LIFE | Thursday, August, 23, 2007

Print this article

By Dave Lavender The Herald-Dispatch

7 Days

Local news W.Va. news

Ohio news

Obituaries

/ideo

Weather 3logs orums

Corrections Sports

Nation/World Communities

SMTWTFS

Putnam County news

Marshall University Photo Galleries

Database Library

Submit Your Media

High School Sports

Marshall Sports

Youth Sports

Business

Life

Fechnology

Health Source

Celebrations

Schools

Opinion

Fravel

orum

Sudoku

Dating

Dining

ΓV Listings

Music Scene

Customer Care

Femporary Stop

Payment History

Delivery

Subscriber Services

Account Information

Renew Subscription

Increase Frequency of

River Cities Printing

XML RSS Feeds

PDA Site 🐚

E-NEWS Letters

TOP JOBS

Heraia-Dispatch.com

POWERED BY

careerbuilder'

DIALYSIS TECHNICIAN

SERVICE WRITER Local

domestic automotive

WE'RE GROWING AND

About Top Jobs

WE NEED QUALITY

PEOPLE TO GROW

WITH

All Top Jobs

dealership has

Cabell Huntington

Hospital, a 300-bed

Putnam Herald

Delivery Service Issues

Dutdoors

Fri-State Family

Entertainment

Archive

HUNTINGTON -- The skateboard scene in

Fresh from his West Coast home base, Huntington native Bryan Ridgeway, long-time associate and friend of skateboarding legend Tony Hawk, is sharing

his latest skateboarding project with the community today at the Fairfield East Community Center, 2711 8th. Ave.

view to this story

Join our conversation.

Click here to add your



Click Here for Child-Care Workers

Ramey-Estep Homes offers Opportunities for youth to become productive responsible adults.

(606) 928-6648

and the skate scene here.

possible."

Ridgeway, who's been involved with every aspect of skateboarding for more than 30 years, is doing a free CreateAskate workshop from 4 to 6 p.m. at the center, which is home to a soon-to-be-built skatepark.

During the workshop, Ridgeway will demonstrate the program that will be taken around the country to high schools giving junior high and high school kids a chance to create their own personal skateboard deck using an internet-based curriculum provided through the CreateAskate.org program.

The non-profit CreateAskate program has been developed as a hands-on experience to demonstrate how a skateboard has applications for mathematics, science, language skills, and design and engineering opportunities, all wrapped into a cooperative learning experience.

Ridgeway, managing director for CreateAskate, said the program was designed by his buddy Paul Schmitt, who is considered by many within the billion-dollar skateboard industry to be the "Godfather" of modern-day skateboard deck manufacturing.

In 2005, his companies reached the milestone of producing its

10 millionth skateboard. His companies still make more than 4,000 skateboards a day; 200 per hour; nearly three per minute.

Ridgeway, who left in the early 1980s to go skate in California, said he's stoked to bring the cool project here to Huntington, and to hopefully light a spark of interest with some of the area youth for skateboarding, for learning and for enjoying life.

"I want to show these kids what can happen -- that anything can happen," said Ridgeway, who skates and is friends with a wide circle of well-known

folks including actor Jason Lee from the hit NBC-TV comedy "My Name is Earl."

Ridgeway said in the shortened workshop he will go ahead and do some of the work ahead of time to give the kids a taste of the program.

Normally, the program could occupy five to 10 days of classroom time when presented for 40-80 minutes each day. The entire curriculum is easily adapted to a teacher's individual schedule and ability (No, teachers do not need to be accomplished skateboarders or woodworkers themselves).

Ridgeway, who has managed several skateboarding companies, said he hopes to get his home school system in Huntington as well as other area schools, to be some of the first to sign up for the unique program.

Bob Martin, director for the community centers in Huntington, said it's a great honor to have back one of Huntington's own who has made such a mark in the skating world.

Already, he said that Ridgeway, who has been home part of the summer visiting his family, has helped consult with program director Chris Hillen at Fairfield East, on some of the different options for the skatepark at the community center.

The center was awarded an \$83,000 grant earlier this year to put in a skatepark at the center.

"He's really keen about coming back and helping the skateboarding scene in West Virginia and to help us keep up with the national scene," Martin said. "We're getting as many kids as possible to come out and trying to get the whole neighborhood and as many as we can in the whole Tri-State to get up there and

to enjoy the presentation."

"This is just part of our on-going efforts to get that skatepark ball rolling," Martin said. "The good thing about it is he's not only a guy that rides but he's informed about the whole West Coast scene where it is going full bore. We're just trying to

catch up, and we're trying to get the most info to make the best decisions about the skatepark. We want to make it not only as safe as possible, but as fun as

Submitted photo

Huntington native Bryan Ridgeway is the managing director for the national non-profit organization CreateAskate.

Related news from the Web Latest headlines by topic:

- Center Financial
- Skateboarding
- Extreme Sports
- Banking Financial Services

Powered by Topix.net

Join Our Herald-Dispatch Forum

Join our Forum

React to the news as you read it. Join our online conversation.

