

Welcome to EUGENE

If you've come for the Oregon Country Fair (July 8-10), the Oregon Bach Festival (June 23-July 10) or the 2016 U.S. Track and Field Olympic Trials (July 1-10), welcome to the Eug. If you already live here, well, welcome to some bigger crowds around town than we might be used to and a reminder that we live in a pretty nice place.

In addition to our annual State of Suds beer issue, here's a short guide to eats, walks around town and local arts and culture. If you are a visitor, come check out what we have to offer, and if you're a Eugenean, then it's time to check out one of those places you always say you will go to but never have. — EW Staff

EUGENE: ARTSTOWN USA

By Rick Levin and Alex V. Cipolle



THE COMMONS

Every good city needs a strong, vibrant public space, and **Kesey Square** — located in the heart of downtown Eugene at Broadway and Willamette — is ground zero for the open interaction of a metropolis and its community. On any given day, the red brick plaza of Kesey Square (named for its iconic statue of legendary local author Ken Kesey) is bustling with food carts, street musicians and folks just passing through, from local business people to shoppers to skateboarding youth. From 5:30 to 8 pm Friday, July 1, the city will host live music and dancing with Calango, a Brazilian jazz band, all in celebration of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials as well as the summer games in Brazil. On Saturdays, head north a block to the famous Saturday and Farmers markets.

GET CLASSY

Now in its 47th season, the world-famous **Oregon Bach Festival** runs June 23-July 10 at Eugene's Hult Center as well as the beautiful Beall Concert Hall on the University of Oregon campus. This summer, Oregon Bach Festival's theme could have been "Generations." The fest features a father-and-son team, Jeffrey and Gabriel Kahane; leaders of two generations of historically informed Baroque violin, Monica Huggett and Rachel Podger; old and new music from Baroque and early Romantic masters to contemporary composers; veteran visitors conductor Anton Armstrong, pianist Robert Levin and organist Paul Jacobs; as well as today's rising stars, including OBF artistic director Matthew Halls and tomorrow's musical leaders, with the Youth Choral Academy, Berwick Academy and more. For a schedule of concerts, tickets and further information, visit oregonbachfestival.com.

CONCRETE PARADISE

Close your eyes and listen: The continuous buzz and grind of trucks biting the paved surface sounds like some glorious machine of perpetual motion. Open your eyes, and you behold a swarm of human activity — zooming bodies crisscrossing in space, as one boarder goes airborne and another perches on the berm, greedy to drop into the bowl. This is Eugene's new **WJ Skatepark + Urban Plaza**, located in the Whiteaker neighborhood beneath the I-105 bridge between Jefferson Street and First Avenue. Dreamed up by a group of skaters who petitioned the city for a new park, and a decade in the making, this \$2.5-million carnival of concrete is a shredder's dream, offering features like a drop pool, iconic ribbon and mini snake run, along with oodles of rolling plains and steep terrain that accommodate everyone from beginners to pros. At 23,000 square feet and open to the public from 6 am to 1 am, this is the sort of egalitarian public space that appeals to everyone.