



Asa Taylor, 5, right, walks face first into a stream of water during the grand opening of the new Dolphin Island Splash Pad at Sunset Kids Park in Gulf Breeze on Wednesday. GREGG PACHKOWSKI/GREGG@PNJ.COM

# Water wonderland: New Gulf Breeze splash pad opens

The opening of a splash pad Wednesday at a Gulf Breeze park was a bittersweet occasion for Chelsie O'Leary.

There was pride from O'Leary that her son, Rowan, and other children would now have a chance to romp in the water as it shot out of a sea turtle, rained down from dolphins and poured out of a canon at Sunset Kids Park on Shoreline Drive.

But there was also a little sadness from O'Leary that her mother, Denise Marie Biggs, was not at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that afternoon.

Biggs, a longtime city of Gulf Breeze employee, was the visionary for the Dolphin Island Splash Pad

and "the spark" behind it. She died of pulmonary fibrosis on March 31 at age 60.

The splash pad was a project Biggs planned for years, O'Leary said, adding her mother wanted kids like Rowan, now 18 months old, to have such a facility in their city.

"Bound and determined, that's pretty much how she rolled," O'Leary said of her mother, who worked at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center for more than two decades.

While Biggs had the dream for the splash pad, the

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