Join Our Herald-Dispatch Blogs

- Marshall Movie News
- Hot Topics
- Word on The Thundering Herd
- MU Keyboard Quarterbacks Reel Dude
- Latest Happenings: Stay Tuned
- NASCAR: At The Track
- Heart of Glass: Blenko Glass
- Tri-State Theater
- Neighborhood Issues
- Blog: The Video Game Idol Chit-Chat
- Tri-State Theater
- The Dog Blog
- The Travel Professor

Preps Central High School Sports

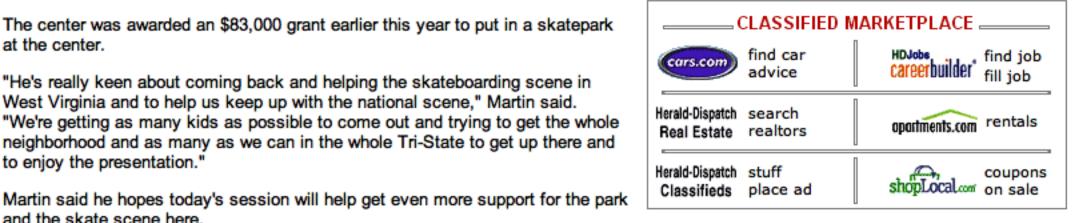
<u>Baseball</u> | <u>Softball</u>

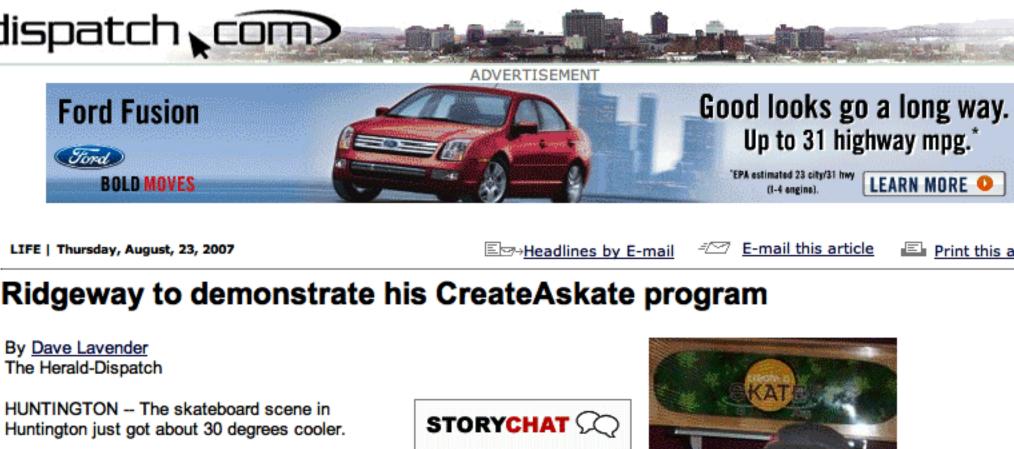
schedules, team rosters, leaders, individual statistics and past game scores

The Herald-Dispatch Wants Your Submissions

YourNews | YourPhotos | YourVideos YourRiverCities.com

Also Your Pet Photos | Also Your Sports Photos





Archive Search (1999 -) STORY SEARCH

🖲 7 Days Archive

SMTWTFS Local news

GO

W.Va. news Putnam County news Ohio news Nation/World Communities Obituaries Marshall University

Photo Galleries Video Database Library Weather

Blogs

Forums

Submit Your Media Corrections Sports High School Sports Marshall Sports

Youth Sports Business Technology Life

Health Source Tri-State Family Celebrations Schools Travel Opinion

Forum Entertainment Sudoku TV Listings Dating Dining Music Scene Outdoors

Customer Care

Subscriber Services Delivery Service Issues Temporary Stop

Account Information Renew Subscription Give-a-Gift Payment History Increase Frequency of

Delivery River Cities Printing Putnam Herald

XML RSS Feeds

PDA Site 🔝

E-NEWS Letters

TOP JOBS meraia-vispaich.com POWERED BY careerbuilder

Position: Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Location: So.Charleston,

Installer Armstrong in South Point has an opening for a full-tim

National Travel Will be

ADVERTISEMENT PROMOTE YOUR RUMMAGE SALE • SELL A PET RENT AN APARTMENT • SELL YOUR BOAT

LIFE | Saturday, August, 25, 2007

ES-Headlines by E-mail

E-mail this article



Kids learn how to create and build their own skateboard decks

By <u>Dave Lavender</u> The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- Back in the '70s, Bryan Ridgeway was in seventh grade and out playing basketball when he saw someone skateboarding.

It's been all downhill, and then, back up the other side of the half-pipe ever since.

STORYCHAT (

Join our conversation. Click here to add your view to this story



Homes Child Care Workers Provide care to Troubled teens.

\$8.65/hr, HS diploma/GED, at least 21, valid DL

> Send resume and salary requirements:

REH, HR Dept PO Box 39, Rush, KY 41168 or email Ismills@rameyestep.com the brand-new, then-outsider sport and the rest is skateboarding history.

