



Combatants with the Society for Creative Anachronism battle each other at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds Saturday as part of the Grand Thing in Astoria.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

## Climbing permits sold out at Mount St. Helens

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — The sun has finally arrived in the Pacific Northwest, but permits to climb Mount St. Helens have already sold out.

The Columbian reported that permits to climb to the volcano's 8,363-foot summit are sold out until at least Sept. 27, as are the first two weekends in October — the final month of the season.

The U.S. Forest Service, which oversees the volcano, releases a set number of permits per year. Those are sold by the Mount St. Helens Institute through an online vendor.

Ray Yurkewycz, the insti-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson  
Climbers moved quickly for permits to Mount St. Helens, shown here in 2010.

tute's executive director, says in the last few years, about half of the season's roughly 39,000 permits are sold on the first day they're available.

He says the demand is increasing. In 2011, about 13,800 climbing permits were sold. Last year, the total was just over 20,000.

## MARIETTA VIRGILLO

May 30, 1941 - June 25, 2016

*You came into my life  
on the first days of spring,  
and three months later,  
you were wearing my ring.*

*A June wedding we had,  
and you made me so glad.*

*Soon children we had at a comfortable pace,  
we added four total to the God's human race.*

*As time passed us by, we lost our first son,  
the taking of him by the water was done.  
The three kids still living gave love to us all,  
it always was there for us, well into life's fall.*

*Marietta my wife and mother of four,  
her love always given to children and more,  
has gone to her rest and left us behind,  
is waiting in heaven for us still to find.*

*I know that one day my time will come due,  
and then I'll be with her again and her love oh so true.*

*I could never have done better when she came my way,*

*God gave me his best on our very first day!  
Our 55 years have come and have gone,  
so happy you made me, still singing your song.*

*I'll love you forever, you know that I do,  
I'll love you forever, I swear that it's true!*

Jim Virgillo

# A GRAND OLD TIME

By COLIN MURPHEY  
The Daily Astorian

All the pageantry of the Middle Ages — including colorful costumes, the aroma of campfires and the cacophony of metal striking metal from traditional blacksmithing — was on hand last weekend as the Society for Creative Anachronism pitched its tents at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds for the "Grand Thing" event.

And then there were the sounds of men and women beating each other with sticks.

Re-enactors from around the region paraded around the fairgrounds in period garb, performing acts of medieval equestrianism, while others made jewelry and trinkets for sale. About 50 highly trained men and women put on armor and helmets in preparation to do medieval-style combat. And while the mock combat just one small part of what the organization does at the Grand Thing, it definitely draws the largest crowds.

According to the society's website, it can take years of training before fighters are allowed to participate in combat events. Those range from one-on-one matches to melee events, in which dozens of bodies collide in a chaotic ballet of violence and bedlam, complete with a symphony of rattan swords clanging off helmets and body armor echoing off the surrounding walls.

This was the 12th annual Grand Thing event in Astoria, which is designed to celebrate Norse and Celtic culture.



A combatant prepares to do mock battle.



A participant demonstrates medieval blacksmith techniques.



Clad head to toe in armor, combatants do mock battle Astoria.





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