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WWW.COLUMBINECOURIER.COM 50 CENTS

INSIDE »

**New immigration unit
reports Jeffco activity**

PAGE 8A

**Official wants to fight
FasTracks changes**

PAGE 4A



QUINN McCORMACK, 2, of Littleton laughs as he pops a giant bubble from the bubble tower during the 2007 Summerset Festival on Saturday at Robert F. Clement Park.

SUMMERSET

30,000 PACK CLEMENT PARK TO CELEBRATE SEASON'S END

STORY BY **MATT GUNN** | STAFF WRITER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY **MATTHEW JONAS** | PHOTO EDITOR

A cornerstone of the South Jeffco community for the last 23 years, the Summerset Festival continued to draw large crowds to Clement Park last weekend.

Those who visited the festival found just about anything a family could want on a late summer afternoon.

"Something for everyone, and it's a great thing to have," said Kate Preston Dragoo, outreach specialist for Foothills Park and Recreation District. "Every community has something unique, and we definitely think we have some special events and activities that run at that park."

Summerset began Sept. 14 with an evening picnic and hot-air balloon glow. After sunset, the festival held its first-ever

Did you know?

Aside from Jefferson County Sheriff's Office estimates, there are two more, eh, colorful indicators of festival attendance: the amount of trash collected, and outhouse use. As many as 40,000 people visit Clement Park for a major festival like Summerset. **See story on Page 11A**

fireworks show.

The festival continued through the weekend with a variety of vendors, activities and free concerts. An estimated 30,000 people attended, with the biggest crowds coming Friday night and Saturday.

And as good as the festival might have been for adults, it was kids who got the biggest benefit from everything Summerset had to offer.

Standing tall, bursting bubbles

It wasn't just the bouncy castles on the east side of Clement Park that were springing with excitement during Summerset. A little farther in, families chased bubbles and attempted to walk on stilts.

The result was a load of laughter. "Well, I ski, so it's not so much the balance — it's more when your arms get tired," explained 10-year-old Quin Johnson, a Littleton resident.

For Quin, the entire event was something she enjoyed doing with her family.

"It's fun doing games and looking at all the different things," she said. "It's just different from most things we go to."

A place to heal

Years of work culminate in dedication of Columbine Memorial

By **MATT GUNN**
Staff Writer

Friday's unveiling of the \$1.5 million Columbine Memorial symbolizes the culmination of eight years' work to honor the 12 students and one teacher who died in the April 20, 1999, school shooting.

The public event is scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday at the Grant Amphitheater in Clement Park.

"I have heard from a lot of people that this project really, really means a lot to them," said Kirsten Kreiling, a member of the Columbine Memorial Committee. "And I think it is an important part of the story for everybody."

The memorial is designed to provide a quiet place of reflection and remembrance. The final concept, awarded to Colorado firm DHM Design, was adopted in 2003. Its focal points include an outer Ring of Healing and an inner Ring of Remembrance, inscribed with words from the community and from the surviving family members, respectively.

"I would say in my experience (the families) all participated in some form or fashion, and certainly provided some form of feedback and ideas," Kreiling said.

A slight hitch to that came in June when Brian Rohrbrough, whose son Danny was a victim, won a battle to include his unedited words on the inner ring. The committee asked Rohrbrough to "soften" his words, which have not yet been revealed.

Kreiling said the committee has done its best to accommodate the families' desires and wishes.

Construction crews worked on finishing touches at the memorial last week. A recent planting day saw volunteers from the community install much of the Columbine Memorial's landscaping.

The committee is continuing its fundraising despite reaching the initial \$1.5 million goal. Any money received will go

Please see **SUMMERSET**, Page 12A

Please see **MEMORIAL**, Page 11A



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