

SEASIDE Sports

A8
FRIDAY
October 1, 2021
SeasideSignal.com



Tsunami Skippers leaping into a new season

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

The rope jumpers are back and looking to jump some rope later this year, as the Tsunami Skippers begin tryouts for the winter season.

Hopefully the Skippers will be jumping in front of an audience this season, as much of 2020 was wiped out by the coronavirus.

“Tryouts are in December, and the season starts in January,” said Stacey Dundas, the Skippers’ coach. The team is hoping to qualify for nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June.

The Tsunami Skippers’ jump rope team was founded in 2006 by Dundas and Shannon Carey, “to give kids an alternative sport in Clatsop County,” states the team’s website. “A sport that would help young people learn teamwork, the benefits of exercise, self-confidence and respect for others.”

Since then, the Skippers have competed all over the country, taking part in the World Jump Rope championships in Washington, D.C., in 2012 and in Stokke, Norway, in 2019.

They also competed in the USA Jump Rope Nationals in Long Beach, California, in 2014, and the Pan American



The Tsunami Skippers have performed at halftimes, parades and schools all over Oregon and Washington state.

Championships in Orlando, Florida, in 2016.

In addition, the Skippers are always on call to perform at halftime during basketball season, where the jumpers have performed for the Portland Trail Blazers and the Harlem Globetrotters, while also entertaining crowds by taking part

in parades and school assemblies in Oregon and Washington state.

Interested in becoming a Tsunami Skipper, booking the group for a performance or sponsoring the team? Check the Tsunami Skippers’ website, tsunamiskippers.com, email tsunamiskippers@hotmail.com or call 503-440-0884.

VALIANTS EDGE SEASIDE BOYS SOCCER

The Astorian

But the Gulls scored on their only shot attempt of the second half, with a long shot in the 63rd minute finding the back of the net.

Valley Catholic dominated every statistical category, but ended up holding on for a slim 2-1 win over Seaside in a Cowapa League boys soccer game Saturday afternoon in Beaverton.

The Valiants finished with 14 shots on goal and six corner kick opportunities, but only had two goals to show for it.

Valley Catholic scored on a breakaway in the 26th minute of the first half for a 1-0 lead at the break.

A well-placed crossing pass resulted in a second goal 11:38 into the second half to give the Valiants a seemingly safe 2-0 lead.

The Valiants had six shot-on-goal attempts the remainder of the half, but Seaside keeper Riley Wunderlich made several big saves.

Valley Catholic improves to 3-1-2 overall, 1-0 in league play, while the Gulls drop to 1-3-1, 0-1 in league.

The Gulls closed out their nonleague schedule with a 2-1 win last Tuesday night at Yamhill-Carlton.

In girls soccer action, Seaside lost 0-2 at Valley Catholic on Saturday and won 3-0 at Rainier on Tuesday.

Kashton: Days since surgery have been a huge rollercoaster

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“She told us she wanted to be ‘overly cautious’ and get an ultrasound to make sure we were in the clear,” Childress said.

Worst day

Then came the couple’s worst day.

“I noticed Kashton acting strangely, lethargic in a way, and then (he) projectile vomited,” Childress said. “A little time passed when I noticed the quietness. None of his normal grumpy breathing. None of his random startled twitching. I unwrapped him to find him pale, limp and unresponsive.”

“I screamed for Doc, had someone call 911, and worked endlessly to bring him back. Thanks to Doc’s quick reaction, we arrived at the local hospital four minutes before the ambulance even got to the shop and by some miracle Kashton started breathing as soon as we arrived.”

Kashton was transferred from Providence Seaside Hospital to Providence St. Vincent’s in Portland, where he was monitored and some tests were done.

They were told by hospital staff that what happened to their son was unexplainable and he was fine, Childress said.

Terrified of a recurrence, they realized they were going to have to advocate and fight for answers.

They invested heavily to keep Kashton monitored at all times and alert them if he stopped breathing or his heart rate was abnormal, Childress said.

“Doc and I have spent every day together since the first day he stopped breathing fearing that it may happen again — and it did, an overall of five times in three months,” she said.

They searched for answers, doing research, joining groups, reading forums and seeking second and third opinions.

An ultrasound showed abnormalities to Kashton’s spinal cord.

“This meant we had to put our not even 8-week-old under anesthesia for an MRI,” Childress said. “Handing our baby over to that doctor was one of the hardest things we’ve done and the MRI was the longest 45 minutes we have experienced.”

At Randall Children’s Hospital at Legacy Eman-



Doc Shaw and Samantha Childress.

uel Medical Center in Portland, they found Dr. Monica Wehby, someone “who not only saw what they saw, but knew how to fix it,” Childress said.

This month, Wehby recommended surgery — but she was moving to Indianapolis to be closer to family.

Shaw and Childress followed their doctor’s trail. Kashton’s worsening symptoms, including severe constipation, hyperreflexia, hip spasticity and bladder retention issues, made the surgery even more urgent.

During surgery, doctors make a small incision in the back and another small incision to the muscle, Shaw said. They make another incision through the spinal canal to clip the tethered cord and relieve the pressure on the back, and hopefully stop any long-term effects.

The recuperation time is up to Kashton and how he tolerates pain, anesthesia and medications, Childress said.

“It has been a struggle to travel, even being in a motor home,” she said.

Kashton was in the car seat about eight to 10 hours a day. “We have had to stop because of meltdowns because we don’t want him to be suffering.”

Despite his symptoms, Kashton is “always happy, always smiling,” Shaw said. “Out of nowhere people stop

and say our baby looks like an angel from heaven. When he comes to the shop he is just the happiest little guy.”

‘Day-and-night effort’

During all this, Childress and Shaw struggled to maintain operations at Doc’s Auto Repair, their business in Seaside.

“It was just super hard on us because we want to be there for our community, but we haven’t been,” Shaw said.

When one of their top auto techs was out sick, “it was a snowball effect for our customers,” Shaw said. “We love our business and we’ve tried really hard to make it great for the community. And since we’ve been gone it’s been difficult. When they come to Doc’s Auto Repair everybody’s looking for Doc.”

“We’ve just been kind of out of the loop for things for several months because it was a day-and-night effort by both of us.”

A GoFundMe page, “Cure for Kashton,” invites people to help the family with medical costs.

Their first estimate for the surgery was \$80,000, Shaw said. That was later revised upward to \$134,000. Added to that are travel costs from driving across the country.

“It’s been devastating on us,” Shaw said. “It’s been devastating financially. We



Dr. Monica Wehby after surgery with baby Kashton.

don’t know how we’re going to get through this, but we will manage. We’ll do whatever we’ve got to do. We’ll sell everything we have.

“I didn’t expect anybody would even come to our side, to be honest with you. The

community has really been stepping up. It’s taken me to my knees more than once on this trip how many people have just reached out. I just have to say ‘thanks.’ It’s been amazing.”

The days since surgery

have been a huge roller coaster, Childress said, but overall, “Kashton is doing amazing.” The family will spend a few more days in Indianapolis to make sure he’s ready for the trek home, she added.

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