

## Eugene festivals give fair choices

By Tim Neff  
Emerald Associate Editor

There's a fair for just about everyone this summer in Eugene.

Depending on their personal tastes, fairgoers can check out a vaudeville performance at the Oregon Country Fair, drop in on a hockey tournament at the Lane County Fair, or watch a parade at the Eugene Celebration.

But whatever draws people to Eugene-area festivals this summer, they're sure to get their fill of food booths, live music and other familiar fair attractions.

The Oregon Country Fair, which runs July 10-12, packages traditional fair elements with a Woodstock atmosphere.

This 23-year-old event offers 250 craft booths, 50 outdoor restaurants and 10 music stages in a wooded setting 13 miles west of Eugene near Veneta.

At the heart of the fair is the Community Village and Energy park. The Community Village is the site of the demonstrations, workshops and music by 20 peace, justice, education and communications-oriented non-profit organizations. In the Energy Park, fairgoers can see alternative energy displays, hear music or take a solar shower.

The Country Fair offers more than 100 musical performances by a wide variety of artists. This year's roster includes appearances by the Crazy B's, Musango, Dead Ringers and the Ron Lloyd Band.

As always, vaudeville performers will turn out en masse for the three-day fair. Fairgoers can take in wacky, off-balance performances by Dr. Atomic's Medicine Show, UMO, Annanibus and Radar Angels.

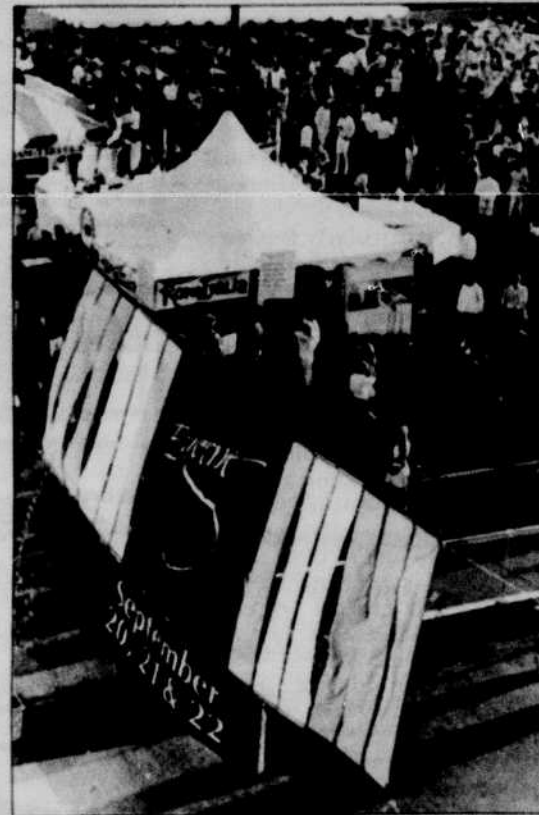
Admission is \$7 Friday, \$10 Saturday and \$8 Sunday at the gate. The fair is wheelchair-accessible and sign interpreters are available. Free round-trip buses leave regularly from Eugene.

The Lane County Fair, Aug. 18-23, weighs in as Oregon's largest county fair. Located on West 13th Avenue, the six-day event features agricultural displays, live music, food booths and ice skating shows.

The theme of this year's fair is "Barn Appetit," a questionable pun that alludes to the event's agricultural focus. A livestock building will house barnyard animals of every ilk, including miniature horses, draft horses, pygmy goats, sheep, cows and bunnies.

The fair will also take full advantage of the Lane County Ice Arena. Performances are scheduled by several top-notch ice skaters, including 1992 Olympic medalists Paul Wylie, Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler.

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The Oregon Country Fair (top) and the Eugene Celebration (above) are just two of several local festivals that add color to Lane County summers.

The third annual Lane County Fair Invitational Hockey Tournament begins Thursday, Aug. 20, with the championship game scheduled Sunday afternoon.

An outdoor stage will play host to a wide variety of performances beginning each day at 11 a.m. Live music and dancing is featured each night from 6-10:30.

The Expo Hall will have model railroaders, an antique car show and an artisan's studio where artists can be watched while they work on their crafts.

The Exhibit Hall will house hundreds of consumer booths. More booths, the midway and more than 60 food pavilions take up the outside grounds.

Admission for adults 16 and over is \$5 each day. Students ages 10-15 get in for \$3. The fair is free for children under 10. Bus transportation is free to the fair.

The Eugene Celebration, which runs Sept. 18-20, ushers out the summer with a citywide slate of activities. The event turns the downtown area into a maze of art displays, music stages, open-air bazaars, athletic events and food booths.

Event organizers have given this year's celebra-

# Summer in the CITY



## Summer in Oregon means hitting the outdoors

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Associate Editor

Ah, the joys of summer. A chance to kick back, relax and soak up some rays. Many students, however, may have trouble fitting some fun in the sun into their busy schedules what with juggling summer school and summer jobs.

But there is hope for harried students. A number of fun outdoor activities can be fit into even the busiest of schedules.

