



This issue is going to be a short one. Summer is a busy time for many of us, and I've not been able to find anyone able to sit down and write an article right now, though I have some more leads for the next issue. In interests of getting this issue out before all the news is stale, here it is--all two pages of it.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ALERT

There are bills making their way through the US Senate (S.3304) and House (HR 3101) which will, if passed, expand the federal mandate for captioned media and accessible phone service to the Internet. As television programs and phone services move to the Internet, the accessibility features and hearing-aid compatibility that users who are deaf or hard of hearing have grown to expect are disappearing. These bills bring accessibility up to date (for users who are blind, as well.) Now is the time to write or email the Idaho congressional delegation and let them know that this legislation is important to you. Here's an easy way to contact elected officials by email: go to www.congress.org, enter your zip code and there you are. Old-fashioned mailing addresses are also provided.

IDAHO HANDS & VOICES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Idaho Hands & Voices board is planning to meet August 6 in Boise to do some long-range planning. If you have ideas to contribute, or wish to get more involved in our organization, please contact Renee Higbee at (208) 850-5348 or higbren2@isu.edu for more information and possible carpooling.

FUNDRAISER

Mavis Irwin is participating as a solo rider in the Furnace Creek 508, an ultra marathon cycling event, this October. (508 miles on a bicycle through the southern California desert, including Death Valley, to be completed in 48 hours or less.) This is the second time she's done this (not counting the times she's crewed for other riders) and she's training hard with the goal of beating her 2007 time. She's decided to do her ride as a fund-raiser for our chapter, as well as to spread the word about Hands & Voices. Go to www.razoo.com and type "508" in the search bar to find her project. In order to arrange things so that donations would go to Idaho Hands & Voices, we've had to post our own page at razoo.com, which we hope to use for other projects and as an easy way to renew memberships.

NEW HOME FOR CDHH

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has moved into its new permanent quarters at 1720 Westgate Drive in Boise--they are now in Suite B, and the Council offices can now be entered directly, without navigating past Security and through "The Maze."



UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT Monday, July 26 at the Boise Capitol Park, 601 W Jefferson. 500 participants are needed to gather at the park at 11:00; at 11:30 they will form a circle around the Capitol, linked by yellow ribbon to honor our servicemen and women. Proclamations, awards, and speakers will follow at noon, with cake, food vendors and entertainment from 1:30 to 6:00 pm. Sign language interpreters will be provided.

SUMMERCUES Cued Speech classes especially for kids age 3 and up (but all ages welcome.) Learn handshapes, locations, mouth shapes and facial expressions for cueing the English language; enjoy snacks, games, music and friends. Fridays July 9 through August 13 (yes, I'm a little late with this) at the Eagle Adventist Christian Church, 538 W State St, Eagle. \$10 per family, scholarships available; contact Susie Jones at (208) 484-5668 for more information.

IESDB Summer Play Group will meet Tuesdays at various times and locations. Still to come: July 13, Julia Davis Park and Discovery Center; August 3, West YMCA. All families with deaf or hard of hearing children or adults are invited; for more information about times, entry fees (discounted or waived with password), etc. contact the staff at the Meridian Outreach office: Jill Muir 914-3728/ jill.muir@isdb.idaho.gov, April Nelson 963-0111/ april.nelson@isdb.idaho.gov, or Steve Birkby 914-0754/ steven.birkby@isdb.idaho.gov.

Region 5 (Magic Valley) Hands & Voices: We will have our usual end of the summer picnic at Story Book Park in Burley Saturday, August 21 at 4:00 pm. This year we're going to do this as a straight potluck, so we ask that you call Lorna at 324-7544 if at all possible so we can keep the menu well-rounded. If you don't know that you can come until the last minute, don't stay away. Bring whatever you like and we'll take our chances! Story Book Park has unique and creative play equipment, and we'll locate a table as close as possible to the playground. From I-84, exit onto Overland Ave; turn right on 13th St a block past Main St; drive a few blocks to Conant Ave and turn left. The park will be on your right, and the playground at the corner of Conant and 14th. Tableware and beverages will be provided.

Eastern Idaho Hands & Voices Play Group Tuesdays 10:00 am until noon, June 15 through August 3 at Caldwell Park, 8th Ave. & E. Center St. in Pocatello. Parents can enjoy socializing/networking with parents who have children with hearing loss, learn more about ID Hands & Voices and your kids can have a great time playing together, too! For more information, contact Renee Higbee at 850-5348 or higbren2@isu.edu.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival will once more offer sign language interpreted performances, and discounted tickets for members of the deaf and hard of hearing community (\$15.90 each, including sales tax; please reference code 2874 with your order.) For tickets, visit or contact the Festival box office--(208) 336-9221, fax (208) 336-4924, or mail: Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Attn: Tickets, PO Box 9365, Boise, ID 83707.)

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde, Tuesday, July 20, 8:00 p.m. curtain

Othello by William Shakespeare, Tuesday, August 17, 8:00 p.m. curtain

The Woman in Black by Stephen Malatratt, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. curtain

(Greenshow begins at 7:30 p.m. June-August, and will be interpreted!)

Signed performances generously sponsored by the Deaf Center of Idaho, the John William Jackson Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation, and Bahner-Fiedler.

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To contribute to the newsletter, share an activity announcement, etc, contact Lorna Irwin at 208-324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com. Here's to at least three pages for the September issue!