

WHAT'S happening



Blues music is known to have its regional variations in sound and styles, but it also appears to have its regional preferences in booze, too. Bourbon for the Nashville/Deep South blues, beer for Chicago blues and, due to the explosion of viticulture in the area, a goblet of wine for Willamette Valley blues. How else can the **Wine and Blues Festival** continue in its popularity for 17 years straight? While our theory has it that grape-stains are more bluesy than malty beer spillage, it could be that Oregon wine is just the best choice for soothing the haggard vocal cords of area blues musicians. At Sunday's event at Secret House Winery, things kick off with the Northwest Harmonica Championships, a surefire way to make the throat thirst for a pinot noir. Aussie blues-rocker Fiona Boyes (pictured) makes a special appearance with mad licks and lyrics that show that, yes, even the gals get the blues, even when they're from the sunny land of Oz. See Sunday Calendar.



Now in its second year, **Savor the Vine** is a celebration of Oregon wine, showcasing different regions and varietals. The big event goes down Friday night at the "Celebrity Crush for the Cure," and no, it's not about Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard's man-crush on The Cure's Robert Smith. It's about pitting local celebrities, including a highly anticipated Mayor Kitty Piercy vs. Jim Torrey matchup, in a grape crush championship. Spectators may place bets on who will be the champion crusher, with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Folklore has it that the winner of the grape crush will determine Eugene's mayor in November, so those candidates better hit the step-aerobic workouts. Wine and chocolate tastings with music by Swing Shift, The Sugar Beets, AVID and Skip Jones round out the weekend. See Calendar.

Damn! All this talk of *vino* is making us work up a sweat, but not a big enough sweat to shake our bones loose. It's time for a brisk long-distance walk! And if you've ever thought that vineyards are perhaps some of the most scenic, soothing places for a stroll, check out the King Estate Winery on Saturday or Sunday for the **Winery Fun Walk**. The walk, which is marked and maintained by the Eugene-Springfield Mossback Volkssports Club, is a free, self-guided jaunt with a 5k and 10k option, depending on your fitness level, that winds its way past vineyards, small lakes, estate homes and an outdoor terrace, all on the King Estate property. Organizers request that you start your walk between 8 am and 2 pm, returning to the start point by 5 pm. And do remember to bring water, as the sun is scheduled for a brief but hot reappearance this weekend. See Calendar.