The University's Outdoor Program gives students the chance to participate in outdoor activities, whether they have only a day or a whole month, said Dan Geiger, assistant coordinator.

The Outdoor Program has three weekly one-day trips: mountain biking on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., wind surfing every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and rafting trips Fridays at 9 a.m. Other rafting trips last anywhere from three days to three weeks and take place all summer long.

The Outdoor Program gives students a wide range of options this summer for ways to have fun in the sun, Geiger said. However, if you can't find exactly what you want on the trip board, a solution is within reach, he said.

"Anybody can come in and initiate a trip," he said. "In fact, that's how our program runs. It's as easy as that — inviting other people to go with you on your trip."

Students don't have to shell out a fortune to participate in a trip through the Outdoor Program, Geiger said. Mountain biking costs as little as \$3 and one-day rafting costs about \$7.

The longer the trip, the more

students generally get from the experience, Geiger said.

"It's a release from the weekly routine — study, eat, go to school — and gives you a sense of adventure," Geiger said. "To others, it's spiritual. It's a way of overcoming risks and fears."

"It's the expedition-type trips that make an impact," he said. "The trip to the Queen Charlotte Islands (a three-week sailing trip that leaves Eugene August 28) is the trip of a lifetime. It can change someone's life."

The Outdoor Program can also be used as a resource center for campers who may want information about fire hazards and campgrounds, Geiger said.

When the sun heats up, water always offers a refreshing dose of relief. But for those who aren't in the mood to get wet, canoeing and kayaking are fun alternatives to swimming.

The EMU Waterworks Canoe Company, better known as the Canoe House, rents out canoes and kayaks from an hour to a weekend, said Linda Burdwell, a canoe attendant at the Canoe House, which is located right by the Eugene Millrace at 1395 Franklin Blvd.

"It's nice to go around in a canoe with your friends," Burdwell said. "It's fun to figure out how to get around in a canoe."

There is plenty of wildlife to see along the two-and-a-half-mile-long Millrace, Burdwell said, adding that ducks, geese and nutria are among the Millrace's most common inhabitants.

Canoe and kayak rentals cost \$3.65 an hour per boat and \$14 a day, Burdwell said. People who take the boats off the Millrace



must pay a \$30 refundable deposit.

Students may cringe at the thought, but one of the coolest things to do this summer involves learning a new skill. However, the skills students can learn through the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department don't include the quadratic formula or the way to ask for directions to the bathroom in Spanish.

Instead, the park department gives people a chance to learn how to mountain bike, windsurf or a number of other great activities to do when the sun is out, said Carrie Matsushito, park depart-

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Water sports like rafting (top) or even canoeing in the Millrace (above) are popular ways to cool down during the torrid days of summer.

## Fourth in USA means time to chill

By Mike Freeman  
Emerald Contributor

So here we are in Eugene for the summer — and for some of us, even beyond those summer months. School is out. Summer school is in. It's hotter than hell (with that slight chance of rain), and the day of patriotic expression and forest fires is upon us.

For a relatively small city, Eugene certainly has all kinds of fun stuff for Lane County residents to do as they enjoy their Americanism and Henry's.

Always the time to run, July 4 brings on the annual "Butte to Butte" 10k run. Actually, the course of the run has changed in the past few years, so now it's not really "Butte to Butte."

The race begins at 8 a.m. sharp at 11th Avenue and Pearl Street and continues in a more circular (and urban) path, finishing at Eighth Avenue and Oak Street.

For what the nation's first commercial fibert orchard bills as an "old fashioned" summer, Dorris Ranch in

Springfield will hold an ice cream social from noon to four p.m. You can bring a picnic, listen to the fiddlin' of the "The Best Bets" and the five-piece brass band "Der Bohemian Brass" and enjoy scoops of Baskin Robbins ice cream.

General admission is \$5, seniors get in for \$3.50 and kids for a mere two bucks.

Maude Kearns Art Gallery sponsors its annual "Art in the Vineyard" at Alton Baker Park. This event brings together artists from around the state to display their crafts. Patrons can listen to jazz, blues and country music amid 20 or so food booths and taste wine from participating merchants.

The event is the art center's annual fundraiser and a donation of \$2 is requested.

As for fireworks, they've been banned until July 4, but aren't the really fun ones the ones professionals do anyway? Sparklers just don't cut it anymore.

Autzen Stadium will have a fantastic

display beginning at about 9:30 p.m. The gates will open at 6 and admission is \$5 a carload. As always, no glass or alcoholic beverages are permitted.

For more explosive entertainment, fireworks will follow the Saturday evening Eugene Emerald's baseball game at Civic Stadium.

So, it's the country's birthday, and in a time when it seems as if America is shrouded in a climate of bleak situations and bad attitudes, take time this weekend to chill.

Yes, we're in Eugene — not exactly the vortex of activity, but it's not exactly the armpit either. There are lots of fun activities around town and opportunities to enjoy time with friends and family.

Perhaps the most important thing we can remember this weekend as we take a gander up at the sky (and hope that nothing lands in the south hills) is that things can really only get better from here.



