

8pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd., 541-683-1721. \$5 buy in. Trivia w/Ty Connor, 8pm, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St. FREE WDYK Trivia w/Alan, 9pm, The Wild Duck, 1419 Villard St., 541-485-3825. FREE WDYK Trivia w/Stephanie, 9pm, Prime Time Sports Bar, 1360 Mohawk Blvd., Spfd, 541-746-0549. FREE Blazing Paddles continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Duplicate Bridge continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Play Petanque! continues. See Sunday. Pool Hall continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Qigong continues. See Monday. SOCIAL DANCE Contact Improvisation Jam, w/half-hour guided warm-up, drop-ins & no experience fine, 6:15-8:15pm, Xcape Dance, 420 W. 12th Ave. info at 206-356-0354. \$5-\$12. Buzzed w/ Bachata, 7pm, The Oregon Wine Lab, 488 Lincoln St. FREE Scottish Country Dancing, 7-9pm, Santa Clara Grange, 295 Azalea Dr. First time FREE, monthly \$15. Ballroom Dancing, ages 18+, 7:40pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. \$3-\$3.50. Lindy Hop, East Coast, Charleston, 8-10pm, Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette St. \$5. Rendezvous LGBTQ Dance, 10pm, The Drake, 77 W. Broadway, \$3. Dance Empowered w/Cynthia Valentine continues. See Saturday.	SPIRITUAL Battle of Ego, 10am-noon, Open Sky Shambhala, 783 Grant St. \$50. Insight Meditation, 6:30-8pm, YogaMind Studio, 1339 Oak St. don. Buddhist meditation class, guided meditation & teaching, 7-8:15pm, Sweaty Ganesh Yoga, 820 Charnelton. \$10 sug. don. Refuge Recovery, 7-8:30pm, Unitarian Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. Rm. 2. FREE Buddhist Teaching: "The 37 Practices of a Bodhisattva" by Tulku Sangye Tenzin Rinpoche continues. See Saturday.	Party on the Plaza — Folklórico Ritmo Alegre, 5:30-6:15pm, Hult Ctr. Plaza. FREE Hearing Voices and Extreme States Discussion/Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Lane Independent Living Alliance, 20 E. 13th Ave. FREE Citizens Climate Lobby, Lane County Chapter, 5:30-7pm, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. FREE Lane County NAMI LGBTQIA+ Connection Group continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 NAMI Lane County's Friends & Family Support Group continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Atheist, Agnostics & Free Thinker AA continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Downtown Toastmasters continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Emerald Photographic Society Club Meeting continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Men's Meet Up continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Mindfulness Group continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 NAMI Connection Support Group for people w/mental health issues continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Overeaters Anonymous continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 HEALTH Mindfulness continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Tai Chi in the Park Blocks continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Stress & Anxiety Relief Group Acupuncture continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 White Bird Walk-in Counseling & Referral continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2	KIDS/FAMILIES Core De Force in the Park, 8-9am, Lively Park, 6100 Thurston Rd., Spfd. \$7-9. Babies & Toddlers Storytime continues. See Wednesday Family STEAM continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Family music time continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Table Tennis for kids continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Walkers storytime continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 LECTURES/CLASSES The Lost Art of Good Conversation, 6:30-8pm, Open Sky Shambhala, 783 Grant St. FREE Liberate Your Mind Tour, 6-9pm, Owen Rose Garden, 300 N. Jefferson St. FREE Chair Yoga for the elderly continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 DanceAbility Class continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Mindful & Wellness @ Work continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 ON THE AIR "Arts Journal" continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 "The Point" continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Thursday Night Jazz w/David Gizara continues. See April 26 OUTDOORS/RECREATION Adult introduction to ki-aikido continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Board Game Night continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Cards Against Humanity w/Charley continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Categorically Correct Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Centennial chess club continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2	Cribbage Tournament continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2. Duplicate Bridge continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Board Game Night continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Lunchtime Tap & Growler Running Group continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Pool Hall for seniors continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Tai Chi continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Tai Chi in the Park Blocks continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 WDYK Trivia w/Alan continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 WDYK Trivia w/Kevin continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 SOCIAL DANCE Crossroads Blues Fusion Weekly Blues & Fusion Dance continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 English & Scottish Country Dancing continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Line Dance Lessons continue. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Music & Dance Workshops w/ Taller de Son Jarocho continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 SPIRITUAL Refuge Recovery continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Rudra Meditation {Kundalini Yoga Meditation} continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Zen Meditation continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 THEATER THE SLOTH: True stories, told live continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Drag Takeover, 10:30pm, The Drake Bar, 77 W. Broadway. FREE, No Shame Theatre Work Shop continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2	VOLUNTEER Rose Garden Summer Work Party, Owen Rose Garden, 300 N. Jefferson St. FREE Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah Native Plant Volunteer Work Party continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2 Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden Work Party continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2
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THURSDAY

AUGUST 9
SUNRISE 6:38AM; SUNSET 7:49PM
AVG. HIGH 83; AVG. LOW 51

ARTS/CRAFTS Springstitch: A Community Crafting Group, 4:30-6pm, Spfd. Public Library, 225 5th St., Spfd. FREE

Jerry Ross' Courbet's Tent continues, see Thursday.

