

In This Issue:

June 20, 2007

- This Week's Motivational Quote
- Weekly Contest
- CHEF'S CORNER - SweetWaters Garden
- Upcoming Area Events
- HOTEL NEWS - \$1 MILLION RENOVATION
- Did You Know? Lobbyist Edition

This Week's Motivational Quote

"Without courage, wisdom bears no fruit."

- Baltasar Gracian, Spanish Baroque prose writer

[If you're motivated to book a hotel room, click here!](#)



Weekly Contest

Last Week's Question:

I was sitting up reading when I was motivated to jot down these words: play, toe, sock, rat, tease, an, dare, is, tot, tell. What inspired me?

Last Week's Answer:

Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle.

Wow! You guys are SMART! We had over 50 correct responses. I really thought I'd stump you with this one. I have learned to never underestimate the power of the VRI e-newsletter subscriber.

Congratulations to Ryan and Cathy Erickson of Erickson Land Surveying for winning last week's contest. Ryan and Cathy were one of 51 entrants to get the correct answer. Ryan and Cathy win dinner for 2 in SweetWaters on the River.

Every week we give our subscribers a chance to win GREAT prizes from Valley River Inn. To enter, simply click on the link below and complete the form. The submission closest to the actual answer wins! If there is a tie, we will randomly draw a winner.

Deadline to Enter:

Sunday, June 24th @ 10AM

GOOD LUCK!

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE:

2 tickets to the 2007 Bach Festival show of your choice

**ENTER
NOW TO
WIN!**

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

OK, you guys liked last week's so much, here's another one. We'll get back to hotel trivia next week...

Fiji (in Melanesia) and Samoa (in Polynesia) are two islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Fiji is about 970 kilometers (600 miles) west of Samoa. A small airplane can fly this distance in two hours.

When will you arrive in Fiji if you leave Samoa on a small airplane on Tuesday night at 11:30 PM?

[Click Here To Enter](#)

CHEF'S CORNER - SweetWaters Garden

Did you know that SweetWaters on the River has it's own garden that is tended to by it's culinary staff? Several years back, Executive Chef Michael Thieme decided to create the garden in an unused area of the hotel grounds. Chef Thieme appoints a garden steward each year to oversee the garden. This year's garden steward is Scott Noble, A.M. Line Supervisor (seen in the photo). Scott began work on the garden in February to ready it for the Spring and Summer growing seasons and spends time daily in the garden.



This year the culinary team installed a drip system into the garden to help maintain it throughout the hot Summer months.

Some of the items being culled from the garden include:

- Heirloom Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Herbs (rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage)
- Edible Flowers
- Blueberries
- Grapes
- And more!

These items are used in SweetWaters on the River and are included in the regular menu and daily specials. As the season progresses, Chef Thieme and his team will create several signature dishes incorporating items grown in the garden.

If you'd like to see our garden, stop on by. It's located along the bike path at the East side of our property.

[Click Here To See Some of Our Recipes](#)

Upcoming Area Events

There's always something going in Eugene so here's a small sampling of things going on in the area over the next few months. Why not make it a mini vacation and stay with Valley River Inn while you attend these events?!

Here are some upcoming highlights:

June 23
5th Annual Summer Barrel Tour

Join the Wineries of Lane County for the 5th Annual Summer Barrel Tour. Each day a deluxe charter bus will tour 6 wineries, each having appetizers paired with three wine selection. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit any Safeway TicketsWest Counter, or charge by phone or on the web at www.ticketswest.com. Must be 21 years or older.

Cost: \$60

For more information, call: 1-800-992-TIXX



June 23 - June 24
Can Am Challenge Drag Boat Racing

The Columbia Drag Boat Association, the premier racing association in the Pacific Northwest, hosts the Can Am Challenge at Dexter and Lookout Point Reservoirs in Lowell. Come see the exciting sport of drag boat racing.

Cost: \$10

For more information, call: (541) 461-3545

June 30
Countdown to Eugene 08

5 - 7 p.m.

Fifth Street Public Market, Eugene

With Olympians, community leaders, and other special guests, a family-friendly band, kid zone activities and more, the party kicks off a year of community-wide preparation and celebration. Want to get involved? The event includes opportunities for new volunteers to join the fun.

