

NEWS

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A new spin on an old favorite

The annual Lane County Fair is set to begin Tuesday and will feature traditional activities, as well as a few new ones

by Jenni Schultz
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Noble Wheeler was a young man in 1922, he began showcasing chickens at the Lane County Fair. Since then, the fair has grown into something catered to more than just farmers, but to Wheeler, farming and agriculture are still "what the fair is all about."

The 89-year-old farmer is now the sheep and swine superintendent, and he estimates that 225 sheep and 25 hogs will be shown at this year's fair, which begins Tuesday. He remembers when the fair was centered around farming and agriculture, but he concedes that "things have changed" and the fair might "need the other stuff, too."

Aside from the bustle of agricultural attractions at this year's fair, there will be auditions for the "got milk?" campaign, a real stagecoach from Wells Fargo, midway games and rides, fried food, wine tasting and more.

"There are quite a few new and different things this year," fair spokeswoman Carrie Matsushita said. She particularly stressed the talent show and the National Dairy Council's mobile "got milk?" contest.

There will be two winners of this national competition; one will be a guest on MTV's "Total Request Live" and the other will be featured in an ad in Rolling Stone magazine.

The annual Dress-Up Parade for Dairy Goats is Saturday at 5 p.m. Yes, that's right, owners and goats don costumes and compete for the Best Dressed award.

Dairy goats superintendent Shirley Gardner began the parade a few years ago after seeing a similar contest at a fair in Idaho. Gardner, an fair veteran of 31 years, will be supervising approximately 300 goats this year.

Her area will also feature a goat cheese contest and a demonstration on how to separate goat milk, which is harder to do because it is not homogenized, she said. She may also churn some fresh butter.

The fair will run Tuesday through Aug. 18. Fair hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.



Courtesy photo

In addition to traditional fair attractions, the event also features a full schedule of concerts. From Three Dog Night to Foreigner, musical waves will fill the main stage every evening. For reserved seats to the shows, ticket prices range from \$10.50 to \$14.50.

Daily admission is \$8 for people age 16 and older, \$6 for children ages 6 through 15 and free for children age 5 and younger. Season passes are also available for \$14, or for \$10 with a Bi-Mart card. For more information, go to www.atthefair.com.

The price won't be a deterrent to Wheeler. He's one 89-year-old who will definitely be at this year's fair. And as for next year?

"As long as I'm healthy and able to do it, I will," he said.

Contact the managing editor at jennischultz@dailyemerald.com.

Kitzhaber kills Legislature's budget plans

The governor decides to veto a bill package designed to balance the state budget while maintaining K-12, community college budgets

By Jan Montry
Oregon Daily Emerald

Gov. John Kitzhaber announced Wednesday night that he will veto a bill package aimed at balancing state budget shortfalls while maintaining K-12 and community college budgets.

Veto reaction

Here are excerpts from statements in response to Gov. Kitzhaber's vetoes:

Democratic candidate for governor Ted Kulongoski

"We are already into the second year of the state's two-year budget, with an updated revenue forecast around the corner in September, another in November, and a regular session just a couple of months after that.

I think the governor should have signed the bills."

State representative Lane Shetterly, R-Dallas:

"The governor's actions this evening represent the largest cut in funding ever made to our public schools since the state became their primary source of financial support.

In a few short weeks, our children will return to school with an uncertain future—a future that has been recklessly put into peril by the governor's decision to veto this legislation."

"Once we begin eliminating teachers, we begin eliminating classes, and that's not something you want to be doing in the middle of a school year," she said.

If Kitzhaber's veto survives the Legislature in August, he will call a fourth special session in September.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

UO to increase energy fee \$5 per term

Despite students' efforts to conserve energy on campus, the school's energy fee will increase this fall to \$20 per term

By Jillian Daley
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's energy fee will increase this fall to \$20 per term, up from the spring term fee of \$15, despite the "Do it in the Dark" student-led conservation effort this past year.

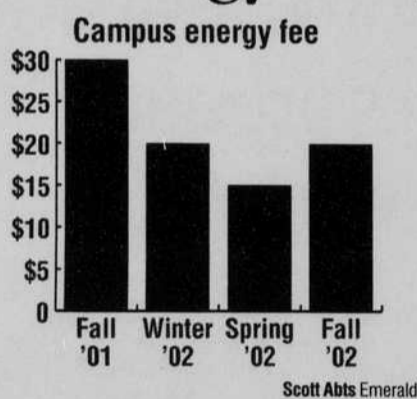
The ASUO campaign, led chiefly by former ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn, lowered the energy fee from the original proposal of \$30 per term, but she had hoped to eliminate the fee.

The fee was originally inspired by Oregon's move to ration energy to alleviate the California energy crisis in 2001. The state also had, and continues to have, lower-than-normal levels of available energy. Eugene Water & Electric Board officials said that the decreased availability and increased use of energy continues to cause prices to rise.

"EWEB found it necessary to raise rates three times in 13 months: April 2001, November 2001 and May 2002," EWEB spokesman Steve Hill said.

EWEB contracts with the University for energy, so when EWEB's rates go up, it affects the University.

"The terms of that contract allow the rate of the contract to be adjusted when EWEB raises its rates," he said.



Brooklyn says it is the use of the money that seems unfair, not the fee collection.

"I think that one important aspect is that when the energy fee was collected, it could be used for anything under facilities, so it wasn't slated just for energy costs," Brooklyn said.

She said that the energy fee is an unnecessary and unwelcome addition to student costs.

"If we have to get an energy fee, then what exactly does our tuition pay for?" she said. Brooklyn said the fee makes little sense when students are already shelling out so much money per term.

Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt explained that Provost John Moseley is keeping the energy fee separate from tuition because of its undesirable quality.

"If the Provost had his way, he'd do away with it. He keeps it separate from

tuition and other things because he'd like to get rid of it," Leavitt said.

The Oregon University System approved the energy fee levy at the University's request. OUS spokesman Bob Bruce said the fee increase lessens the University's financial burden.

"Tuition covers instructional costs and a small part of operating costs," he said. "The ongoing costs of operating campuses continues to rise, and the universities have to pay for that."

Bruce also said that a number of other universities have energy fees.

However, Washington courts deemed the energy fee illegal in recent proceedings, which Brooklyn said makes the practice questionable.

Despite reservations about the fee, Brooklyn worked with the University to limit the financial impact on students, and the campaign succeeded in reducing energy usage. Yet the price of energy continues to go up, hamstringing efforts to eliminate the fee.

The ASUO conservation efforts reduced energy use from between 11 and 15 percent, but energy costs for the University still went up by \$1 million, which is discouraging, facilities director George Hecht said.

"The cost of those unprecedented increases have been passed on to the students," he said.

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