Eugene's Concerts in the Parks series is a relaxing way to while away your evenings.

## Music lovers should flip over local tunes on tap

By Mindy Nix  
Emerald Contributor

With the recent heat wave, many people are finding themselves braving the elements, searching for fun and entertainment. Music and dance are often a part of it, but tickets are usually expensive and not all music and dance is for everyone.

However, this summer in Eugene, there is something for everyone and much of it is free.

Eugene Concerts in the Parks will begin July 8 and run through August 19. The concerts are free, outdoors and offer great entertainment from rock to reggae, blues to bluegrass, folk to cajun, acoustic to gospel.

The concerts will be at Westmoreland Park (1545 West 22nd Ave.) Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. July 8-29; Amazon Park (2700 Hilyard St.) Thursdays 6-8 p.m. July 9 - Aug. 13; Washburn Park (Agate Street at East 19th) Sundays 6-7 p.m., July 12 - Aug. 16; and Petersen Park (870 Berntzen Road) Wednesdays 6-8 p.m., Aug. 5-10.

Eugene Concerts in the Parks have been an annual event for about 20 years. Depending on the weather and the area of town, audience size ranges from 150 to 2,000 people. The informal park atmosphere allows people to get up and dance or just lean

back and listen to local musicians, both amateur and professional.

Dance band Art Grooveaux opens the series with vocal harmonies, saxophone and guitar solos and a solid backbeat Wednesday, July 8 at Westmoreland Park. They combine elements of rock, jazz, fusion, soul and R&B. They'll play tunes by Chaka Kahn, Marvin Gaye, Soul II Soul, Joan Armitrading and David Sanborn, as well as their own inspiring originals.

Li'l Lynne and the Smokin' Soles will heat up the night with rhythm and blues, Thursday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Amazon Park. Li'l Lynne moves audiences with her animated voice while long-time veteran of the Eugene music scene Phil Wagner (Suburban Slim) blends and highlights the music on his guitar. Together they're known for their dynamic vocals, showmanship, and friendly rapport with audiences, backed up by the Smokin' Soles. They've played at the WOW Hall, Harpo's Blue Note Cafe as well as the Rose City Blues Festival in Portland.

For the classical music lover, the Emerald Chamber Players and special guest artists will entertain Sunday picnickers with woodwind quin-

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## Local vintners give residents something to wine about

By Jacqueline Woge  
Emerald Reporter

With mild winters, rugged slopes and summer sun, Western Oregon is a prime region for growing wine. Recognizing this potential, wine aficionados are planting vineyards and curing wines throughout the greater Willamette Valley, including Lane County.

Traditionally, where there is wine, there are also wine appreciation festivals. Honoring this sacred tradition, Lane County vintners sponsor numerous celebrations throughout the year.

As a fine time for get-togethers,

picnicking and general relaxation, summer sees a number of fine gatherings.

One of the larger festivals of the season, the 9th annual Art and the Vineyard, a benefit for the nonprofit Maude Kerns Art Center, takes place July 3 and 5 at Alton Baker Park beneath the Ferry Street Bridge.

The festival has everything from an artist's marketplace, a sculpture park, a children's hands-on art arena, food vendors, an art-for-your-garden display, an opportunity for amateur artists to team up with professionals, an artist's pavilion of display-only works, and of course,

wine-tasting, at \$.25 or \$.50 per taste.

The roster of participating all-Oregon vineyards and wineries includes: Amity, Airlie, Hinman, Houston, Oregon Cellars, Serendipity, Spring Hill, Willamette Valley, Honeywood and Secret House.

While booth fees, etc. support the festival itself, the suggested donation, \$2 for individuals and \$5 for families, directly supports a large percent of the art center's budget, including exhibitions and classes.

Three weekends later, on Saturday, July 25, Hinman Vineyards hosts the Summertime Celebration, a coming out party for its newest releases. This year's debutantes are

the 1991 white riesling, Gewurztraminer and the vineyard's first pinot gris.

Located at 27012 Briggs Hill Rd., Hinman's will offer case discounts, food tasting, places to picnic, music, and a chance to visit with winemaker, Joe Dobbs, who will be giving tastes of the vineyard's newer red wines. Admission is free.

August 1, from 1 to 10 p.m., Secret House Vineyard will dance to the Hambocks, a local band and to Lloyd Jones Struggle, a blues/jazz band from Portland.

The Keystone Cafe, Lovin Oven, Porter's Woodsmoke Bar-b-que, and L & L Mobile Foods will be selling

food. Kids can bob for apples, dunk as-yet-unnamed targets, cornshuck race, bat pinatas and watch clowns and magic.

A percentage of all wine bottles sold, the dunk tank, and the \$5 cover charge benefits Womenspace, a local Women's shelter.

Secret House Vineyards sits 2.4 miles west of Veneta on Highway 126, just past the Oregon Country Fairgrounds. For more information, contact 935-3774.

The second August event, Winetasia, takes place August 8 at Hinman Vineyards. Ambrosia, Hilton, Oregon Electric Station, Valley River Inn, Jazz Station Cafe, Red

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