Cost: Free

For more information, call: (541) 687-1989

July 4
AquaFina Butte To Butte

8 a.m.

Spencer Butte Middle School, Eugene

The 34th Annual! It's the biggest and the best running and walking event of the year in Eugene, starting at Spencer Butte Middle School and finishing at Skinner Butte Park. There are unique race challenges, team competitions and great shirts.

Cost: \$17 with a shirt prior to race day, \$23 on race day

For more information, call: (541) 543-5399

Freedom Festival
July 4

4:00 PM

Alton Baker Park, Eugene

The Freedom Festival features fireworks and the live music of Voodoo BBQ. Presented by Maude Kerns Art Center and The Active 20/30 Club of Eugene. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating on the grass in the park.

Cost: Various

For more information, call: (541) 515-2405

July 6 - July 8
24th Annual Art & the Vineyard

11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Alton Baker Park, Eugene
Premier art and wine festival in the Southern Willamette Valley. Includes entertainment and features 150 artists in the Artists' Marketplace and the Art For Your Garden display. Come see and enjoy.
Cost: \$6 pr day or \$15 for 3 days, \$1 kids 6 - 11
For more information, call: (541) 345-1571

July 13 - July 15
Oregon Country Fair

11 a.m. - 7p.m.
Oregon Country Fair, Veneta
Located in a wooded setting in Veneta, the Oregon Country Fair celebrates its 38th year with 12 stages of entertainment, more than 55 international food booths and over 700 artisans. Colorful parades, pageants and performing arts provide an unparalleled feast for the senses.
Cost: Various
For more information, call: (541) 343-4298

July 14 - July 15
Northwest Nationals Drag Boat Racing

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dexter and Lookout Point Reservoirs, Lowell
The Columbia Drag Boat Association, the premier racing association in the Pacific Northwest, hosts the 2005 Bi-Mart Northwest Nationals. This is the final Oregon drag boat race of the season. Co-Sanctioned with IHBA Div 1, including PCE.
Cost: \$10
For more information, call: (541) 461-3545

July 20 - July 21
Willamette Valley Relay

Alton Baker Park, Eugene
Walking has finally hit its stride with Wonders of Walking (WOW), an organization developed by walkers that spearhead a series of events specifically for walkers. Wonders of Walking celebrates the health benefits, competitive opportunities and recreational aspects of walking. Get a team and participate in the Willamette Valley Relay which begins July 20, 2007 in Champoeg Park and ends July 21, 2007, at Alton Baker Park in Eugene.
For more information, call: (503) 282-1677

July 21
TriAmerica National Series Tour – Supersprint
Triathlon

7:30 a.m.
Lakeside Park, Cottage Grove
Super Sprint Triathlons feature a 200 yard swim, a 6 to 8

mile bike, and a 2 mile run. The focus of the Super Sprints is on fun and fitness. Super Sprint Triathlons are ChampionChip timed however typical age group awards are not offered. A time trial type start is used for the swim rather than a wave start.

Cost: \$40 for participants, \$45 race week, spectators free
For more information, call: (352) 394-1320

July 28
Winetasia 2007

6 - 10 p.m.
Silvan Ridge/Hinman Vineyards, Eugene, OR
Wine tasting, fine food from ten local restaurants (including SweetWaters on the River) and dancing under the stars.
Benefits Children's Miracle Network at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene/Springfield.
Cost: \$60 per person
For more information, call: (541) 686-6456

August 1 - August 11
Oregon Festival of American Music 2007 – "Richard Rodgers"

4 - 11 p.m.
Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene
Dick Hyman joins the Oregon Festival of American Music for an eclectic, thematically-designed festival that celebrates a broad range of American musical genres with emphasis on jazz, classical and historic popular song. Featuring the music of composer Richard Rodgers and the musical "South Pacific".
Cost: Free to \$50
For more information, call: (541) 687-6526

August 4
5th Annual Animal House Celebration

Trailhead Park, Cottage Grove
Experience the antics of the movie "National Lampoon's Animal House." Cheer on the parade and join the World's Largest Toga Party – it is fun for all.
For more information, call: (541) 515-2405

