

Author Kerry Eggers coming to Seaside

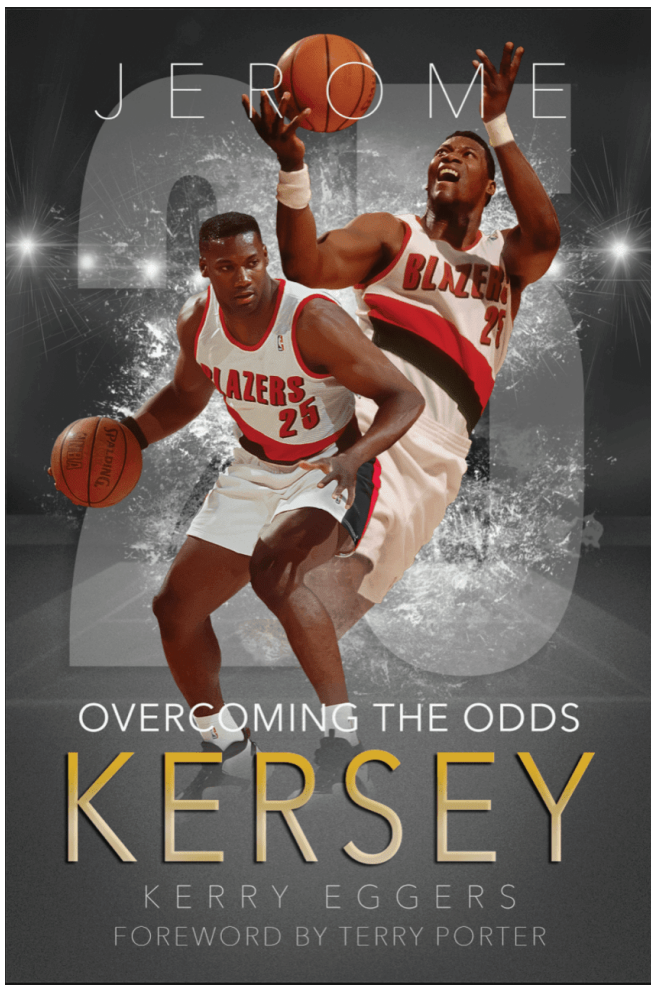
By **DAVE NELSON**
For the Signal

1984. The year of the rat. Super Bowl 18 was between the Los Angeles Raiders and Washington Redskins, with Los Angeles winning 38-9. The Boston Celtics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals, winning their 15th championship. The Portland Trail Blazers drafted a player by the name of Jerome Kersey, in the second round (46th overall) in the draft out of Virginia's Longwood University.

Kersey in his 11 seasons in Portland was a fan favorite. Given the nickname "Mercy Kersey" by legendary Blazers announcer Bill Schonley, the 6'7" forward along with Clyde Drexler, Terry Porter, Buck Williams, and Clifford Robinson helped lead the Trail Blazers to the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992.

In 1995, Portland left Kersey unprotected in the expansion draft between the Toronto Raptors and the Vancouver Grizzlies. The Oregonian reported in 1995 that, "Portland agreed to pick up all of Kersey's salary for the next season if, Toronto selected him." The Raptors waived Kersey before the start of the 1995-1996 season. The Golden State Warriors signed him for the 95-96 season where he averaged 6.7 points and 4.8 rebounds in 76 games.

After the one season with Golden State, Kersey went on to play with the Los Angeles Lakers, Seattle Sonics, San Antonio Spurs, and Milwaukee Bucks. During his career, Kersey averaged 10.3 points and 5.5 rebounds. Not only did he help Portland get to the Finals those two years, but he also won a championship with the Spurs in 1999. He was also a First-Team



"Jerome Kersey: Overcoming the Odds," by Kerry Eggers.

Division II All-American in 1984, First-Team All-Mason-Dixon (a now-defunct NCAA Division II Athletic Conference), and Mason-Dixon Player of the Year in 1984. His number 54 was retired by the Longwood State Lancers. He wore 25 with the Blazers.

After retiring from playing, Kersey served in various roles in the NBA, including as an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks, assisting former teammate Porter. He'd return to the Blazers as an alumni, and later as director of alumni relations.

On Feb. 18, 2015, Kersey passed away from a blood clot that, broke loose from his left calf, and went to his lungs, causing a pulmonary thromboembolism, likely caused by knee surgery.

"Jerome was a kind person who wanted to make a difference," said Kerry Eggers who was at one point, the Blazers beat reporter for various publications, and the author of, "Jerome Kersey, Overcoming the Odds." "He was a regular at Doernbecher Hospital for Children and one of the best Blazer players ever for community service."

