

## WHILE YOU WERE AWAY



File Photo

The Oregon Country Fair, held near Veneta the first week of July, offered unique food, crafts and entertainment.

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Reporter

If you ever thought Eugene was dead during the summer, you were right. Alive, but very, very Dead.

The Grateful Dead and opener Little Feat attracted more than 65,000 fans to Eugene for two shows June 23 and 24. They came from all over the country to see the bands play, packing Autzen Stadium with

numbers reaching the 60,000 mark. Approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Dead-heads jammed the areas around the stadium to listen to the music and soak up the warm June sun.

Battling the hot weather, crowded parking lots and long lines, concert-goers were able to keep their cool and the concert went off without any incidence of violence.

However, Eugene police reported approximately 30 drug

arrests, mostly for LSD, mushrooms and marijuana, outside the concert.

The concerts pumped over \$1 million into the Eugene economy from concert-goer purchases, tickets and parking fees. The University Athletic Department received about \$220,000 for its role in promoting and hosting the event.

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The 21st Annual Oregon Country Fair also attracted thousands of people to a meadow outside of Veneta, July 12 to 14. Three days of music, vaudeville, food and more than 300 booths featuring arts and crafts were featured at the event.

The Lane Transit District provided free rides to the fair for people who purchased advanced tickets.

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Blues fans were dealt a blow July 10 when the popular blues tavern Taylor's closed its doors for the last time. Open since the early '70s, Taylor's had been home to an array of local bands and nationally known blues acts including Grammy-Award-Winner Robert Cray.

Taylor's owner Dave Dingman closed the popular night-spot and cited a lack of growth potential and a possible future inability to cover the costs of its operation as major factors in his decision.

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The Lane County Fair attracted hordes of thrill seekers to the Lane County Fairgrounds Aug. 14-19. Food booths, rides, live entertainment, crafts and demonstration booths were featured.

Fair-goers battled cloudbursts and thunderstorms to attend the six day event.

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Blues guitar great Bo Diddley performed with local favorite Curtis Salgado and Junior Walker and the Allstars for the first annual Eugene Blues Festival at Alton Baker Park Saturday, August 25.

Hundreds of blues fans lined the grassy areas around the park's Cuthbert Amphitheatre to enjoy the all-day event.

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Ziggy Marley, son of deceased reggae legend Bob Marley, and his band the Melody Makers rocked the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall Aug. 27.

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