August 5
Blackberry bRamble

First ride starts at 7a.m.
Eugene Water & Electric Board's Plaza, Eugene
We have 4 beautiful ride options: Wolf Creek Century - 100 miles with a strenuous climb and exciting descent, Poodle Creek Metric Century – 64 miles with moderate rollers, Coyote Creek Mini Century – 43 miles and the Family Ride – around 20 miles. Blackberry pie awaits all riders at the finish to top off a wonderful day of scenery, cycling and camaraderie of both nature and fellow cyclists.
Cost: \$20 if postmarked by July 17th; \$25 after July 17th or day of Ride; \$15 for the Family Ride

August 9 - August 12

Junction City Scandinavian Festival

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Downtown Junction City, Junction City

Since 1961, Junction City residents have been celebrating their Scandinavian heritage by transforming their city into a charming Old World town, offering cultural and entertainment activities. This four-day event is nationally recognized.

Cost: Free

For more information, call: (541) 998-9372

August 14 - August 19

Lane County Fair

10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Lane Events Center, Home of the Lane County Fair, Eugene

Six days and six nights of family fun and entertainment.

Come and enjoy one of the Northwest's finest fairs offering outstanding concerts, thrilling rides and exhibits showcasing Lane County's finest.

Cost: \$8 adults, \$6 children, Free for children 5 and yo

For more information, call: (541) 682-4292

September 7 - September 9

25th Annual Eugene Celebration

starts at 5 p.m. Friday - 6 p.m. Sunday

Downtown Eugene, Eugene

The Eugene Celebration is a magical time of year when we gather to celebrate community, renew friendships and reinforce our collective sense of why Eugene is such a special place. Spectacular visions, moving music, hearty laughter, enticing foods, unique artistry, family fun, talented entertainers and a zany parade highlight what's old, what's new, and what can be in making "The Celebration" a special experience and tradition

For more information, call: (541)681-4108

[Click Here for our Calendar of Events](#)

HOTEL NEWS - \$1 MILLION RENOVATION

If you haven't been by the hotel recently, you've missed some of the many new additions to our hotel including:

- *Ballroom renovations
- *New guestroom railings
- *New stylish pool fence
- *New landscaping
- *New meeting room lighting



Other projects currently underway or slated to be completed in 2007 include:

VRI SIGNATURE BEDS

Enjoy the most refreshing, restful sleep in our new Serta beds.

REJUVENATED SUITES

Scheduled to be completed by year-end, our suites are receiving a complete makeover!

McKENZIE BALLROOM RENOVATION

We've updated from top to bottom. An amazing transformation!

RIVERVIEW MEETING ROOM RENOVATION

The most sought-after views in the area just got even nicer.

NEW GUESTROOM CORRIDOR CARPETING

It's really made a BIG impact!

NEW FURNISHINGS

Beds, armoires and much more!

HIGH SPEED WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Complimentary access in guestrooms, meeting space and all public areas to include SweetWaters on the River and our outdoor deck.

AND COMING IN 2008...

- *Guestroom carpeting
- *SweetWaters restaurant and bar renovation
- *Columbia Ballroom renovation
- *More guestroom furnishings
- *And MORE!!!

So come on over and see all that we've done and all that we're doing. Just another example of Valley River Inn's continued commitment to excellence!

[Click Here to visit Valley River Inn online!](#)

Did You Know? Lobbyist Edition

A Fun Tidbit Delivered Right To Your Email Inbox Every Week.

Did you know...

The term "lobbyist" was coined in the 19th century in the Williard Hotel, Washington D.C.

President Ulysses Grant liked to use this hotel as a refuge from the White House pressure; the hotel placed a leather chair in a secluded part of the hotel lobby for him, where he could enjoy his favorite cigars and brandy in relative peace.

Still, he was pestered there by would-be power brokers seeking his ear; for such people he coined the word "lobbyists".



[Click Here To Visit Valley River Inn](#)

Coming in Next Week's Issue

- * Motivational Quote of the Week
- * Weekly Contest

- * Feature Article
- * Calendar of Events
- * Hotel News
- * Did You Know?

[Want to See An Earlier Newsletter? Click Here For our Newsletter Archive](#)

Close Window