North Coast residents, and other fans of Kersey and the Trail Blazers in general, can come to learn more about Kersey, meet Eggers, and purchase a copy of his book, on Saturday, April 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Seaside Library, 1131 Broadway.

Eggers said he interviewed more than 80 people, including coaches,



Author Kerry Eggers comes to the Seaside Library on April 30.

teammates, opponents such as Charles Barkley and John Stockton, former teammates, and classmates at Longwood as well as several family members, including his widow (Teri Kersey Valentine) and daughter (Kiara Kersey). He thinks the result was an accurate reflection of Jerome's life.

"He pressed the flesh with hundreds and thousands of Blazer fans throughout the state, his welcome smile and good personality making a great impression on the Blazers among their clientele. It's no exaggeration to say Jerome may be the most popular Blazer in the franchise's 50-plus-year history.

As I've gone around the Northwest doing book events — Seaside will be No. 37 since our first one in October — I've heard countless personal stories from people who had an encounter or friendship with Jerome and regarded him in the highest esteem."

PREP GOLF ROUNDUP

Valley Catholic tops Seaside

Seaside's Carson Kawasoe finished atop the field for the second time in two events this season, as the senior shot 71 in the windy conditions at Gearhart Golf Links last Monday, in a Cowapa League match vs. Valley Catholic.

The Valiants defeated the Gulls in the team scoring, 343-385.

While Kawasoe finished one-under par, Seaside's Riley Wunderlich carded a 102, followed by Carson Bates (103) and Carter Perrigo (109). Ever Sibony (113) was Seaside's fifth golfer.

"Carson played a solid round today with three birdies and only two bogies on his card," said Seaside coach Jim Poetsch. "That is a great round in today's conditions. The wind was gusting above 50 miles per hour when we teed off, and heavy rain hit them a couple of holes in."

The wind remained, but it did not affect the Valiants, whose top four golfers shot under 90. Lucas Howell led with an 80, followed by D.J. Romano (86) and Ryoma Lane (88).

Valiants first, Astoria second at Quail Valley

In a second meeting of Cowapa League girls golf teams, Valley Catholic scored another win in an invitational hosted by Tillamook at Quail Valley Golf Course late last month.

Using modified Stableford scoring, the Valiants racked up 186 points, led by a 70-point effort from senior medalist Challin Kim.

Keeli Satterfield (49 points) and Abby Berndt (38) helped the Valiants hold off second-place Astoria (125), followed by Seaside (65). Banks was incomplete, and Tillamook's two golfers were unable to attend due to illness.

The Lady Fish were led by Ava Davis with 37, just ahead of Lily Reed (36) and Caleigh Peterson (34). The trio finished fifth, sixth and seventh individually. Marlee Both (18) and Katie Jo Strimple-Fields (6) rounded out Astoria's scores.

Holly Fergus led Seaside with 33 points, followed by Alyssa Bergman (15), Miriam Alcalá (10), Kariana Anderson (7) and Ella Boles (1).

Astoria and Seaside meet again Monday at Gearhart Golf Links.



Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District

The Easter bunny returns to Broadway Park on April 16.

Easter bunny, community egg hunt at Broadway Field

Seaside Signal

Join families on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to noon at Broadway Field for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District free annual community egg hunt. Families join in the fun of searching for thousands of treat-filled eggs all over Broadway Park.

Children of all age groups are sent out to find as many eggs as they can, with a chance of finding a golden ticket, winning

them a plush bunny or an Easter basket full of goodies. The Easter Bunny will be hopping around greeting kids and taking photos.

From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., kids 7 to 17 may participate in a Treasure Dive at Sunset Pool. Dive for coins and a chance to open the "treasure chest" for a special prize. Entry fee for the Treasure Dive is \$2.

This event is sponsored by Providence Seaside Hospital, Runkle Consulting Group, Rascals and Bruce's Candy Kitchen.



Logan Dennis at the splash-a-thon.

Swimmers raise funds for Sunset Pool improvements

Seaside Signal

On Friday, April 1, the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District hosted a swim meet complete with April Fools' Day shenanigans. Volunteer and former park district director Mary Blake organized the event and led the kids in games and a treasure dive.

Then, on April 2, Blake coordinated a Splash-A-

thon to raise funds for new diving blocks and a timing system at Sunset Pool. Sixteen swimmers gathered sponsorships and swam laps to raise \$3,285. Several participants were members of the Seaside High School Swim Team.

Funds raised are in addition to a donation of more than \$6,000 from the local restaurant, Thai Me Up.

Seaside High School

swim coach Shane Spell has also been working with the park district and the Booster Club and Seaside School District in partnership to raise the needed funds for the diving blocks and timing system.



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