

Mission Statement

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is dedicated to the support and preservation of parks, sports facilities and athletic programs in the greater Yakima area.

Honorary Directors

Chuck "Bobo" Brayton
Hazel Leland
Mel Lewis
Connie Little
Tom Parry
Bill Pearl
Pete Rademacher
Jerry Ryan
Mel Stottlemire Sr.
Judge John Nicholson (d)

Executive Committee

(*signifies charter member)
LeAnn Leahy,
Executive Director
Steve Dale, President
*Jerry Ward, Vice President
*Nancy Kendrick, Secretary
Bob Alexander
*Bill Faller
*Carol Finney
*Daryl Parker
*Scott Wilson

Directors

Rich Austin
*Bill Baker
*Jamie Carmody
Mike Bastinelli
Eric Carlson
*Don Crook
*Ellwood Crosier
*Joe Donahue
*Spud Edmondson
Gary George
Virginia Hays
*Nancy Leahy
Greg Luring
Kathi Mercy
*Mel Moore
*Bryan Powell
*Glenn Rassmussen
*Gene Rostvold
*Jim Scoggins
James Parks
*Richard A. Smith

Foundation's Top Two Announcements

Donahue Scholarship Awarded

Chelsey Nill, a Yakima Valley Community College student from Kent, Washington, is the first recipient of the Joe Donahue Scholarship. Chelsey is a graduate of Seattle Prep, where she was an honor student and very active in many school activities. She will work as a student intern in the YVCC athletic department and is planning for a high school coaching career.

The \$2,400 scholarship honors Joe Donahue, a charter director of the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, and a director and an officer of the original Parker Youth Foundation. It is a combination tuition/work grant for a YVCC student planning to pursue a degree and a career in a field related to health and physical education, and/or youth sports and recreation.

Chelsey already has coaching experience at the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club and the N.B.C.- Northwest Basketball Camps. She was nominated to be the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club representative for the 'Youth of the Year' award in 2005 and was then selected as the 'Youth of the Year' for all of Snohomish County.

The scholarship committee chairman, Bill Faller commented, "Chelsey's application was certainly impressive. She already has four years of coaching in youth sports programs and she has other skills and experience that will make her a valuable student-worker in the athletic department."



Number of Foundation Directors Grows

The Foundation is pleased to announce the election of directors that increased the number to 18 and honorary directors to 10.

New Honorary Directors include Tom Parry, local legendary football coach, Jerry Ryan, physical educator and coach, and Bill Pearl, 5-Time Mr. Universe. New Directors include Mike Bastinelli, Clear Channel radio personality, Kathi Mercy, President of Mercy Theatres, Inc., James Parks, Director of Southeast Community Center and Greg Luring, owner of Yakima County and Ellensburg McDonald's.

Welcome and congratulations to the new members of the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation. Highlights introducing these supportive community members will be included in future newsletters.

The Foundation is looking at ways to involve other individuals interested in furthering the mission of Parker Youth & Sports Foundation. Stay tuned for more in the near future.

A summary of the registration and financial documents of the PARKER YOUTH & SPORTS FOUNDATION is available by calling the Office of the Secretary of State (Washington State) at 1-800-332-4483 or by visiting their website: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/charities/>.

Message from the Executive Director: "Thank You's"

A really big "Thank you" needs to be extended to our now-ex President Bill Faller. Bill put in countless hours and dedication to the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation and has laid the groundwork for a great organization. Jerry Ward, our ex-first vice president, has stepped down and is now in charge of his true passion, the historical side of the Yakima Valley and its connection to sports and the Foundation. Jerry, again, thank you! Nancy Leahy has stepped down from the treasurer's position; as a result of her dedication to the Foundation, we can truly say the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation has a financial history that it can be very proud of. Finally, the last "Thank you" that needs to be said goes to all of you. Without you the Parker Youth and Sports Foundation would not be able to accomplish its goals and mission. It is our community leaders and dedicated contributors and volunteers that make this Foundation move forward and be able to contribute to the Yakima Valley. For that I say, Thank you.

Warm wishes for a wonderful fall.

Sincerely,
LeAnn Leahy

President's Message

October 26, 2007

Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting on October 23. The insight and energy of our board is encouraging and positive.

Congratulations to our four new board members, Kathi Mercy, Greg Luring, James Park, and Mike Bastenelli, and three honorary directors Tom Parry, Jerry Ryan, and Bill Pearl.

We also want to thank Bill Faller, ex-president, Jerry Ward, ex-first vice-president and Nancy Leahy, ex-treasurer, for the leadership they have provided over the past three years. Welcome aboard as the new First Vice-President of Marketing and Communication Bob Alexander.

We will continue to streamline and shorten the length of meetings as exemplified by the precise, informative and well-organized reports from our committee chairs. We also have work in progress adopting minor changes in the bylaws.

I look forward to a successful, hard-working but fun year interacting with our community.

Best regards,
Steven E. Dale, President



Grant Scoreboard

The Grant Committee made one award since the last publication. If your organization would like more information or a grant application form, contact Carol Finney at cfinney@charter.net. See the information below.

