



Salem's Capitol Pride 2007 drew fabulous performers and everyday people.

The highly anticipated event will once again be held from noon to 8 p.m. Aug. 9 at Alton Baker Park, east of the Ferry Street Bridge on the north bank of the Willamette River in Eugene. This year's theme will be "Live-Love-Be."

Musical guests will be up-and-coming performers Sistas in the Pit and Joshua Klipp. To get a preview of their music, go to www.myspace.com/sistasinthepit and www.myspace.com/cutelittlewhiteguy.

In addition to these budding musical talents, those attending can expect to see members of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire as well as a performance by the Eugene Drama Kings. Fund-raising raffles will be held throughout the day.

For more information visit www.eugenepride.org.

Bend Pride

Bend will have its fourth annual Pride this year from noon to 6 p.m. June 21 at McKay Park, 166 S.W. Shevlin Hixon Drive.

The Human Dignity Coalition will host the family-friendly event. The nonprofit agency is a multi-issue organization that works to protect human rights and promote diversity in Central Oregon.

Bend Pride promises to be extremely exciting this year. The coalition has organized a mass commitment ceremony for all who wish to participate. A minister will be on hand to unite couples who recently have obtained their domestic partnership license. Couples planning to get their license soon are urged to participate. The ceremony is not limited to couples from Deschutes County; all Oregon couples are welcome and invited to attend and join in the celebration by sharing their vows with others.

The celebration will honor the longest committed gay couple, longest committed lesbian couple and the longest committed transgender couple. These couples will receive certificates honoring their accomplishments.

Also at this year's event, a diversity quilt will be created. The quilt will be made of 10-inch squares that will be decorated with the handprint of anyone who has attended a Central Oregon Queer Prom.

The quilt will then be raffled off, with monies raised going toward efforts to promote equality and diversity in the state; raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each.

The celebration will also include food, entertainment, parade and games.

For more information call 541-385-3320 or e-mail bendpride@yahoo.com.

Southern Oregon Pride

Southern Oregon Pride is moving to a new venue this year. It will be held at Jackson County Fairgrounds and Expo Park, 1 Peninger Road in Central Point.

Pride Week celebrations will begin with a run starting at 6 p.m. July 22, sponsored by the Ashland Hash House Harriers running club. Runners will meet 6 p.m. at Ashland Plaza. Rainbow clothing is the required dress. Participation in the run costs \$10 and includes a barbecue dinner, dessert, beer and other beverages. Participants are encouraged to arrive early for rainbow body painting.

For more information e-mail serenacook@hotmail.com.

The Pride celebration, in its fourth year, will kick off at noon and continue until 7 p.m. July 26. The party will include musicians, performers, a beer garden, speakers, food and sponsor/vendor information booths. Events will include the Mr. or Ms. Southern Oregon 2009.

Festivities continue after Pride with "Dance Out Loud" at Padgham Pavilion on the fairgrounds, with a DJ cranking out the tunes until 10:30 p.m. Admission prices will be discounted for people who attended Pride, and food, beer, wine and nonalcoholic beverages will be available at the dance.

Southern Oregon Pride functions as a fund-raiser for the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center. Admission is \$5. Pride and dance admission is \$10.

For more information call 541-488-6990 or visit www.abdellis.org.

Yamhill County Pride

Together Works, a support group for sexual minorities, their friends and family members, will host the first-ever Yamhill County Pride celebration.

The all-day event, which is still in the planning stages, is expected to take place in August in one of the area's parks.

For more information call 503-434-6266 or 971-241-8256 or e-mail dee.duderstadt@gmail.com.

DEE DUDERSTADT is a Salem freelance writer.

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