

Southern Oregon à la Mode

Rural region is more progressive than you might realize

Quilt: A Musical Celebration

The Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts in Medford is presenting the show *Quilt: A Musical Celebration* as part of the summer offerings for its youth theater troupe of 13- to 18-year-olds.

The musical is a series of stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. "We are offering more socially conscience plays to help educate our community and our young players," says conservatory executive director Jeff Tabler.

The production will be presented as the finale for one of five camps the conservatory does every summer. The camp runs from July 30 to Aug. 25, with the performance Aug. 25 at St. Mary's High School.

In conjunction with the production, a 12x12 piece of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will hang in the Rogue Gallery & Art Center in downtown Medford during the week of Aug. 25. For more information visit www.oregonconservatory.org.

Southern Oregon Pride

Mark your calendars now, as the fourth annual Southern Oregon Pride returns to Medford from 2 to 7 p.m. June 9 in Veterans Park at the intersection of Highway 99 and Stewart Avenue. Admission is \$5, and kids younger than 12 are free.

This year's event will feature a beer garden and the debut of the Big Gay Burger Joint, featuring carnivore and vegetarian selections. Several nonprofit resource organizations and commercial vendors will also be in attendance. Families are welcome, as face painting and balloon creations will highlight the day.

State Rep. Peter Buckley and Sen. Alan Bates, both D-Ashland, are expected to speak to fill everyone in on what's happening in the Legislature. Also scheduled for the afternoon is nonstop entertainment.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center. For more information call 541-488-6990 or visit www.abdellis.org.



State Sen. Alan Bates (left) and Rep. Peter Buckley, both D-Ashland, are scheduled to speak at Southern Oregon Pride.



Dennis Vickoren (left, with Scott Clay) created *Wilde Life* so "young people can tune in...and see there is a life for gay people here in the Rogue Valley."

Blue Lightning 15th Anniversary

The Rogue Valley's favorite all-women's dance band, Blue Lightning, is celebrating 15 years of making music to together. Come join them and support the local music scene and the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center. The concert and fund-raiser begins 8 p.m. May 19 at the Historic Ashland Armory on the corner of Oak and B streets.

Blue Lightning will be joined on stage by a variety of musicians who have played as part of the band's configurations through the years. Everyone of every age and persuasion is welcome.

Tickets are \$15-\$25 sliding scale. Proceeds from this event will be split in half for the benefit of both the band and the community center. For more information call 541-488-6990.

Wilde Life

Scott Clay and Dennis Vickoren decided they were tired of not seeing enough gay men's issues on television in southern Oregon, so they set about to change that with their own show, *Wilde Life*.

Clay hosts the show, while Vickoren directs everything behind the camera. They

have recorded 20 episodes that air in rotation at 10 p.m. every Wednesday on the Rogue Valley Television network (RVTN), available on Charter Channel 15 on Medford public access and Ashland Fiber Network Channel 95.

Vickoren, a bus driver for the Rogue Valley Transit District and transportation educator, and Clay, a planner and historic preservationist for Jacksonville, initially partnered up to discuss gay men's issues. The show soon blossomed to encompass the issues of the entire queer community, and they want to widen the audience with more diversity, as they are always looking for interesting topics and guests.

"I like the fact that young people can tune in to *Wilde Life* and see there is a life for gay people here in the Rogue Valley," says Vickoren. "I wanted to send a positive message out into the community." Vickoren says he is excited to have his own show, as he directed programs for other people for four years through RVTN.

The pair will get a chance to record many more episodes in May and June when time opens up in the community studio. Both Vickoren and Clay lived in the Rogue Valley for most of their lives, both of their families have been here for generations, and they are proud to bring a voice to the gay community through their programming.

"It's an outlet for my creativity," says Clay. "I like to try to find interesting topics and people to interview."

The proud father and historic homeowner says he loves to hear sources' stories. "It's incredible to just talk to people and hear how they have lived their life," says Clay.

If you have a story idea for *Wilde Life* or would like to be on the show, e-mail wildelife@charter.net. 10



Blue Lightning helps raise money for the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center.

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congratulates



**BASIC
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OREGON**

and our friends in the Oregon State
Legislature for a job well done!