BENEFIT Pints Gone Wild!, Cascadia Wetlands Benefit, 6-7:30pm, Ninkasi Tasting Room & Patio, 272 Van Buren St. FREE

FARMERS MARKETS Amazon Farmers Market continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2

The Corner Market continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2

South Valley Farmers Market continues. See Thursday, Aug. 2

GATHERINGS Parkinson's Disease 101, 4-5:30pm, Eugene Mind Works, 207 E. 5th Ave. FREE

The Lost Art of Good Conversation, 6:30-8pm, Open Sky Shambhala, 783 Grant St. FREE

VISUAL ARTS BY ESTER BARKAI

A THREE-RING CIRCUS OF ART

With a triple opening, Eugene holds its first Visual Arts Festival Week

I didn't notice the man in the box at first. In my defense, a lot was happening around me Friday night at the Hult Center Plaza: a band, a bar, a gathering crowd, and across 7th Avenue in the middle of Willamette Street someone was playing a steel drum.

Not to worry: Seth Christman was asked to play his drum in the middle of the street, and traffic was blocked to kick off Eugene's first Visual Arts Festival Week.

The festival was created by Isaac Marquez, director of Eugene's Cultural Services Division, and featured the return of the Mayor's Art Show and separate Salon des Refusés, which hadn't taken place since 2015, as well as the two-year-old Eugene Biennial.

Outside the Hult Center, Marquez introduced Mayor Lucy Vinis, who offered the crowd of art lovers a quote by a math professor. I thought she might lose some of her audience, but she reeled everyone back in comparing artistic skills to creative problem-solving in general.

"Here's to art!" she toasted at the end of her speech.

Glittery balls were thrown down to the audience, rock-concert style, and tossed around. The crowd cheered, the wine flowed, music played.

Among it all a man wearing black sat inside a transparent box.

Farhad Bahram is the artist behind *Intersecting Bodies*, one of the contemporary art pieces presented as part of the festival by Eugene's inaugural BRIDGE Exhibitions. Off to the side of the plaza I noticed dancer Bryant Hender-

son, but his casual dress — denim shorts and top — fit in with the fashion vibe of the audience so well it wasn't clear whether he was part of the performance.

He was.

Henderson's interaction with Bahram intensified as he approached the artist in the box, apparently mimicking Bahram and interacting without words. Courtney Stubbert of Eugene Contemporary Art, an exhibiting artist at the new Mayor's Art Show, watched as the performance by Henderson and Bahram grew intense. I asked Stubbert what he thought.

"This is big," he said, referring to the festival in general.

It's clear that *big* is exactly what Marquez had in mind. He spearheaded the 20x21 Eugene Walls project last summer, which continues during this week's festival. You can't aim much bigger than paintings the size of buildings created by artists from around the world.

Marquez' vision for the festival is all-encompassing, too. The BRIDGE Exhibitions, located between the Hult Center and the Eugene Biennial, which had its opening reception Friday night at Karin Clarke Gallery, serve as a metaphorical bridge as well: Eugene embraces contemporary art as much as it does traditional institutions.

Since I moved to Eugene just after the Jacobs Gallery closed, I haven't felt the sense of loss the community shares over losing the Mayor's Art Show. Attending Friday's opening, or re-opening, I finally got it. The event brought together people from different areas of Eugene's art community as no other event has, at least since I've been here.

The mayor's show was held in the Maurie Jacobs Community Room at the Hult Center. It features works from a wide variety of genres — figurative sculpture and hyper-realistic painting, abstract art and assemblage.

I gravitated to a large artwork on the far wall titled *This is Not a Test* that had a group gathered around considering

it. "I find it scary," onlooker Michael Perkins said. "All the wasted electronics."

The woman with him, who identified herself as his "sweetheart," said she thought it was social commentary.

The artwork was constructed largely with circuit boards and features a collection of lenses that appear to be staring at you as much as you are at it.

At the New Zone Gallery, the Salon de Refusés presents works rejected by the mayor's show, though not all of them. Gallery manager Steve La Riccia explained that not all artists want to have their art associated with "losers."

Perfectly understandable, though it might help to be reminded the original Salon de Refusés presented works rejected by the Academy in France, and those artworks are now commonly thought of as ushering in the era of modern art.

Karin Clarke Gallery was abuzz, too. Clarke started Eugene Biennial in 2016 in response to the demise of the Mayor's Art Show. She decided to keep it going this year even with the return of the mayor's show. The more opportunities for artists the better, is her thinking. She plans to continue this new tradition, with off years exhibiting those artists who won awards the previous year.

Craig Spilman served as one of the jurors for the Biennial. Spilman taught art at Lane Community College for 30 years and shows at Clarke's gallery. I asked if he cared to share any favorite works from the show. He thought about it but said no, they hadn't announced which artists would receive awards yet, and he didn't want to spoil the awards ceremony.

The awards ceremony, ARTiculate, will announce winners from both the Mayor's Art Show and the Eugene Biennial at 7 pm Aug. 2 at the Hult Center; host will be performance artist and art writer Vicki Amorose. For a full schedule see Eugene-or.gov/VAF. ■

CORVALLIS

AND THE REGION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 Mid-Valley Bike Club Saturday Rides, 8am, corner of Circle Blvd. & Highland St., Corvallis. FREE

Corvallis Farmers Market, 9am-1pm, 1st Street & Jackson Avenue, Corvallis. FREE

ATTENTION

OPPORTUNITIES

Due date for the calendar is noon the Thursday before the Thursday issue in which you would like your event published. For example, if you'd like to be included in our Aug. 9 edition, please visit www.eugeneweekly.com/calendar/event/add & submit your event online by Thursday, Aug. 2 at noon. For questions, email cal@eugene-weekly.com.

Adventure! Children's Museum invite ages 10-19 to design posters. The group also invites crafters and artists extraordinary, to make some anemones, urchins, coral, barnacles & crustaceans to line the edges of the cove. Contact adventurerehildrensmuseum@gmail.com for more details.