

CHILDREN'S THEATER

West Union Parks and Recreation Department

By Kathy Guyer, Director

The West Union Park and Recreation Department is also hosting the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) August 4-9, 2008. This is an extremely unique experience for the department.

The weeklong event will be open to children in first grade through high school. A total of 50-60 youth will be in the performance. The participants will conclude their educational experience with two performances of "Rumpelstiltskin" at the North Fayette Performing Arts and Education Center.

The MCT will arrive on Sunday, August 3, 2008, and will bring all the props, costumes, and scenery needed for the full-length production of "Rumpelstiltskin". Auditions will be held on Monday with rehearsals held every day of the week from approximately 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also included will be 3 workshops of our choice. These workshops may include applying makeup, starting your own community theatre, Acting 101, among many other topics. The choice of workshop topics is ours.

MCT was developed in 1970 by Jim Caron and Don Collins in Missoula, Montana. The duo organized a company of adults who conducted plays for children on a makeshift stage in a local movie theatre.

During the early 1970s the company began to use kids as cast members when it seemed appropriate. In 1972 the directors were astonished when 450 children arrived for a tryout for "Snow White" in Miles City, MT, which is located approximately 500 miles from Missoula.

The major interest shared by the kids, parents, and teachers during that production is credited for opening the doors of the future for MCT. In addition to its own community theatre, the company now hosts an international tour and performing arts camps.

The MCT's mission is the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts. MCT's visit to West Union is August coincides with a similar MCT program in Cedar Rapids.