

Oregon Country Fair continues. See July 13.

Tuesday, 7/17

Swing Shift, 6:30pm, Island Park, Spfd. Free.

Wednesday, 7/18

Brook Adams & his Swingin' Marmalukeys, 6:30pm, Coiner Park, Cottage Grove. Free.

Thursday, 7/19

Bohemia Mining Days, with youth talent contest, Bloomer Parade, Battle of the Bands, Grand Miners' Parade and more, July 19-22, Coiner Park, Cottage Grove. www.bohemiamining-days.org

Kids' Flea Market, kids sell their stuff to other kids, 11am-1pm, Fountain Plaza, Springfield Library. Free.

Barbara Healy and the New Allnighterz, 6:30pm, Sheldon Center. Free.

Recycleman and the Dumpster Divers, 11:30am, Douglas Gardens Park, Spfd. Free.

Drop-in tree climbing session continues. See June 21.

Friday, 7/20

Whiteaker Neighborhood River Festival, music, storytelling, kayak demos, Oregon's largest slip-n-slide and more, 4pm-7:30pm, River House, 301 N. Adams. 682-5329. Free.

Bohemia Mining Days continue. See July 19.

Saturday, 7/21

Faerieworlds Festival No, that's not a spell-check error: These faeries are a far cry from the fairy princesses of Disney-dom. This annual festival of magical music, art and multimedia presentations is more mossy Irish-gypsy fun than the Hollywood pixies can muster (even with the magic dust and all), and it has all been guided by the guy and gal who helped Jim Henson create *The Dark Crystal*. Cool! This year's lineup of featured artists, authors and musicians includes Woodland, Scott Huckabay, Kan'Nal, Casey Neill & Friends, Wake the Dead, Gaia Consort, Brenda & Wendy Froud and Tricky Pixie. July 21 & 22, Secret House Winery, Veneta.

www.faerieworlds.com \$35 wknd., \$20 day (\$12 wknd., \$6.50 day for kids under 12) in advance.

NW Herb Fest Two-day herb conference and festival with healthy food, herbal bazaar, natural surroundings, activities and more than 200 herbs to experience in person. Is it any coincidence that this event coincides with the Faerieworlds Festival? Hmm. July 21 & 22, Wise Acres Farm, Pleasant Hill. www.herbaltransitions.com or (541) 736-0164.

Run In The Park, 8k/5k, 8am, Harry Holt Park, Creswell.

Riffle, 9:30pm, 6th and B Street, Spfd. Free.

Community Climb Time at the Columns continues. See June 16.

Bohemia Mining Days continue. See July 19.

Sunday, 7/22

MEMA's World Music Festival A fundraiser for Musicians Emergency Medical Association, this inaugural festival presents a day of good food and a host of

MUCH LIKE THE UNICORN,



IT IS ALSO DELICIOUS.

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More Than Just Fish

A wealth of info and a variety of exhibits await at Willamette Fish Hatchery BY VANESSA SALVIA



The perilous 7th hole in "The Lifecycle of a Salmon" mini-golf

By the time you and your kids have been to every playground in town and fed the ducks for the thousandth time, you'll be looking for a new diversion. Aside from the gas it takes to get there, all you need to enjoy the Willamette Fish Hatchery in Oakridge is a handful of quarters and plenty of time. The hatchery is open to the public every day, with no admission fee and enough attractions to keep kids — and adults — happy.

Of course, there's the hatchery itself, where your kids can walk alongside holding pools filled with thousands of spring Chinook and summer and winter steelhead smolts. The small fry fish will be reared until they are four to six inches long, then released into our waterways. Here's where the quarters come in — your own small fry can get a handful of fish food pellets and cast

them into pools with 50-year-old, 8-foot long sturgeon, or rainbow trout fattened over years of the easy life. Though the sturgeons move like submarines in the water, the lively trout will break the surface in a feeding frenzy. Most of the time, the hatchery opens a viewing platform where healthy (and large!) adult salmon can be observed roiling the waters.

You and your charges will be happily surprised to find much more than fish here. There are large cages of game birds, including several beautiful pheasants and a show-off tom turkey. Just around the corner from the birds is a half-mile, easy, flat interpretive trail that loops through the woods. The hatchery museum is open every day and features a large diorama of mounted animal specimens from Oregon's diverse habitats. Thanks to the wonders of taxidermy, you can marvel at a full-size golden eagle or a black bear. If you really want to make a day of it, bring a lunch and enjoy the tranquil, park-like setting while dining in the covered picnic area.

When you're tired of walking around, here's what the kids really like: a nine-hole covered miniature golf course. Equipped with kid-sized putters, colored balls, score cards and pencils, the course is free, so your whole group can play as many times as you'll let them. Unlike regular mini golf, however, this course depicts the stages of a salmon's life cycle. Hazards at each hole represent the dangers salmon face on their long journey from the hatchery to the ocean and back to our home waters. You'll be lucky to scoot your ball past fishermen's hooks, sea lions, diseases, lack of food or vicious weather. It's educational, but goofy enough to keep the kids happy for quite a while.

For those of you looking to fill the day with even more activity, there are a couple of family-paced hikes just off Highway 58 on the way to Oakridge, like the trail at Goodman Creek Road. One favorite way to round out the day after an afternoon at the hatchery is a stop off at the Oakridge A&W for ice cold root beer and cheese curds. Like the sign says, they're curiously delicious! Heck, why wait until you've exhausted all your other entertainment options on these long summer days? The Willamette Fish Hatchery could end up being your favorite new anytime destination.

GETTING THERE:

Take Willamette Highway 58 to Oakridge. Just through town, at DJ's End of the Trail Market, turn left on Fish Hatchery Road. The hatchery is about a mile down the road on the right.

Willamette Fish Hatchery

76389 Fish Hatchery Road, Oakridge
7:30 am to dusk, Monday through Friday
Museum open 8 am to 4 pm every day • Free