

The INDEPENDENT

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SalmonFest – Let's do it again!



Fanciful scarecrows, pumpkin carving and hay rides to salmon viewing sites were just a few of the activities at Vernonia's first SalmonFest, last year. Even more activities are planned for the 2004 SalmonFest coming up October 2nd.

Summer is over, fall events are featured

Quilt Fair opens for 34th year

St. Mary's 34th Annual Quilt Fair started today and will continue through Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily at 960 Missouri Ave., Vernonia.

Throngs of people will enjoy the multitude of quilts – both hand and machine crafted quilts – plus wall hangings and unique craft items for sale and display.

The annual Star of Bethlehem raffle quilt will be on display

and will be raffled off on Sunday, September 19, at 4:00 p.m. (need not be present to win). There will be door prizes, "Bed Turning" storytelling, a Craft Bazaar and more.

The justifiably noted lunches of specialty soups, rolls, pies and cinnamon rolls will be served daily from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Door admission/donation is \$1.00.

SalmonFest set for Oct. 2nd

An exciting array of activities will provide something for everyone in the family during Vernonia's second annual Salmon Festival on October 2.

Take a hayride to a salmon viewing site, help kids at the trout pond, build your own scarecrow or carve a creative pumpkin. Join the apple pie baking contest, or enjoy tasting some fine Oregon wines.

For an entertaining explanation of the life cycle of salmon, don't miss the presentation by Sheryl Cochran, of the Columbia Maritime Museum in Astoria. The three-part presentation will use puppets, illustrations, a short video and – best of all – include children in interactive

story telling to explain both the life cycle of salmon and where they fit on the food chain... "There was an old lady who swallowed a trout". This will be presented several times during the day.

There will be some really great vendors, for both food and merchandise, plus fine arts contests and exhibits, and an exhibit of amateur crafts, needlework and more.

Silent and oral auctions will keep bargain seekers happy, and the kids can learn gyoatoku – yep, gyoatoku. If you're unfamiliar with the term, don't miss this chance to learn something new at the Vernonia Salmon Festival.

Oktoberfest will oompah at Fairgrounds

The first Columbia County Oktoberfest will debut Friday and Saturday, September 24 and 25, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens.

A celebration of the harvest and rural traditions, Oktoberfest will feature German-inspired foods and beverages, the work of local crafters and artisans, music, dancing, and

kids' activities. Old and new tractors, BMW automobiles, and farm implements will be displayed.

Germany's legendary Fischer Brewery beer will be available and evening entertainment will showcase a German oompah-pah band.

Proceeds will benefit area youth programs, Columbia Pa-

cific Food Bank, and the Columbia County Fair.

Activities will start at 11 a.m. and continue to midnight on both days. Admission will be \$5.00 per person, except on Friday, when admission for seniors over 55 will be \$3.00 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.

Banks Tractor Pull, Saturday

The rescheduled Banks Tractor Pull, Combine Demolition Derby and Bar-B-Q will rev up again Sept. 18 at Sunset Park in Banks.

The Truck and Tractor Pulls will start at 3:00 p.m. Registration for the pulls will be from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for all farm stock tractors, all farm modified tractors, all farm exhibition

tractors, all country modified pickup 4x4s and all other pickups.

The crowd-favorite Combine Demolition Derby will get off to a roaring start at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the much-anticipated barbecued beef, live music from Robby Laws Hoodoo Nation will also keep the evening lively.

