

# Salem takes bite of local eateries

16 restaurants are at this year's festival, more than ever before.

BY JODY LAWRENCE-TURNER  
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People munched, nibbled, scarfed, chomped, licked and slurped their way through the Bite of Salem on Saturday afternoon.

With the most restaurants ever at the festival, which continues today at Riverfront Park, attendees had much to sample.

Noodles, ice cream, kabobs of chicken, buffalo skewers, fruit smoothies, pizza, salmon on a cedar plank, ribs, crawfish and sausage jambalaya, hot dogs and curly fries were among the choices.

This year 16 restaurants are featured at the Bite, said food chair Tracy Gregg. Five are new to the event.

A wine garden, carnival rides, games and music rounded out the event. The saxophone stylings of Patrick Lamb drew smiling fans.

For Bryan Dehut of Salem, the event is an opportunity to be a food critic. He samples it all.

"I like to try a little bit of everything," Dehut said. "When I start to get full on one thing, I pack it up and try something else."

So far, he had Ziploc-ed some ginger chicken yakisoba. He saves it for later.

A coney from Casey's



FRANCESCA PEREZ / Statesman Journal

**MUSICIAN:** Patrick Lamb, of the Portland-based Patrick Lamb Band, plays among the crowd as the rest of the band backs him up Saturday afternoon at the Bite of Salem at Riverfront Park.

Cafe and an elephant ear came next, but Dehut was just getting started.

"I'll probably be back tomorrow," he said. "You can't try everything in one day."

The popular items at the weekend-long event appeared to be fruit smoothies — and anything with yakisoba noodles.

"I like noodles, noodles are good," said Delfino Jaramillo of Salem. "We

## More information

The Bite of Salem continues from noon to 6 p.m. today at Riverfront Park.

The event is free, but a \$2 donation is suggested.

Live music starts at noon and continues until 5:30 p.m.

For information: (503) 364-3123.

are going to look around and try other stuff too."

About 80,000 people,

maybe more, are expected to attend the Bite, Gregg said.

"It's an ideal weather weekend, not too hot and clear skies," Gregg said. "Donations at the gate are up from last year and attendance is up too."

Many people, such as Jeff and Margarita Sandvig of Salem, said they'd been to the Bite before.

"There's a better variety of food this year, a little

of everything," Margarita Sandvig said. "We all got something different."

Her husband, Jeff, said he thinks the Bite is kind of fun.

"You get to come to one place, have a choice of what to eat and then listen to live music," he said.

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