

Make A Wish

Eugene Active 20-30 Club, Lane County Fairgrounds join forces to help locals celebrate the nation's 223rd birthday



Fairgrounds serves up Fourth's weekend festivities

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The 1999 Freedom Festival, held July 3 and 4 at the Lane County Fairgrounds, is more than just a party to celebrate our nation's independence. Thanks to the Eugene Active 20-30 Club, the event's long-time organizer, several local child-welfare agencies benefit financially, as well.

This weekend marks the 53rd annual Freedom Festival put on by the group, which has international chapters. Last year's gala raised more than \$42,000 to help children in the community, said project chair Debra Pilcher. Getting all of the "i's" crossed and "t's" dotted

for the festival is far from a simple task, she added.

"There really is year-long planning involved with the Freedom Festival, because we have to put together so many pieces of the puzzle," Pilcher said. "We expect about 15,000 people to attend over the two days, but we're well-prepared and ready to go."

In addition to the familiar entertainment, such as live music, ice skating, a food court and beer garden, and of course, fireworks, this year's party tosses in a few new activities. A three-on-three basketball tournament, sponsored by Hoop Mania and

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Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Huckabay's path leads him to Eugene

Musician on a mission to inspire fans with his sounds makes stopover in Eugene

By Sara Lieberth
Oregon Daily Emerald

Scott Huckabay has been on the road for six years.

It's a challenging life of travel, night after night of performances in towns across the country, and the loneliness that comes with it all. As his next stopover, Eugene will be host to his musical talents when he plays Art and the Vineyard on July 2 and again July 9 at the Country Fair. Huckabay takes life on the road in stride, though, because he's never been afraid of challenges and is no stranger to loneliness.

Riding down an Arizona highway in 1987, Huckabay was involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident that left him paralyzed in his right hand

and left leg. Rejecting his doctor's prognosis that he'd never walk or play guitar again, the life-long musician spent months in physical therapy before taking the healing process into his own, capable hands.

He moved to a remote island in Hawaii and spent the next year in almost complete isolation from the outside world.

While there, his own brand of therapy included swimming with dolphins for hours each day and practicing acoustic guitar, adding to his self-taught electric guitar skills.

During this time of healing and rejuvenation, Huckabay developed his unique musical sensibility and ardent desire to share it with others. After returning to the mainland in 1989, he produced such diverse al-



Who: Scott Huckabay
When: Friday, July 2, 2:30 p.m.
Where: Art and the Vineyard at Alton Baker Park

bums as "Universe," "The Secret of Angel Island," "Peace Dance" and his latest project, "Alchemy."

When Bam Magazine named him Guitar Player of the Year in 1990, it was a particularly special achievement as the award came just three years after his life-changing accident.

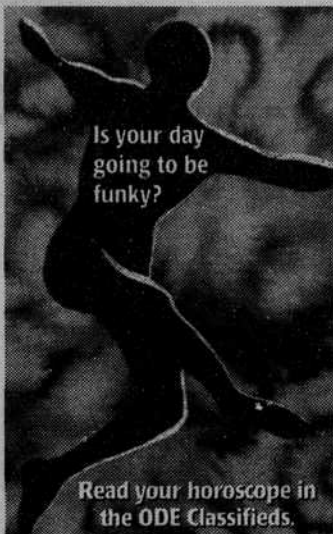
"The accident shifted my life," Huckabay said. "I feel I have a mission to inspire people all over the world with this music."

His music does have a genuine inspirational quality to it as he mixes acoustic fusion with the percussive sounds he makes by striking the guitar as he plays. Huckabay's performances are physically dynamic, en-

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Art and the Vineyard

The Samples play "relaxed, slightly jazzy pop," according to one critic, and their musical stylings will be on display July 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Art and the Vineyard. Numerous other acts perform at the three-day event, other activities help celebrate the 4th. Daily admission is \$5, with weekend passes at \$8. Children under 12 are free. Proceeds support the Maude Kerns Art Center.



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