\$2,000 Yakima School District - Zaepfel Stadium bleachers update - installed in October - check them out. (More below and on page 3.)

Zaepfel Stadium Seeking Improvements

Zaepfel Stadium has been an eye-sore for the past decade. It is the responsibility of the Yakima School District and the Yakima community to maintain the facility so it can be utilized by numerous groups.

Phase One has just been completed due to the work of Mike Saxon and Gene Rostvold. Phase One was an easy fix - manufactured seats to cover splintered and layers of peeling paint.

Thanks to numerous individuals whose privacy we are protecting and the following businesses and foundations for their contributions: Yakima Kiwanis Charitable Trust Foundation, Greater Yakima Sports Foundation, Yakima Rotary Charities, Yakima Theatres, Inc., Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, West Valley Kiwanis, The Clifford and Janie Plath Charitable Fund, Kiwanis Club of Yakima Community Service Fund, DiMario Management Partnership and Gary Staples of Smith Barney. These business and individuals contributed \$39,000 to the project while the Yakima School District matched the amount and donated countless hours of labor.

We also want to thank the many volunteers who were organized by Mike Saxon.



Historical Section

Parker Field had its beginning in 1937 as a home for professional baseball, built by businessman/attorney Shirley D. Parker for his new team, the Pippins, named for a type of apple. Mr. Parker was the son of Rose Hawkins Larson and Orlando Parker, and was the stepson of A.E. Larson. He was raised in Yakima and attended the University of Washington.

SITE OF NATIONAL FINALS 1954
"Fruit Bowl of the Nation"



PARKER FIELD
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
Sponsored by
Logan Wheeler Post No. 36

The 4,400 seat stadium was built at a cost of \$50,000, according to reports at the time in the Yakima Herald and Republic newspapers. The grandstand, located near what was then Lenox Avenue (now Nob Hill Boulevard), was an impressive edifice. At its opening, a Yakima Herald article described the new ballpark as "almost a duplicate of the Chicago Cubs' park."

Parker Field's entire existence has been closely tied to the community college, which shares the southern half of a 40-acre block originally owned by Parker and his mother. Parker donated 10 acres to the school district to build the college campus and kept 10 acres for his ballpark. To memorialize her late husband, A. E. Larson, Parker's mother donated the northern 20 acres to the city for what became Larson Park. The college purchased the west 10 acres of Larson Park, where the new (2007) Glenn-Anthon Hall and soccer field have been constructed from the city in 2003.

A fire, whose origin was never determined, destroyed most of the Parker Field grandstand on March 12, 1962, shortly before the baseball season opened. The school district, which just months earlier had given the baseball team a three-year notice that the stadium would be torn down to make room for campus expansion, refused to rebuild the stadium, using the insurance money to construct a football stadium two miles away. Nevertheless, the ball club rebuilt the grandstand and wrangled two years of extensions before the college razed the stadium in 1967, ending pro baseball in Yakima for 23 years. Ironically, state funding fell through and the health sciences building planned for the old stadium site was never built.

Although Parker Field was primarily a professional ballpark for its first 30 years, it was also a football stadium for Yakima Junior College and the Yakima School District's high school teams. The field has hosted three American Legion World Series (1954, 1978, and 2001). The Parker Field/Stan Fox Stadium complex of today was erected in 1973 as part of a strategy to reinvigorate an American Legion baseball program that was struggling to stay afloat financially at that time after it had won the 1953 World Series. Yakima Youth Baseball and its supporters secured a sponsor, the Al Lundgren Volkswagen dealership, that

no longer exists but gave the team an enduring nickname (the Beetles). With a small army of volunteer labor, led by transplanted Englishman Stan Fox, the organization set about building up the stadium around a raw college diamond. YYBB has continued improvements since 1973 and has a lease with the college to use the field throughout the summer until 2008. In 1990, pro baseball returned in the form of the Yakima Bears, and they shared the field with the Beetles during the summers of 1990-1992 before moving to the new County Stadium.

High Hopes Golf Scramble News

The 2008 High Hopes Golf Scramble Committee held its first meeting September 19 to prepare for the May 17 tournament. Committee chairs were filled, honorary chairman and honorary guests selected.

The May 16 Legends Reunion will have a separate committee working to expand the scope of the event, inviting athletes of all sports who have competed at the professional level of their sports. For example, Willie Turner (Olympic sprinter), Kurt Schulz (Buffalo Bills), Phil and Steve Mahre (Olympic skiers), Paige and Brock McKenzie (LPGA and PGA), Mel Stottlemire (New York Yankees/Mariners), Dan Doornick (Seahawks), Scott Linehan (Rams), Keith Farnam, Pat Martin Price (golf), and Dot Dobie.



The Honorary Chairman for the 2008 tournament will be Chuck Brayton. Discussion focused on providing for other sports to be honored at subsequent High Hopes tournaments.

Our goal is to provide an exciting two-day event by bringing the community and its sport heroes together.



Work done on Zaepfel facility.
See story on page 2.

