

Oregon Daily Emerald

Name change still sparking debate Page 3

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FESTIVITIES FOR THE FOURTH

Local groups' have planned everything from foot races to firework shows to celebrate Independence Day

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

Looking for things to do this Fourth of July? Don't worry, Eugene offers something for everyone.

Events are taking place around the holiday weekend sure to attract people ranging from jogging enthusiasts to monster truck fans.

Unlike previous years, the Eugene Emeralds will be playing an away game on Independence Day, so they plan on having their fireworks show after tonight's game.

Emeralds spokesman Hank Hager said tickets were selling quickly despite the game not taking place on July 4.

"I doubt that there will be walk-up tickets available on the day of the game," Hager said. He added that spectators unable to purchase tickets will still be able to see the fireworks from outside of the stadium, and that 900 of 1,100 box seats had been sold as of Tuesday.

General admission is \$5; tickets are \$4 for children 12 and younger and for seniors 65 and older. Parking is free.

The Eugene Active 20-30 Club will host the 57th Annual Freedom Festival at Alton Baker Park on Friday. Organizers say the firework show will be the largest in Lane County and will draw the biggest crowd.

Last year's show attracted about 12,000 attendees, and festival Chairwoman Bliss Hamilton hopes

Turn to **Fourth of July**, page 8



Photo Illustration Jessica Waters Emerald

Alton Baker Park's night sky will be alive with colorful fireworks beginning Friday evening at about 10 p.m.

Locals stock up on fireworks

Locals flocked to firework vendors to prepare for celebrations and to stock up for other holidays

By Ayisha Yahya
Reporter

The Fourth of July would lack some of its charm without the bursts of sound and flickers of light from different fireworks. With Independence Day celebrations just a day away, people have been flocking in droves to firework stands around Eugene.

The Fireworks Factory Outlet on West 29th and Willamette has seen a fair share of customers in the past few days, employee Renee Hammond said.

"This tent has been slammed almost every day," Hammond said. Hammond expects more people tonight, and she said in past years people continued to stream in on the holiday itself.

This year, firework stands have a variety of gadgets to choose from.

According to Chelsea Wagner of the Fireworks Factory Outlet, some of the more popular items customers are picking up this season include the "Deal of the Century" and the "Mystical Portal."

The Deal of the Century "goes pretty high," said Wagner. "Lots of color, lots of noise." She said the

Turn to **Fireworks**, page 8

New group to channel feedback to aid DPS

The Public Safety Advisory Group will serve as an active liaison between the campus community and DPS

By Jared Paben
Freelance Reporter

Thomas Hicks, interim director of the Department of Public Safety, feels strongly about having open lines of communication between his department and the campus community. So when a group called the Public Safety Advisory Group was formed this year to suit that purpose, he was overjoyed.

The group is made up of 11 voting members from campus, and 11 to 12 ex officio members whose roles are strictly to inform the voting members about issues. Hicks said the group would refrain from discussing specific incidents regarding DPS actions, and would only vote on whether to submit advice to DPS.

"I see two primary purposes (for the group)," he said. "The first is to give the campus community a voice in public safety issues, and the second is to hopefully improve or enhance communication between the department of public safety and the rest of the campus."

"(The committee focuses) more with an understanding of looking at our policies and procedures that we use, and whether there is any advice that the committee would have on changing those policies."

ASUO Legislative Associate Gabe Kjos, a voting member of the group, agreed with Hicks, and said, "The main focus is to provide ideas on policies that need attention or improvement and relate to public safety on campus."

Jackie Reed, a University graduate and former member of the Greek Life Office,

Turn to **DPS**, page 4

Student builds 'secret library' box for country fair book exchange

Student Jim Evangelista collects books for his 'secret library' booth at the upcoming country fair in Veneta

By Ali Shaughnessy
Freelance Reporter

The area surrounding the EMU is typically deserted around 3 a.m. Absent of sounds and students, the rumble of the generator is often the only noise echoing outside the building. On July 1, however, the peace was interrupted as University graduate student Jim Evangelista hammered together a wooden box.

Evangelista created the box, which serves as a book drop for students and community members, to benefit his booth

at the Oregon Country Fair. At his booth — known as the library — visiting people can stop in, find a book and keep it free of charge. So far, Evangelista said more than 20,000 books have been given away.

With the library going into its sixth year, Evangelista said he originally started with the vision of having a "secret library," a place where people could sit and look at books, particularly to find one that could change their life.

"I expect miracles at the fair all the time," he said. One of his favorite miracle stories involves a woman he randomly picked out of the crowd one year. He told her he had a book that would change her life, and she challenged his offer, demanding that he show her what book could do so.

PART 1 OF 2

Today: A look at Oregon Country Fair
Next Thursday: In Pulse, a breakdown of summer festivals

"Without thinking I reached over and pointed to a shelf and said, 'There,'" Evangelista said. "She reached over and pulled at the book I pointed to, and she looked at it and her jaw hit the floor. She reached her arms around my neck and hugged me as tight as can be."

The woman emotionally told Evangelista about how her parents met during a game of charades, where her mother knew the name of an obscure play, and the woman's

Turn to **Country fair**, page 4



Jessica Waters Emerald

Jim Evangelista collects books at the drop-box outside the ASUO offices. He gives these books away at his booth at the country fair in Veneta.

WEATHER

LOW
50



HIGH
80

INSIDE

Campus buzz.....8
Classifieds.....7
Commentary.....2

Crossword.....7
Nation & World.....4
Pulse.....5

NEXT ISSUE



New safety policies in the works