

Guide to Pride

Continued from Page 29

bank of the Willamette River in Eugene. The festival takes place from noon to 8 p.m. Aug. 11.

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy will speak to Pride participants at noon, kicking off the day of festivities. Members of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire, Eugene's oldest gay and lesbian organization, will address the audience at 3 p.m.

An assortment of entertainers and musicians are scheduled throughout the day. Among the performing artists are Johanna Beekman, Rory Stitt, Androgene and Katastrophe. Beekman, a talented 25-year-old, is a queer singer/songwriter and a Portland native. San Francisco transgender sensation Katastrophe will conclude the day with some hip-hop sounds.

A raffle and separate bachelor and bachelorette auctions are added features for fun and philanthropy.

Themed "United for Equality," the 15th annual Eugene/Springfield Pride Festival will draw some 2,000 people.

Organizers have big plans for this year's celebration, anticipating it as the area's premier event for gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, queer, transgender and ally communities.

For more information visit www.eugenepride.org.

Bend Pride

Bend's third annual Gay Pride celebration is from noon to 5 p.m. June 23 at McKay Park, 166 S.W. Shevlin-Hixon Drive.

The family-friendly event, expected to draw a crowd of 450 people from around the region, will feature food, music, speakers and dance.

Major attractions are local acts and entertainment, including acoustic guitar performances and belly dancing. The menu will have something for everyone's palate, including a variety of tastes from around the globe from Mexico to the Middle East.

This year will include Bend's traditional Pride "float" down the Deschutes River.

For more information visit www.humandignitycoalition.org or www.glbtbend.com.

Coos County Pride

Coos County Pride Picnic, a staple in the Coos Bay area for more than 10 years, will be held July 22 at historical Simpson Park, located at 1380 Sherman Ave. in North Bend.

For more information visit www.groups.msn.com/SouthCoastPFLAGCoosBayOregon.

Southern Oregon Pride

Southern Oregon residents will show their Pride at beautiful Veterans' Park, located at the intersection of Highway 99 and Stewart Avenue in Medford.

The Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center will host the fourth annual Southern Oregon Pride celebration. The event, themed "It's a Matter of Pride," will be the region's largest Pride gathering yet, drawing a crowd of 250.

Hidden Jungle Catering has generously sponsored a beer garden, and a special debut has been arranged for the Big Gay Burger Joint, operated by Mike and John Morgan-Serface.

For entertainment, there will be a drag show and a hip-hop performance by dancers with the Oregon Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Among the featured speakers are Oregon state Rep. Peter Buckley, D-Ashland, and Medford City Commissioner John Statler. Statler will address the audience with a proclamation declaring the day "Southern Oregon Pride Day."

Accommodations have been made for children and the young at heart. Face painting and balloon creations are sure to be highlights for the little ones.

The event will take place from 2 to 7 p.m. June 9. Admission is \$5; children younger than 12 are free.

All proceeds from the event support the community center. For more information visit www.abdellis.org.



North Portland residents celebrate Pride in 2005.



The Human Dignity Coalition will return to Bend Pride.



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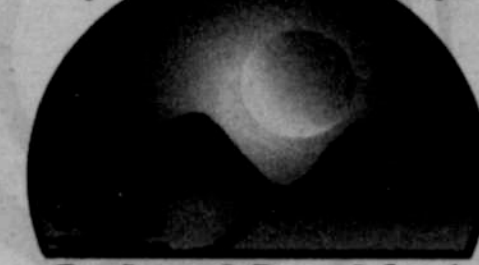
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