

Now is the time to get Knee Deep in Salmon and decorate one

The Vernonia Salmon Festival Committee will hold a Knee Deep in Salmon contest this year in conjunction with the 2006 Salmon Festival.

Marvin Howard, of North Plains, better known as "Carvin' Marvin," has carved salmon from prime cedar and redwood

for the contest. Each salmon is at least 30 inches long and about 1-1/2 inches thick, ready to provide a foundation for creative interpretation.

The decorated salmon must be sturdy enough for prolonged display and handling during the set up and judging. Display

should be part of the design plan and esthetics of the completed piece.

The deadline for entry is April 1 and the completed salmon must be delivered to the festival committee by July 1.

Award winners will be named September 25. A \$40 donation is required to adopt and decorate a salmon.

The finished salmon will be auctioned on October 8. All proceeds will be used by the Ver-

nonia Salmon Festival Committee.

To reserve a salmon, email Sally Harrison at SallyHarrison@verizon.net, Paula Hanson at Noppme@aol.com or call Shirlee Daughtry at 503-429-9002.

Far left, one of the salmon blanks available now for decorating as part of the 2006 Salmon Festival. Left is one of two blanks that were decorated and auctioned off at the 2005 Salmon Festival. This one was decorated by Sally Harrison and named Diva.



Feral cat spay or neuter clinic on February 12

The eighth annual spay and neuter clinic for feral cats is being hosted by St. Helens Animal Control, Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) and community volunteers. It is a one-day spay and neuter event. Reservations are required. This is a multi-community event, with volunteers and cats coming from Clatskanie, Rainier, Scappoose, Vernonia, St. Helens, and Warren.

To date, over 450 cats in Columbia County have been altered. With our community's help the coalition anticipates altering between 60-70 cats in February.

Reservations are required for the clinic on Sunday, February 12. Call Laura Snyder at St. Helens Animal Control, 503-397-3333.

Feral cats are cats who have been abandoned or lost, as well as the offspring of these cats. Over time they become more and more wary of people and cannot be handled. This clinic is only for feral cats who have dedicated caregivers to feed and care for them.

FCCO is a non-profit organization funded by private donations and staffed almost entirely by volunteers who are dedicated to humanely reducing the feral cat population. The cats are also vaccinated against rabies and distemper. FCCO requests a \$25 fee per cat. The public is encouraged to "sponsor a spay" to cover the costs for caregivers with limited funds.

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