



COMING TO AMERICA

Copa América soccer! BY KILLIAN DOHERTY

Local soccer fans will be spoiled this summer with several Lane United FC matches at the Willamalane Center as well as the July 24 International Champions Cup match between Paris Saint-Germain and F.C. Internazionale Milano, to be played in Autzen Stadium.

And yet, if Eugene soccer fans are as passionate about the beautiful game as I am, they might be most excited about the Copa América, to be hosted in the U.S. for the first time in its long and influential history, with the closest matches being played in Seattle and Santa Clara, California.

An important precursor to the world's greatest sporting event (the FIFA World Cup) and often referred to and revered as the oldest continental soccer tournament of national teams, the Copa América is coming to this country in celebration of its 100-year anniversary.

In 1916, Argentina celebrated 100 years of independence and the Asociación Argentina de Football invited the national soccer associations from neighboring countries to send teams to play in a tournament to be called the Campeonato Sudamericano de Fútbol, later named the Copa América. Precisely on Argentina's 100th Independence Day, July 9, 1916, the four participating associations (from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay) approved the proposal presented by the Uruguayan association to form the Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL) — 38 years before its European equivalent (UEFA) and 45 before the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF).

In 1975, the tournament became officially titled Copa América, and CONMEBOL first invited teams from the North (initially Mexico and the U.S., allowing for three groups of four teams) to participate in the 1993 Copa América in Ecuador.

This year, the Copa América Centenario will have four groups of four teams (10 CONMEBOL teams and six CONCACAF teams) playing 32 matches in 10 U.S. cities. Five of the teams are currently included in FIFA's top ten men's world ranking: Argentina (no. 1); Chile (no. 3); Colombia (no. 4); Brazil (no. 7); and Uruguay (no. 9). Many of the world's most talented players will be competing. This should make for some very good soccer. And, with or without the great fortune of actually attending a match, at least we'll be able to watch on TV at more convenient hours than is the case for many FIFA World Cups.

While attending the last Copa América in Chile, I picked up in Santiago some old sports magazines, one of which (*Estadio*, No. 142) contains a description of the 1946 tournament that I hope may fairly characterize the Copa América Centenario: "The tournament progresses, and as the emotion that springs from it gains ground in the heart and the spirit of the fans who follow its possibilities with an extraordinary enthusiasm, those competitors who are most qualified, those who surely will sustain, in the epilogue of this memorable jousting, the decisive battle for possession of the privileged position, are shaping up with distinct characteristics."

Regardless of who ultimately possesses the privileged position of winning the Copa América Centenario, plenty of emotion and enthusiasm should spring from this historic tournament, while strengthening the fraternal bonds of soccer lovers throughout America in its broadest sense, from Alaska to Patagonia.

If nothing else, fans should delight in the creative genius of Lionel Messi, who will be playing his first (and perhaps only) competitive soccer matches on U.S. soil — including Seattle on June 14 — and has yet to lift a major trophy for Argentina, and the goal-scoring madness of Luis Suarez, who will be doing his best to extend Uruguay's lead as the country with the most Copa América titles.

For more details about this exciting soccer tournament to be played June 3-26, including information about ticket sales, see ca2016.com. The U.S. team plays Colombia on June 3 (in Santa Clara), Costa Rica on June 7 (in Chicago) and Paraguay on June 11 (in Philadelphia). For those who want to see Messi in the flesh, he should be playing against Bolivia in Seattle on June 14.

4-H Horse Fair continues. See 7/14.

Bohemia Mining Days continues. See 7/14.

Corvallis Knights vs. Cowlitz Black Bears continues. See 7/15.

DaVinci Days continues. See 7/15.

Southern Oregon Kite Festival continues. See 7/16.

As the Butter Churns . . . OR All That Glitters is Not Gold continues. See 7/16.

Lido Class Nationals continue see 7/17.

MONDAY, 7/18

Soap Making: cold process lye soap at home, 6:45-8:45pm, Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., 682-6392. \$18.

Eugene Emeralds vs. Hillsboro, 7:05pm today through 7/20, 2800 MLK Jr. Blvd., 342-5367. \$8-\$14.

Curious Kids Storytime continues. See 6/6.

Cuentos con Kristen/Bilingual Storytime continues. See 6/27.

Emerald Empire Hempfest continues. See 7/17.

TUESDAY, 7/19

Obsidians: Mt. Pisgah Under the Full Moon, 3 miles. Reg. at obsidians.org.

Party in Churchill Park, community games, bike-tuning, local food & music, 5:30-7:30pm, Churchill Park, 2120 Bailey Hill Rd. FREE.

Baby & Me Storytime continues. See 6/7.

Lane County Farmers Market continues. See 6/7.

Teens@2 continues. See 6/7.

Emerald Empire Hempfest continues. See 7/17.

Eugene Emeralds vs. Hillsboro continues. See 7/18.

WEDNESDAY, 7/20

Obsidians: Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte, 6.2 miles. Reg. at obsidians.org.

Flowers, History & Butterflies, Elkton Community Education Center captures the essence of rural Oregon's beauty, culture & history at its site along the Umpqua River Scenic Byway, wander the lush gardens, watch butterflies hatch & tour the southernmost outpost of the Hudson Bay Company Ft. Umpqua site, lunch at Tomaselli's Pastry Mill is included, register in advance, 8:30am-2pm, leaves from Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St., Spfd., 736-4444. \$43 in-district/\$52 out-of-district.

