

"Wheels" Film Festival off to successful start

By Scott Laird

A good crowd turned out on Friday, March 30, for the first annual "Wheels of Fire" Film Festival at the Vernonia Community Learning Center. The Bicycle Skills Park Group created the event to continue promoting the new park being planned for the Mill Site this summer.

A number of people showed up throughout the evening and enjoyed a variety of films that showed Mountain Bike riding and stunts, in locations like Whistler, B.C.; Moab, Utah; Turkey; Morocco; and downtown Portland. The audience

was thrilled and awed by the amazing skill and daring of the riders in the films as they negotiated downhill single track trails, incredible jumps, thin log bridges, roller coaster-like wooden ladders, even rock walls!

The planners of Vernonia's park now have lots of ideas for stunts we can build for riders here. There were great door prizes supplied by Olsen's Bikes in Forest Grove, West Side Trailriders, Nike and IMBA, and almost everyone won something. Pizza, popcorn and sodas, provided in part by Mariolino's and Vernonia Sen-

try, were enjoyed by all and everyone had a good time.

Next up for the Bicycle Skills Park is an event in partnership with the Community Learning Center. "How and Why to Juggle" will be held on Saturday April 28, time TBA. Cost is \$10. Come out and have some more fun and support the Skills Park and your Community Learning Center!

For information, contact the Learning Center at 503-429-1030. For more information about the Skills Park contact the Chamber of Commerce at 503-429-6081.

Summer project grants avail-

While most of their peers spend the summer watching movies or going to camp, 12 Oregon teenagers will have the opportunity to work on a humanities project like exploring the heady Northwest grunge era or creating a documentary film about immigration.

For the sixth year in a row, the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH) will award \$2,000 grants to 12 Oregon sophomores. These grants will allow students to complete humanities research projects of their own design.

Interested students can download application forms from the OCH website, www.oregonhum.org, or call 503-241-0543 or 800-735-0543 to receive a copy by mail. Applications are due April 20, 2007.

"It was hard, it was painful, it was time consuming. But looking back, I would do it for free. It was educating, it was fun, it was confidence raising - it was life changing," said Rosie Pazdral, a Deadwood teenager who created a documentary on community last year.

Young Scholar Grants offer Oregon sophomores the op-

portunity to spend a summer working on a humanities research project. The humanities comprise everything from film and literature, to ethics and archaeology, offering a wealth of fascinating topics to pursue. As Young Scholars explore their own questions, they transform their experience from being cultural consumers into becoming cultural producers, observers, and creators. Each Young Scholar will spend 20 hours per week working on their chosen project.

The 2006 Young Scholar grant recipients came from Neskowin, Philomath, Pendleton, Deadwood, and the Portland area. Their projects included a community poetry anthology, several documentary film projects, an analysis of the grunge music subculture, literary studies, and a project exploring how interior design affects healing. Last summer's projects are posted online at www.oregonhum.org.

More information about OCH programs and publications can be found at www.oregonhum.org.

It's time to plan for 4-H Summer Camp

The Columbia County 4-H Camp committee is busy working on making the 2007 camp another great experience for those who attend. The committee has selected June 17-20, 2007 for the annual 4-H Summer Camp, held at Camp Kiwanilong on the North Coast.

The committee understands that, due to the large number of snow days and winter weather

the county has experienced, there are some schools that will still be in session during the camp. The committee was unable to change the dates because other camps are booked in and around the dates of the Columbia County 4-H Summer Camp.

The committee hosted "Teen Retreat" early in March and is very pleased with the older

youth who have shown interest in serving as Camp Counselors and Camp Staff. Selection of Camp Counselors will occur in April.

Mark your calendars and begin preparing your fourth through seventh graders for the 2007 4-H Summer Camp. Registration forms will be distributed through the schools, as in years past. Registration forms are due by June 1 with the \$75.00 registration fee.

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Spelling competition not just for schools

Public, private and home school students in Columbia County are urged to participate in the 31st Annual Spelling Contest for the State of Oregon.

The competition is held at lo-

cal school district, county and state levels. At each level, students are expected to write all spelling words. An oral spelling bee is not part of this program. Local school districts will be responsible for conducting and

coordinating their own contests. Home-schoolers should contact their local district to participate at the district level. Students must compete at the district level in order to compete at the county level. Local districts should complete their competition no later than May 2, 2007.

The County Spelling Contest will be conducted at NW Regional Columbia Service Center on May 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome to view the competition at the county level. Students will be competing for the opportunity to go to the state competition held on September 1.

The contest at both the county and state level is divided into three groups: Division I is for elementary students through grade 5; Division II is for students in grades 6-8; and Division III is for students in grades 9-12.

Contact the Columbia Service Center at 503-397-0028 with any questions.



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