

# OUTDOORS

## Elkhorn Mountains

Hike along trails offers an opportunity to view granite rock

**Bobbie Snead** Special to Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Granite is beautiful rock. Formed millions of years ago in the depths of the earth, its grainy texture holds the sun’s warmth while its pale gray surface radiates a soft glow in the low-angle light of a high-country autumn day. Builders love granite for its strength, sculptors for its durability and rock climbers for its gripping friction underfoot. • While true granite is rare in Oregon, a very closely related rock exists in the Elkhorn Mountains in the northeast corner of the state. Called granodiorite, it has the look and feel of classic granite with a slightly different chemical and mineral composition. Hikers and climbers refer to it as granite, although to a geologist it is actually granite’s first cousin.

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**Angell Peak in the Elkhorn Mountains.**  
PHOTO BY BOBBIE SNEAD/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICAELA ENCINAS/USA TODAY NETWORK



## Still time for good fishing before the weather turns



**Fishing**  
Henry Miller  
Guest columnist

Traditionally, the big-eating season as it’s known at our house kicks off with the annual choco-palooza on Halloween.

It’s the annual observance of gluttony training where you put the Heath bars and Almond Joys at the bottom of the bowl while using the rolls of Smarties and Abba-Zaba dental filling-pullers on the top for the kids as decoys.

Halloween is known as the gorging playoffs as prep for Thanksgiving, the Super Bowl of putting food in your pie hole, including pie.

Which makes Hanukkah and Christmas sort of the twin Pro Bowls of the caloric overload season.

With the final bloat-fest falling on New Years.

More on-topic, outdoors-wise when talking about the big-eating season, fish are in the middle of fall-fattening in preparation for the sluggish, lean season: winter.

During the past week and change I’ve heard from a pair of angler buddies who reported that bass fishing on the Wil-

lamette River and sloughs is going gang-busters,

One two-person party lost count, but figured that between the pair they caught and released about 40 small-mouth bass in the two-mile stretch from Albany downriver.

Ditto for the second angler, also fishing with a friend starting out around Harrisburg.

Among the two pairings, they said they used virtually everything from rubber jigs and spinners to flies and worms.

Give it a shot before temperatures make the fish go dormant. It’s a day trip I intend to make, repeatedly.

In other fishing news of note ...

**Downtown trout**

According to Desert Springs Trout Farm, Walling Pond inside the Salem city limits is scheduled to be stocked during the coming week with rainbow trout, weather, water and road conditions permitting.

Desert Springs, near Summer Lake, contracts with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for supplemental trout plants to go with production from state hatcheries.

Specific time and day of the week were not set at the time of this writing,

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