

# The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

October 1, 2009



A chinook salmon works hard to get to its spawning bed. This one came more than 80 miles up the Nehalem River, then continued up Rock Creek, where this photo caught its efforts near the swimming pool.

## Don't harass spawning salmon

The opportunity to watch Chinook Salmon returning to their place of birth to lay eggs for the next generation of Salmon is almost universally considered to be awe-inspiring.

Watching is fine, but it's very important that the Salmon not be touched. Each Salmon has traveled over 90 miles from the Pacific Ocean, through low and warm waters, to reach their spawning beds.

The trip, plus the physical toll of making between 5,000 and 8,000 eggs, stresses the resources of the fish. Additional stress from being touched, having rocks thrown at them, being poked with sticks, or in any way being harassed, can lead to what's called "pre-spawn mortality," the term for fish that die from being overstressed before they can spawn.

In 2006, Assistant District Fish Biologist, Chris Knutsen, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in Tillamook, said, "There are

usually only enough surviving Salmon returning to replace their parents. It's real important to leave them alone and let them spawn." Knutsen went on to say that Salmon stay in the ocean for two to seven years (the average is four to five) and only a handful manage to survive to return and spawn.

Another reason to leave Salmon alone is that Wildlife Harassment, can be punishable by a fine of \$300. Enjoy the sight, but do not touch.

See page 15 for information on Salmon Poisoning disease in dogs.

### Fund Raiser for Darrold Mushatt Kidney Transplant

Fund Raiser for Darrold Mushatt Kidney Transplant. Eat at the Blue House restaurant on October 11, from 4:00 p.m. to closing. Order your favorite menu item and the proceeds will go to the transplant fund.

## Reappraisals set for valley areas

The Columbia County Assessor's Office is in the process of reappraising all residential, farm and forest properties in the rural Vernonia area, Mist and Birkenfeld for the 2010-11 tax roll. The last time most of these properties were physically inspected was in 1989-90. Appraisers will be verifying the physical condition of buildings and accessories and any additions or deletions since it was last inspected. Most of the inspections will be conducted from the exterior of the property and the appraiser will attempt to contact property owners only to verify substantial changes to the property.

See Appraisals page 5

**Vernonia Salmon Festival**  
Saturday, Oct. 3  
10 AM to 6 PM  
Hawkins Park



An unidentified visitor takes a close look at one quilt among the myriad available at St. Mary's Quilt Sale.

## Casey and Kyle will entertain you

Starting with this issue, on page 17, you'll find a new feature: Casey and Kyle (CK) is a self-syndicated comic strip appearing both in print and on the web. Since its debut in February of 2008, it has been selected as two-time Editors Pick by Comicsherpa.com (your guide to undiscovered comics) and has been hailed as "reminiscent of Charles Schulz's classic, Peanuts" (Newberg Graphic). The first collection of CK strips is now available in book form.

Casey and Kyle is written

and drawn by Will Robertson. Robertson enjoys playing music and working on his tennis serve. His favorite beverage is an iced tea with no lemon. He loves tacos and panini sandwiches and is fond of road trips. He lives with his wife and two children (not named Casey and Kyle) in Oregon's Willamette Valley. His house is yellow.

For more information on Casey and Kyle, including an introduction to each character, go to caseyandkylecomics.com

## Banks schools schedule Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at Banks schools on Wednesday, October 7,

from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 503-324-2281 for more information.