

Festivals

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The event will exhibit some of Knievel's most famous motorcycles and memorabilia, and visitors will have a chance to meet the man himself. Also planned is a concert with Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

Knievel spokesman Bill Rundle said in a prepared statement that Knievel was proud of his hometown.

"Evel left Butte to do such famous stunts as the bus jump at Wembley Stadium in London ... and the jump across the Snake River Canyon in Idaho, but he never let anyone forget where he came from," he said.

The celebration is timed to catch motorcycle enthusiasts traveling on their way to Sturgis, the nation's largest biker festival, in South Dakota.

For more information, visit www.knievelweek.com or call (888) 782-3835.

Sturgis Rally, Aug. 5 to 11

Sturgis is legend. For six days, bikers of every shape, size and persuasion descend upon Sturgis, S.D., to engage in as much over-the-top biker excitement as the law will allow. Bikes, vendors and rock 'n' roll come together for the ultimate rally vacation.

This year marks the 62nd annual Sturgis Rally, and some of the camps (over time, groups of people have camped together and built traditional groupings of campgrounds, food, entertainment and events that happen only in their camps) have been organized and rallying for more than 20 years consecutively.

With names like The Buffalo Chip Campground, Hog Heaven and the Jackpine Gypsies, these camps mean serious biker business.

Contests run the gamut from The World Pickle Lickin' Federation's Pickle Lickin' Contest, Thanks for the Mammaries Silicone Contest, Topless Drags and the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Buffalo Feed.

Be warned, the police are prepared; the Sturgis Web site prominently lists the fines for popular violations of the law.

For more information, visit www.sturgis-rally.com or call (605) 642-8166.

Elephant Garlic Festival, Aug. 16 to 18

According to the Fifth Annual Elephant Garlic Festival, in North Plains, "Fun stinks!" That's the slogan of this three-day event celebrating all things elephant garlic. The focus of the festival, according to volunteer Loyd Hubbard, is food — garlic food — with 20 food booths featuring products such as garlic pancakes, deep-fried garlic chips, garlic ice cream, garlic lemonade and garlic lattes and garlic wine.

The festival also focuses on physical shape, with the Elephant Garlic Emperor and Empress contest, which rewards the people whose body most closely resembles the stinky herb.

Hubbard said this year's event features an expanded children's program, with puppet shows, balloon acts, juggling and ventriloquism.

"Kids will rule at this festival," he said.

For more information, call (888) 771-3708.

-Burning Man Festival, Aug. 26 to Sept. 2

Burning Man is becoming legend. Now in its 17th year, this arts-and-freaks festival, held on a monstrously large, dry lake bed in Nevada, is a community of more than 25,000 people that gather each year in the desert to partici-



Courtesy photo

A young cowgirl strikes a pose during the kids parade at the Bohemia Mining Days.

pate and interact with each other in a very different way than occurs in what veterans call "the real world."

Like Sturgis, Burning Man is organized into camps. Participants create their theme camp and are responsible for bringing everything they might need for survival in the desert. Beyond that basic structure of the city's roads and portable toilets, the event's organizers don't allow vending or provide food or entertainment. It's up to each attendee to create entertainment. Basically, everyone gathers together and plays.

As the festival's Web site explains, "You belong here and you participate. You're not the weirdest kid in the classroom — there's always somebody there who's thought up something you never even considered. You're there to breathe art. Imagine an ice sculpture emitting glacial music — in the desert."

For more information, visit www.burningman.com or call (415) 863-5263.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, through November

Officially born on July 2, 1935, Oregon's annual tribute to the classic playwright is world-renown. In Sept. 2001, the festival welcomed its 10 millionth ticketholder.

The festival is held in scenic Ashland and features a constantly-changing lineup of plays, directors and actors. Over the years, the festival has videotaped productions for the Lincoln Center and performed at the Kennedy Center. In the past 10 years, organizers have completed two multimillion dollar expansion and renovation projects. The event long ago expanded beyond Shakespeare's works, and it is now known for introducing new works and innovative productions of classic works.

In Oregon theater, there is no substitute for the Shakespeare Festival, and this season's productions began in February and continue through November. Some of this year's highlights are Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and "Titus Andronicus."

For more information, visit www.orshakes.org or call (541) 482-4331.

State and County Fairs

These classics of Americana need no introduction; come in and have some cotton candy. Here's a sampling of fairs in Oregon:

- Marion County Fair, July 11 to 14, in Salem, call (503) 585-9998
- Multnomah County Fair, July 16 to 18, in Portland, call (503) 233-5777
- Jackson county Fair, July 16 to 21, in Central Point, call (541) 774-8270
- Crook County Fair, July 17 to 21, in Prineville, call (541) 447-6575
- Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo, July 19 to 21, in McMinnville, call (541) 447-6575
- Benton County Fair and rodeo,

July 30 to Aug. 3, in Corvallis, call (541) 757-1521

• Clatsop County Fair, July 30 to Aug. 3, in Astoria, call (503) 325-4600

• Baker County Fair, July 31 to Aug. 4, in Baker City, call (541) 523-7881

• Lane County Fair, Aug. 13 to 18, in Eugene, call (541) 682-4292

Contact the editor in chief at editor@dailymerald.com.

Festivals strengthen community ties

Festivals, and the cultures that accompany them, seem to be a part of human nature. Early accounts of human gatherings contain festival-like descriptions, and academic research about festivals includes phrases such as "cultural and behavioral consonance" and "economic geography."

The Free Festival movement in Britain, which arguably began in earnest on the Isle of Wight with Hawkwind concerts in the late 1960s, moved the alternative-culture festival scene forward dramatically.

In America, The Grateful Dead — and the jam rock bands that followed its touring model — developed an alternative-culture scene of its own, developing a nomadic band of festival-goers that crisscross the country looking for the miracle of a free ticket.

American mainstream culture has also solidified its own festival format. Carnivals and fairs have been held in America for more than 100 years, celebrating farming and showmanship. Legends of

shifty barkers and too-incredible-to-be-believed sideshow acts by the hundreds accompany the reality of homespun crafts, agriculture, corn dogs and Ferris wheels.

Stereotypes abound about wild behavior at festivals, as though they are deeply connected to the human need for chaos. These archetypes exist in the counter culture are rampant in mainstream culture as well. From toothless "carnies" using methamphetamines so they can work 18-hour days to dirty "crusties" taking hallucinogenics as they follow jam rock bands, the images fill people's minds with disgust, excitement or both.

Festivals seem to play an important role in building community, as farmers share their crops with urban-dwelling neighbors and alternative-culture lovers find places to stay and people to trust. Nearly anyone can find festivals to build their community and find release from the daily grind. Try an Internet search with those keywords — the links are almost endless.

—Michael J. Kleckner

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MATH 95	Intermediate Algebra	Loft	42201	102 DEA
PS 205	Introduction to International Relations	Hartwig	42210	189 PLC
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