



File photo

A crowd of 125,000 is expected at this year's Eugene Celebration, which begins today and runs through Sunday.

Eugene Celebration starts today

Food, entertainment fill weekend

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Reporter

The seventh annual Eugene Celebration, a three-day extravaganza expected to draw a crowd of 125,000, gets under way today.

Celebration-goers can eat, drink and make merry at events ranging from bed races to elephant rides. More serious sports enthusiasts can skateboard, bicycle, jet ski or run in competitions throughout the weekend.

For those who prefer a slower pace, the Lane County Literary Guild is featuring a poetry reading by Madeline Defrees in the Hult Center Soreng Theater, 1 Eugene Centre, or the Mayor's Art Show in the Hult Center Lobby.

Over five dozen bands will provide free entertainment on five stages: the Fifth Avenue Stage at Oak Street offers a jazz festival Friday and Saturday.

Another stage is at Eugene Water and Electric Board's open house, 500 E. Fourth Ave.

Friday September 29

Before the Key Bank Opening Ceremonies kick things off at 6 p.m. at the Eighth Avenue Stage, food booths will open at 12 p.m., and the Northwest Saddlebred Association Fall Classic and Futurity Show will begin at the Lane County Fairgrounds at 1:30.

The opening ceremonies will feature Mayor Jeff Miller, the University Marching Band and Inspirational Sounds, a gospel choir. Thousands of biodegradable balloons, originally scheduled to be released into the air, will remain earthbound due to environmental and safety concerns.

Entertainment

The following is a partial listing of the free concerts offered.

8:45 p.m. Curtis Salgado and the Stilettoes with special surprise guest on the Eighth and

Willamette stage.
7 and 9 p.m. Etouffee and Affinity on the Hult Plaza Stage.
9:30 p.m. Poli Chavez and his Coronados, Latin jazz on the Fifth Avenue Stage.

Saturday Sept. 30

About 175 floats, bands and marching entries will wind

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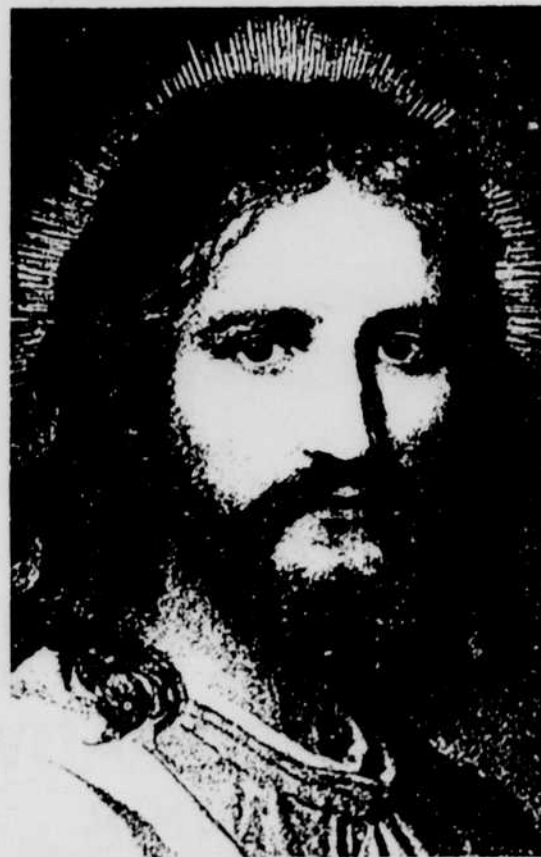
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By GARY LARSON



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