Ridgeway, who's been involved with every aspect of professional skateboarding for more than 25 years and is now living in California, was back home Friday doing a CreateAskate workshop at Fairfield East Community Center, which is home to a soon-to-be-built skatepark.

A room jammed with about 40 kids got to see firsthand how skateboards are made as Ridgeway and his dad let the kids sand the seven maple veneer layers that were then glued and pressed into a mold to make the deck.

And they got to see a cool video in which Ridgeway's partner in CreateAskate, Paul Schmidt, who is considered by many within the billion-dollar skateboard industry to be the "Godfather" of modern-day skateboard deck manufacturing, explain how skateboards are crafted.

Schmitt would know.

His companies still make more than 4,000 skateboards a day; 200 per hour; nearly three per minute and in 2005 reached the milestone of producing its 10 millionth skateboard.

Ridgeway, a good friend of many of the main pro skateboarders and industry leaders, said he wanted to share his love with the kids back home.

"It's just such a great, progressive sport," Ridgeway said. "There's now more than 12 million skateboarders in the U.S. and another 4 million around the world in just about every country. I think it's unparalleled because you can just dream up a move in your room, step outside your house and try it. That's an incredible feeling."

Paul Taylor, 12, of Huntington, said it was cool how it was all pressed together to give it that shape.

"I thought all they did was just cut it out of wood," Taylor said. "Now, I want one of those."

Around for the past year and a half, CreateAskate is being introduced around the country giving mostly junior high and high school kids a chance to create their own personal skateboard deck using an internet-based curriculum provided through the CreateAskate.org program.

The non-profit CreateAskate program has been developed as a hands-on experience to demonstrate how a skateboard has applications for mathematics, science, language skills, and design and engineering opportunities, all wrapped into a cooperative learning experience.

Normally, the program could occupy five to 10 days of classroom time when presented for 40-80 minutes each day. The entire curriculum is easily adapted to a teacher's individual schedule and ability (No, teachers do not need to be accomplished skateboarders or woodworkers themselves).

Charlie Blac, a Marshall University student who works at A.D. Lewis Community Center, brought a number of kids who were fascinated by the afternoon workshop.

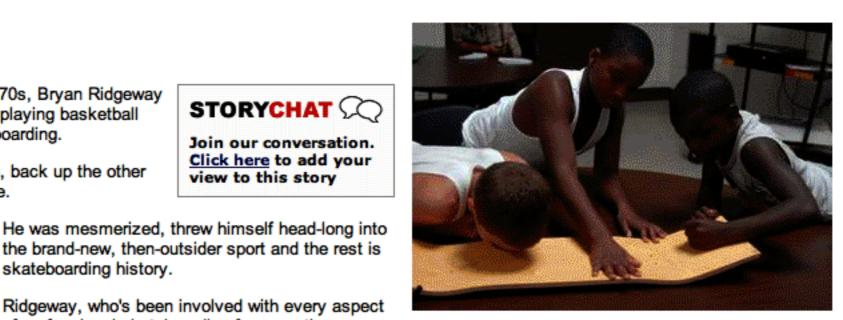
"The fact that he's coming back to help us when he doesn't have to come back, that says a lot about him," Blac said. "I know that a lot of these kids have never

touched a skateboard before."

There were also a number of Huntington's skateboarders there including Evan Tolley, 15, and Megan Longfellow, 14.

Tolley's dad, Dave, used to skate often with Ridgeway at the old Falcon skatepark in Huntington back in the day.

"Now I want to go skate with him," Evan said as Ridgeway's workshop was ending.



Chris Harris/The Herald-Dispatch

From left, Deon Jackson, John Brown, and Jeffrey Howard look over the details of an uncut skateboard during a demonstration from Bryan Ridgeway of CreateAskate at the Fairfield East Community Center on Thursday, August 23, 2007.

Related news from the Web Latest headlines by topic:

- Marshall University NCAA
- Sports
- Skateboarding
- NCAA Basketball NCAA Sports
- Extreme Sports
- Marshall Thundering Herd NCAA Basketball

Powered by Topix.net

Join Our Herald-Dispatch Forum

Join our Forum

React to the news as you read it. Join our online conversation.

Join Our Herald-Dispatch Blogs

- Marshall Movie News
- Hot Topics
- Word on The Thundering Herd
- MU Keyboard Quarterbacks
- Reel Dude
- Latest Happenings : Stay Tuned
- NASCAR: At The Track
- Heart of Glass: Blenko Glass Tri-State Theater
- Blog: The Video Game
- Idol Chit-Chat
- Tri-State Theater
- The Dog Blog The Travel Professor

Preps Central High School Sports

<u>Baseball</u> | <u>Softball</u>

schedules, team rosters, leaders, individual statistics and past game scores

The Herald-Dispatch Wants Your Submissions

YourNews | YourPhotos | YourVideos YourRiverCities.com

Also Your Pet Photos | Also Your Sports Photos