Lane County Fair, 11am-11pm today through 7/24, Wed-Sat. 11am-11pm, Sun., 11am-8pm, Lane County Fairgrounds, 682-4292, atthefair.com, \$9, \$7 sr., \$6 ages 6-12, ages 5 & under FREE. Season Passes: \$20 at any Lane County Bi-Mart 7/1-7/17 \$30 at the Lane County Fair Business Office or at the Fair Gates. Purchase reserved concert seating on website beginning 6/1 at 10am.

Saw Dawgs (Now! Performing Arts Series), live bluegrass for your lunchbreak, noon-1:30pm, Kesey Square, Broadway & Willamette St. FREE.

Artist's Talk: Latin@ Art & Identity Across Generations, Victoria Suescum explores how Latino/a artists from two generations approach & respond to issues of identity in their work, 5:30pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Lane, University of Oregon. FREE.

South Hills String Band Concert, walks the line between early bluegrass & Ozark-style string band music, Cajun to swing, bluegrass to early blues. 6:30-8pm, Douglas Gardens Park, 736-4544, willamalane.org. FREE.

Soap Making: cold process lye soap at home, 7-9pm, River Road Park & Recreation, 1400 Lake Dr., 688-4052. \$18.

Eugene Yacht Club small boat racing continues. See 6/8.

Lapsit Storytime at Springfield Public Library continues. See 6/8.

Preschool Storytime at Springfield Public Library continues. See 6/8.

Eugene Emeralds vs. Hillsboro continues. See 7/18.

THURSDAY, 7/21

Cheese Making: how to make a variety of homemade cheeses, 1-3pm, Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen Rd. 682-5521. \$18.

Touch-A-Truck, climb into a fire engine, police vehicle & more, 5-7:30pm, Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen Rd. FREE.

Fire & the Dance (pARTy on the Plaza), fire eating, breathing, juggling & dance, 5:30-6:15pm, Hult Center Plaza, 1 Willamette St. FREE.

Soap Making: cold process lye soap at home, 6:30-8:30pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St., Spfd., 736-4444. \$18.

Eugene Yacht Club club racing continues. See 6/2.

Sensory Storytime continues. See 6/2.

Lane County Farmers Market continues. See 6/7.

Grade School Days continues. See 6/23.

Lane County Fair continues. See 7/20.

FRIDAY, 7/22

Mitch Kashmir (Portland blues), 6-9 pm, Sarver Winery, sarverwinery.com

Hook, rated PG, 144 minutes. Before the movie, pick up a map (or download one at willamalane.org) to discover hidden treasure in the park or sing along to pirate songs, 7:30-11pm, movie begins at approx. 8:30pm, Royal Delle Park, 401 Blackstone St., Spfd., 736-4544. FREE.

To Kill a Mockingbird, movie screening, 9 pm, Maurie Jacobs Park, 301 N. Adams St. FREE.

Silvan Ridge Winery Friday night concert series continues. See 6/3.

Lapsit Storytime at Springfield Public Library continues. See 6/8.

Preschool Storytime at Springfield Public Library continues. See 6/8.

Lane County Fair continues. See 7/20.

SATURDAY, 7/23

Thistle Class Nationals, today through 7/29, Eugene Yacht Club, Fern Ridge Reservoir, Eugene, eugeneyachtclub.org, 935-2844. Entry fee to race.

Obsidians: Scott Mountain/Benson Lake, 10 miles. Reg. at obsidians.org.

Saturday Market, 10am-5pm; music includes noon Jill Ledet; 2pm The Traceys; 3:30pm Eagle Park Slim All Star Blues Band; 8th & Oak. FREE.

Soap Making: cold process lye soap at home, 2-4pm, Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St. 682-5333. \$18.

River House 50th Anniversary Celebration, live music, kayak demonstrations, cake & more, 4-7pm, Maurie Jacobs Park, 301 N. Adams St. FREE.

Don Latarski & D'Trio, 6-9pm, Sarver Winery, sarverwinery.com.

Corvallis Knights vs. Victoria Harbourcats, 6:40pm today & Mon., 5:05pm tomorrow, Goss Stadium, 430 SW. Langton Pl., Corvallis. \$6.

String Cheese Incident, 7pm, Cuthbert Amphitheater. \$49.95, \$60.

Brave, movie screening, 9pm, Awbrey Park, River Rd. & Spring Creek Dr. FREE.

Dragon Boat Paddling continues. See 6/4.

Lane County Farmers Market continues. See 6/4.

Lane County Fair continues. See 7/20.

SUNDAY, 7/24

Obsidians: Around Three Finger Jack, 19.4 miles. Reg. at obsidians.org.

Two Cities Summit Run 12K/8K, Eastgate Woodlands area of Alton Baker Park, Spfd., to Eugene's Skinner Butte Park, breakfast & shuttle from Skinner Butte Park included; both distances finish on top of Skinner Butte, 9am, full details & online registration level32racing.com or 343-6414.

Edible Landscaping & Wild Foraging, 2-4pm, through River Road Park & Recreation, 688-4052, & through Campbell Community Center, 682-6392, 871 Greg Way. \$18.

International Champions Cup: Paris Saint-Germain vs. FC Internazionale (soccer), 2pm, MK Arena, matthewknightarena.com. \$33-\$118.

Sunday Jams, local DJs will be spinning beats & jams for the whole family, 3-6:30pm, Sladden Park, Cheshire Ave. FREE.