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FAMILY

## Kids fest honors Whatcom County youths

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The 19th annual Bellingham Kids Festival honored Whatcom County youths with a fun-filled day Saturday, Aug. 2, in Bloedel Donovan Park.

Thousands of kids enjoyed sack races, bean-bag tosses, a petting zoo and a performance by

"It's a day to honor Whatcom County kids," said Cori Kauk, who organized the event for the Bellingham Department. "Everything was free - it's just a day of fun in the park."

Kauk said the event, which used to be at Civic Stadium, continues to get bigger each year. She handles the extra events and booths.

The event also kicked off a campaign to get more kids health-insurance coverage.

The Washington Apple Health for Kids program had a booth and provided information to parents.

The program is part of a statewide effort to make sure that 75,000 more kids receive health insurance through the state's Medicaid director.

James and Traci Boyd have their two sons, Tyler and Chaz, covered with health insurance through

They recently moved to the area and wouldn't start receiving health insurance from James Boyd for a year.

"I searched and searched and didn't know what to do," Traci Boyd said. "I didn't think we could receive it and it's a big relief."

The state Legislature approved funding for the efforts in its 2007 session. State Rep. Kelli Linville and said she will work to keep it well-funded despite the projected budget shortfall that will likely

"Covering all kids with health care is the first step to ensuring they will be healthy and will do what you have a shortfall it's going to be a challenge. This is a good short-term investment for a long

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