

# Eugene

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believed corporate sponsors would take over the festival, resulting in a loss of community spirit. More controversy arose when Centennial Bank signed a three-year contract to sponsor the festival.

City Councilor Betty Taylor, who has seen every festival since she moved to Eugene in 1983, said the event was "more open and free" before DEMI took over.

"I thought it was really great when the city sponsored it," she said.

The festival faced yet another setback in 1999 when legendary parade performers "the Rickies" disbanded.

The Rickies, an anonymous group, gained fame through humorous and politically incorrect antics during the annual parade. In 1995, a complaint was filed with the city Human Rights Commission after the Rickies performed "Pope George Ringo." The charges were later dropped and the group won \$200 from parade judges for the performance.

Last year, the Sept. 11 attacks changed the mood of the festival and created a few problems. The cheerful spirit usually dominating the festival was hampered, and the headlining band, "They Might Be Giants," canceled its appearance. A candlelight vigil was also held to remember lives lost in the attack.

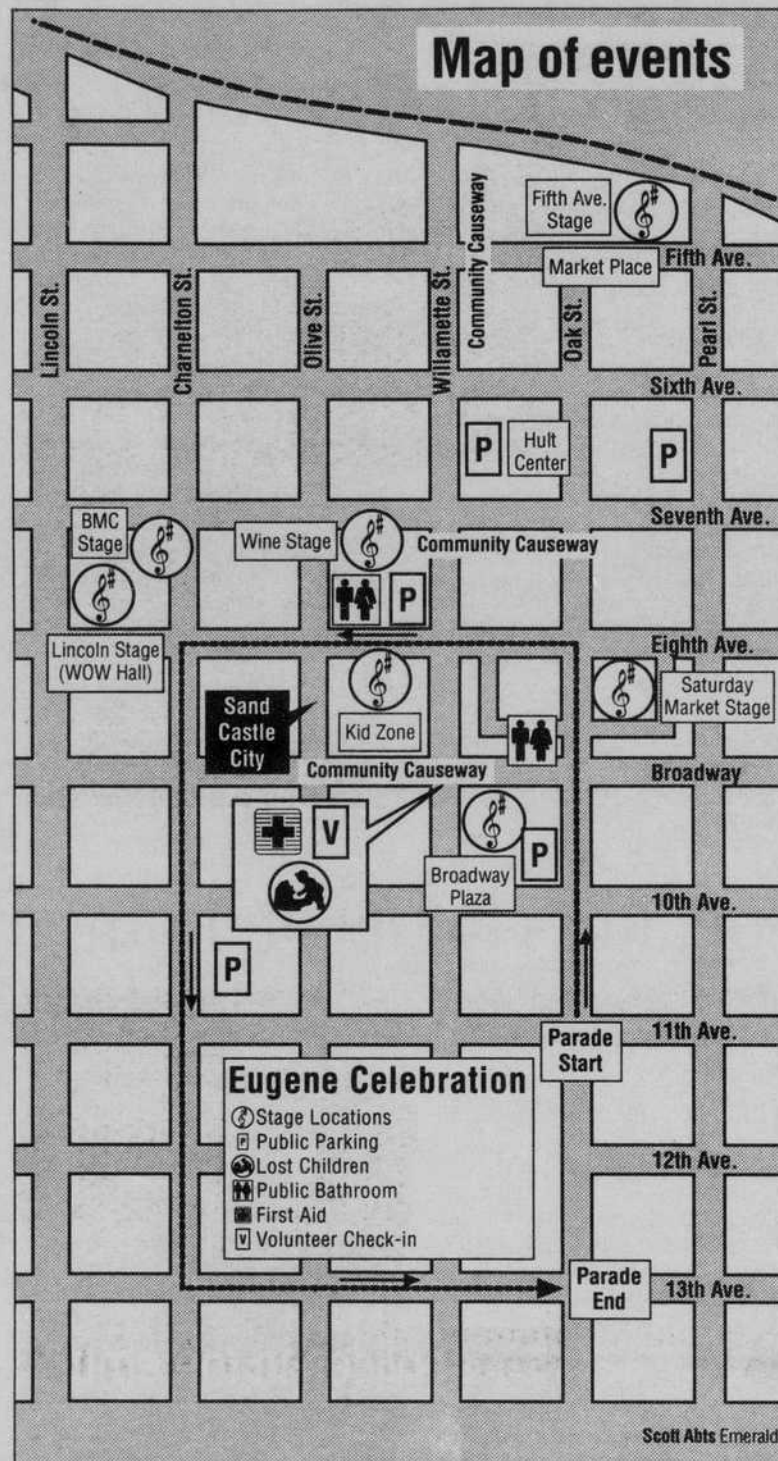
This year, the festival will feature

a special venue with 100 non-profit organizations, a large KidZone, a community and pet parade, a Mayor's art show and numerous food and beverage options.

Scheduled music performances include: the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Austin Lounge Lizards, Lloyd Jones, Dahlia, Guarneri Underground, Perla Batalla, Swing Shift with Cami Thompson, Tempest, Henry Cooper and Satin Love Orchestra.

Admission is \$8 for advance tickets and \$10 at the gate, and the admission cost covers all three days of the event. Children 12 and younger are admitted for free.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.



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