

Prefontaine Hometown Project Nearing Completion

September 9, 2008

Coos Bay, OR – The Prefontaine Memorial Committee, in partnership with the Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB), received one of the Oregon Tourism Commission’s 16 Matching Grants awards last year, and is completing their winning project this week, just in time for the upcoming Prefontaine Memorial Run.

The project entails a series of historical plaques that are being placed along the Prefontaine Memorial race route and on the Marshfield campus, each containing an image of Steve Prefontaine and one of his inspiring quotes, or records that he held. The image of Steve Prefontaine portrayed on the plaques is from his years as a high school competitor in his hometown. “We really wanted to promote Pre’s local ties and his time here in the Coos Bay area, we want to share a different side of Pre’s legacy with his fans and introduce them to the place where it all started,” said Katherine Hoppe, Director of the VCB.

Along with the plaques, brochures were produced that provide information about his legendary local history and world-class accomplishments, as well as points of interest in Coos Bay, including the Prefontaine Track at Marshfield High School, the Prefontaine Memorial at the Coos Bay Visitor Center, the Prefontaine Gallery at the Coos Art Museum, and his burial site at Sunset Memorial Park.

“A lot of organizations worked really hard on this project and it’s exciting to see it finally come to fruition,” said Hoppe. Contributing organizations include the Oregon Tourism Commission, the City of Coos Bay, the Mill Casino-Hotel, the Coos Bay – North Bend VCB, and the Prefontaine Memorial Committee.

The Prefontaine Memorial Run is a 10,000 meter road run that will be held Saturday, September 20th at 10am. Now in its 29th year, this popular run brings in over 1000 runners each year to walk, run and race in Steve Prefontaine’s honor. Race information can be found at www.PrefontaineRun.com.

For more information, contact Katherine Hoppe of the Coos Bay-North Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau at 541.269.0215 or Bob Huggins of the Prefontaine Memorial Committee at 541.269.1103.

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