Ice cream; they scream for sun, profit

By Jennifer Young

Local Baskin-Robbins franchises are feeling financially "under the weather" this summer because of gray skies.

According to the National Weather Service, there were a total of 19 cloudy days, six partly cloudy, and only six clear days in the month of July.

"We are definitely a sunshineoriented business. Sales picked up earlier in the year, maybe because of spring, but there has been a definite drop in business," says Mary Jean Poppin, manager of the Baskin-Robbins River Road franchise.

"We miss the spontaneous

customers; those who come in on the spur of the moment because of hot weather," says Mark Mattson, Baskin-Robbins' Coburg road store manager.

With the absence of hot weather for this summer, Carol Walker, owner of the campus' Baskin-Robbins, hopes for a fall sales rush.

"September and October were great months last year," according to Walker.

But sales have been sporadic this summer, she says.

"TAG (Talented and Gifted) camps and track camps have been good business," says Walker. And ice cream pies cut into eight pieces are a big seller. "I've sold at least two pies a day," she says.

Noting the obvious increase in business on hot days, Walker knows which products move faster. "Freezes" and "Ices" are popular when the mercury rises while concoctions with alcoholic connotations, such as a "Daquari Ice", seem to be preferred by the University student population most any time, says Walker.

Undaunted by the temporary sales slump, Mattson is convinced that an economic recovery is coming soon.

Predictions are for low sales to move out and profits to shine through for Eugene's ice cream vendors — weather permitting.



Photo by Mark Pynes

lce cream sales around town haven't been quadrupaling but neither have the number of sunny days.

Eugene weather won't dampen spirits at County Fair

By Michele Matassa

Put on your walking boots, pull out your prize winning preserves and pray for clear skies. The County Fair starts Tuesday, whether or not the weather cooperates.

The inconsistent weather we've had since June hasn't dampened the spirits of Lane County Fair Manager Steve McCulloch, who expects a crowd equal to last year's

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350,000 fairgoers.

And if it does pour?

"There's nothing I can do about that. I refuse to worry about things I have no control over," he says.

Apparently, local fairgoers aren't too upset over the weather, either.

The evening shows of Johnny and June Carter Cash and of Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers sold out two weeks before showtime.

Those popular acts, slated for Tuesday and Wednesday, are the only shows McCulloch expects to sell out, however.

The arena building at the

fairgrounds holds 6,000 people, so it is "very seldom," that a show sells out, McCulloch says.

Tickets now are on sale "live and direct" at the arena — not by mail or phone order — so people can choose what seats they want, he says.

Johnny Cash and the Gatlin Brothers will perform at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., as will Andy Williams, Tammy Wynette and Hoyt Axton on Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

Lou Rawls will perform Aug. 21 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission for all shows is \$1.

McCulloch says the only ohange this year's fairgoers will see is the addition of commercial and homemade wine exhibits and contests.

"Major changes create major problems," McCulloch says, referring to construction done in 1979 and 1980.

Those two fairs were "the hardest fairs we ever had" because people had to find new locations for exhibit and commercial booths, he says.

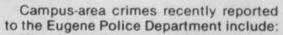
The Lane County Fairboard has bought Lane Transit District services for the week, providing free bus rides all over town. The fairboard started free bus service last year and it was a huge success, McCulloch says.

Shuttles to the fairgrounds will leave the depot at 10th Avenue and Willamette Street and deposit passengers at the fair gates. This will save fairgoers a \$2 parking fee and a lot of time, McCulloch says.

Admission into the fair will be \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for students age 10 to 15. Those under 10 will be admitted free.

Season passes cost \$8.50 for adults and \$5.50 for 10- to 15-year-olds.

Police beat



Nine large sheets of upholstery foam worth \$823 reportedly were stolen from the physical plant's upholstery shop between July 2 and July 18, Officer Mike Larion said. There are no suspects in the theft of the sheets.

An Olivetti electric typewriter worth about \$400 reportedly was stolen from the Student Bar Association office in the Law School between July 15 and July 21, Larion said. The typewriter may be marked with a University identification number, he said.

A microphone valued at \$175 reportedly was stolen from Room 177 Lawrence, a large campus lecture hall, on July 18. Police have no suspects in the theft.

A Fotomat employee found a note warning her of a bomb planted within the tiny store at 1361 Alder St. when she came to work about 10 a.m. on July 18, Larion said.

Ten minutes later, the woman received three phone calls warning her to leave the booth or the bomb would explode. Police found no bomb in the photo processing booth.

A sign that read "Manager's" reportedly was stolen from the Alder Street quads at 1461 Alder St. between midnight and 9 a.m. on July 17, police said. The 1½-foot by 2-foot black sign had been screwed into the ground with heavy iron legs.

A student's wallet reportedly was stolen from a Mac Court basketball court while the student was playing basketball in the same room on July 19, police said. The wallet, which contained \$5, some credit cards and identification, had been left in the student's jeans, which he took off so he could play in shorts.

A 10-speed bicycle reportedly was stolen while it was locked by cable to a motorcycle at 1886 University St. between 11 p.m. July 23 and 10 p.m. July 24. The Raleigh boy's bike was worth \$270, police said

A bicycle derailer was taken from a bike while the bike was locked to a staircase outside the owner's apartment at 1750 Alder St. between 11 p.m. July 25 and 10:30 a.m. July 26, police said. The derailer, valued at \$90, shifts a bicycle's gears.

Compiled by Joan Herman

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