

Learn the unlikely story of the Vortex I rock fest

Matt Love to speak about the only state-sponsored rock fest in US history

ASTORIA — Forty-six years ago this summer, the only state-sponsored rock festival in American history unfolded in a state park outside of Portland. Were you there? Can you remember anything about the experience? How in the world did something like this only happen in Oregon?

Join Matt Love, author of “The Far Out Story of Vortex I,” for a unique multimedia presentation about the event. His presentation, “Oregon Story Sessions: Vortex I,” will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31 at the Fort George Lovell Showroom, located at 426 14th St.

At the presentation, learn why Vortex I still matters today and help Love collect new stories and photographs for an upcoming second edition of his book planned for the 50th anniversary of Vortex in 2020.

“I want to encourage anyone who attend the festival to show up and share your stories with the crowd,” said Love. “There’s still much to know about Vortex, and I want to keep digging into it.”

“I might also add,” said Love, “this being Fort George,

a person can sip a Vortex IPA during a presentation about Vortex. I like that historical coincidence.”

Two months after the May 1970 shootings at Kent State University and police riot at Portland State University, President Richard Nixon was scheduled to address the annual gathering of the American Legion in Portland. The FBI told Oregon Gov. Tom McCall, a Republican facing a tough re-election bid later in November, that he should expect 25,000 Legionnaires and 50,000 anti-Vietnam War protesters to clash in the Rose City streets. The ensuing mayhem would make the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago “look like a tea party,” according to FBI documents.

To keep the peace, McCall and a group of hippies collaborated to stage the only state-sponsored rock festival in American history. Four young people had approached McCall’s staff in June with the unprecedented idea of holding a festival to help draw potential protesters away from Portland. They asked McCall



Submitted photo

The free Vortex I: A Biodegradable Festival of Life, unfolded the last weekend of August in 1970; 100,000 people attended at McIver State Park outside Estacada.



Submitted photo

For the state-sponsored Vortex I rock festival in 1970, Oregon Gov. Tom McCall waived the prohibition against camping in McIver State Park.

for a state park. He gave them one. They asked him to waive the park’s prohibition against camping and keep the cops out. McCall complied.

The free festival, Vortex I: A Biodegradable Festival of Life, unfolded the last week-

end in August, and 100,000 people attended at McIver Park outside of Estacada. Peace prevailed in Portland, McCall was re-elected to a second term and his leadership ushered in modern Oregon. There never was a Vortex II.

Haystack Rock Awareness Program seeks volunteers

CANNON BEACH — The city of Cannon Beach is seeking volunteer Rocky Shore Interpreters for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program. Volunteer positions are under the direction of the program coordinator, with assistance from the volunteer coordinator.

Volunteer Rocky Shore Interpreters help interpret natural resources to the public and visitor groups at Haystack Rock, including: sharing facts and trivia about

the intertidal and bird life of Haystack Rock; answering visitor questions; promoting conservation and stewardship of the area; assisting staff and other volunteers of the program; engaging visitors who are participating in prohibited activities in a friendly and professional manner; and setting up and breaking down the program. Volunteer interpreters also assist with data collection.

Volunteers should be in-

terested and enthusiastic about the marine areas at Haystack Rock and working with the public.

Training will be provided in the areas of intertidal species and nesting bird identification, ecology, program set-up and break down, proper species collection techniques, data collection and general communication skills. Young adults under the age of 16 must be attended with a guardian.

Volunteers may attend a training session or train on the beach with experienced staff and volunteers. 2016 volunteer training sessions will be held April 9 and June 11 at Cannon Beach City Hall, located at 163 E. Gower St. Lunch will be provided at each training.

Attendees should RSVP. Contact HRAP Volunteer Coordinator Kelsey Brown at 503-436-8095 or hrappvolunteer@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

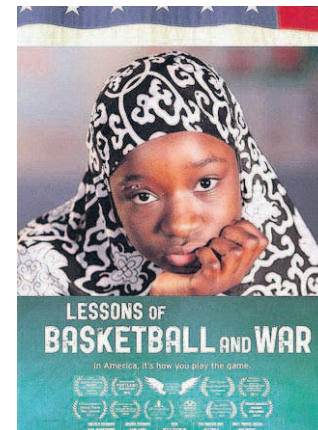
Watch ‘Lessons of Basketball and War’ at Hoffman Center

Documentary follows Somali refugee teenagers in Portland middle school

MANZANITA — The Hoffman Center for the Arts will screen the independent documentary “Lessons of Basketball and War” on Friday, March 25. The film will start at 7:30 p.m., and admission is \$5.

Written and directed by Ron Burke, with cinematography by Wheeler resident Carl Vandervoort, “Lessons of Basketball and War” was filmed at Hosford Middle School in Portland.

Exploring the themes of violence, prejudice, cultural identity and conflict resolution, the film tells the story of a small group of Somali refugee teenage girls as they struggle to put the distrust and animosity of war behind them and create a new life in America. This documentary offers an engaging and at times thrilling account of a year in their young lives and the challenges faced by one dedicated educator, peacemaker and basketball coach.



Submitted photo

The documentary was filmed at a Portland middle school.

Both Burke and Vandervoort will attend the screening. The feature lasts 56 minutes, and refreshments will be available.

The film won an Award of Excellence at the International Film Festival for Peace, Inspiration and Equality in Indonesia.

Watch a trailer at <https://vimeo.com/112290156>



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