with free books.

Mejia is one of several school district staff assisting with the bookmobile, which was introduced this summer as a way to use grant funding from the Oregon Department of Education. The funds were distributed to

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ABOVE: Daffne Mejia, a teacher assistant with the Seaside School District, helps a family look through selections at the school district's bookmobile. BELOW: Mejia and her sons, Isair and Zander Leon-Mejia, oversee the bookmobile at Broadway Park.



Seaside wins summer baseball championship

By GARY HENLEY
Seaside Signal

There was high drama last Saturday night at Tapola Park.

It was Knappa vs. Seaside in the end-of-summer, local Junior Baseball wood bat tournament, the closest thing to a state championship to end the shortened 2021 summer sports season.

There was no big trophy at the end, but there was a big celebration for the Gulls, who scored on a walk-off

base hit with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

A sharp single to left field by Lawson Talamantez easily scored teammate Jake White from third with the game-winning run. White had tripled to deep left just moments earlier to set up the walk-off hit.

Before White's triple, the Loggers and Gulls were all set for extra innings in the back-and-forth game, in which Seaside led 3-0 after three innings, before Knappa rallied to take a 4-3 lead in the fifth.

The Gulls scored two in the sixth for a 5-4 advantage,

and Knappa answered with a run in the top of the seventh to tie it at 5-5.

The game was a pitcher's duel through five innings, between Knappa's Jaxon Dietrichs and Seaside's Tanner Kraushaar.

Dietrichs pitched six complete innings, allowing six hits with four strikeouts and two walks, while Kraushaar pitched five, scattering four hits with five walks and six strikeouts. Seaside's ace left-hander left trailing 4-3 before giving way to Cameron Schulte to start the sixth.

Dietrichs also left behind on the scoreboard, as Sea-

side's Jackson Bassett was ruled safe on a close play at first base, allowing Luke Toyooka to score for a 5-4 lead.

Seaside freshman-to-be leadoff hitter Jordan Westholm was 2-for-4 and scored twice, while Talamantez and Toyooka also had two hits apiece.

Knappa had five hits from five different players, with Treven Moreland scoring twice.

In the third-place game, No. 1 seed Neah-Kah-Nie defeated Ilwaco 10-4, while Astoria Ford knocked off Tillamook 4-2 in the fifth-place game.



Gary Henley/Seaside Signal

Seaside's Jake White (14) is mobbed by teammates after scoring the game-winning run in last Saturday's final game at a summer-ending tournament for local 17U baseball teams.

Warrenton defeated Clatskanie 14-0 in a consolation final, as Warrenton pitcher Dawson Little threw a one-hitter with nine strikeouts.

