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WEEKEND BREAK

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A SEASON OF CHANGES

Fall is a favorite season for many on the North Coast



By **RON BALDWIN**

Fall is a sneaky character. It pounces. Just as we Northwesterners get used to summer with shorts, tank tops and flip-flops, that morning comes along when you walk out your door and feel the sudden change in season, at which point you dash to the house for a jacket or sweater.

Other signs that fall is here are football practices, mountains of freshly cleaned and painted crab pots in every port, clammers polishing up the old clam gun and the return of dueling lawnmowers in clouds of post-dormancy lawn grass.

Fall colors

Our western fall color scheme, while scenic and golden with big leaf maple accented by vine maple and choke cherry, is no match for the great hardwood forests of the east — a photographer's playground that looks for all the world like it's on fire, contrasted

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A patch of sunflowers grace the bank of a farm near Skamokawa, Washington. Many plants save their inflorescence for fall and burst through in short order to splash the fields with color.



A veil of fog blankets Astoria in its misty grip on a crisp fall morning. Photos by Ron Baldwin