

Bigger is sometimes a better approach



Fishing
Henry Miller
Guest columnist



Rich Whitener of Lyons, left, and Jim Wheaton of Mill City show off the limits of kokanee that they caught at Detroit Lake, the site of an April 28 second annual kokanee derby. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

DETROIT – For anglers Jim Wheaton and Rick Whitener, Monday’s payoff was pure silver.

Posed for pictures along the gunwale of their fully tricked-out fishing boat were 10 dime-bright kokanee, like a sparkling line of silver ingots.

“We were catching quite a few right off the bat,” said the affable Wheaton, of Mill City, who has the vague resemblance to a frontman for ZZ Top. “We got out at dark-thirty, and then it slowed up quite a bit.

“But then we found the biters again and ended up with our 10. They were running anywhere from 12 to 14 inches.”

The pair could have logged the outing as a pre-tournament scouting trip for the second annual Detroit Lake Kokanee Power of Oregon Fishing Derby.

The event is April 28 out of Kane’s Marina in the town of Detroit.

Both Wheaton and Whitener are members of the nonprofit organization that promotes and works for enhancement of the much-beloved, some would say obsessively appealing, landlocked variety of sockeye salmon.

“Table fare,” Whitener, of Lyons, said about the fabled fish. “They’re amazing, just delicious to eat.

“They’re landlocked salmon, and they’re nice and firm and pink, beautiful eating fish.

Both anglers are Detroit retirees, so to speak, Wheaton with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Whitener with the U.S. Forest Service at the Detroit Lake Ranger District station right across Highway 22 from the entrance to Detroit Lake State Park.

For Wheaton, the health of kokanee populations at Detroit Lake is a long-time personal project.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife had been raising about 100,000 kokanes, as the fish are known, annually at the state’s Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery

near Camp Sherman and releasing them as fingerlings into the lake with limited success, Wheaton said.

“When we first got started, me and another guy (dragged) zooplankton nets out there because that’s what they eat, the zooplankton, three different nets with different meshes, catching three different sizes,” he said about surveys of Detroit by Fish and Wildlife and Kokanee Power.

“And we found after doing that for four years out here that the quality of the zooplankton was really high, and the quantity was really high.

“So then ODFW said ‘why aren’t we getting a return on our kokanee?’ And that’s where we came to the idea that they put over 100,000 (rainbow) trout in this thing every year. They were eating them.”

Wheaton grinned. “They were putting in more than 100,000 at one time, little trout-snack kokanee.”

One potential solution was to grow

the kokanee to a larger than trout-nibbles size before planting them in Detroit.

“At KPO, we sort of lobbied with them, ODFW, to take 25,000 of the 100,000 they were putting out there and raising them up to 5 or 6 inches to try and help get them away from all the predation from all of the trout that they put in here.

“About the only thing that will prey on them at that size is maybe the bigger Chinook (salmon) that are out there, or ospreys or eagles.”

Judging by the gleaming picket fence of chrome slabs on the front of the boat with clipped fins illustrating their hatchery origins, the bigger-is-better approach is working.

“We just did our second plant in October,” Wheaton said. “Our first plant was a year before that, and that’s what we’re catching out there now; we’re catching fin-clipped. And we’re also catching some naturals, too.”

OK, you’ve waited long enough, and

because I knew you were going to ask ...

“Mostly we were using pink and orange, little spinners. We were using a few hoochies,” said Wheaton, whose kokanee addiction is sponsored in part by spinner and hoochie-maker Paulina Peak Tackle. “We were down, oh, 40 to 60 feet.”

If you want to give the derby a shot, online registration is open at <https://kokaneepoweroregon.com>.

The cost is \$70 (which includes an annual Kokanee Power membership) and \$35 for members. There’s a \$10-per-team member discount for registrations up to April 14.

There also is a free juniors derby for ages 3 to 13 fishing with a registered adult.

Registered adult and junior anglers also get a lunch provided after the 1 to 2 p.m. derby check-in at the docks at Kane’s.

Adult participant/accompanying non-fishing spouse or companion lunch packages also are available for \$50.

“All of that money that we raise through the membership fees or the derbies goes back into the fishery one way or the other,” Wheaton said.

A printable, mail-in registration form is available on the website, and for procrastinators, “you can actually register that Friday before the derby while we’re setting up (at Kane’s),” Wheaton said.

Derby format is \$500 for the team with the three largest fish in the boat regardless of the number of anglers on board.

“We’re looking at maybe 35 or 40 boats,” Wheaton said. “If we have 35 to 40 boats, we’ll pay out first to 15.”

There are additional side-pot buy-ins available on the website.

Junior derby participants get prizes, with the top finishers receive trophies.

“Everybody’s welcome,” said Whitener, of Lyons. “It’s going to be a great time. A lot of great sponsors, a lot of great gifts.”

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal columnist/outdoor writer. You can reach him via email at HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com

Mentally ill inmates isolated 23 hours a day

Director says he is ‘concerned’ by lack of progress to reduce time spent in solitary confinement in prison

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The more than three dozen men incarcerated in the behavioral health unit at the Oregon State Penitentiary spend almost 23 hours a day confined to a dark, small cell — a practice akin to “torture,” according to disability rights leaders.

A report released April 10 by the nonprofit Disability Rights Oregon detailed the ways Oregon prison officials are failing to meet the basic constitutional standards of inmates with serious mental health conditions.

The report comes three years after the organization released an investigative account of the cramped, dangerous and understaffed conditions of the prison’s behavioral health unit.

Prisoners were housed for months at

a time, even years, in cells 6-feet-wide and 10-feet-deep with only a thin mattress on a concrete platform and a stainless steel plumbing unit. According to the report, the unit had no natural lighting and no windows.

“It is semi-dark even during the middle of the day,” the report read. “It smells of cleaning chemicals, body odor, dirty clothing and mold.”

Many prisoners cut themselves, taunted each other, banged their heads repeatedly against the walls and spent the entire day pacing the circumference of their cells.

Officials blamed the prolonged spells of solitary confinement on the perpetually understaffed unit, inmates’ refusals to leave their cells and lack of space for private counseling.

Following public outcry after the 2015

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A prisoner sits in a cell on the behavioral health unit at the Oregon State Penitentiary. A recent report detailed the ways Oregon prison officials are failing to meet the basic constitutional standards of inmates with serious mental health conditions. PHOTO COURTESY OF DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

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NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Scotts Mills, Marion County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 will be held at City Hall located at 265 4th St. Scotts Mills, OR 97375. The meeting will take place on May 3, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any persons may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Budget Committee Meeting dates and information can also be found on our website: www.scottsmills.org

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 30, 2018 at the City Hall located at 265 4th St., Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.

Silverton Appeal
April 18, 2018

Storylines

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“Our main goal right now is to stay focused throughout every game.”

Silverton softball looks to extend playoff streak

Silverton has been to the state playoffs 14 consecutive years under coach Ralph Cortez, and the goal is to extend that streak.

But much has changed for the Foxes, who advanced to the 5A state semifinals last season.

Maggie Buckholz, the 2017 Mid-Willamette Conference player of the year, is no longer in the program.

Ace pitcher Alex Molloy is a freshman on the Hamline University softball team in St. Paul Minnesota.

Key returners from last season’s team include senior catcher Maggie Roth, a three-time all-conference selection, and senior center fielder Vanessa Meraz, who has yet to play due to an ankle injury.

Senior Grace Voltin, a first team all-conference first baseman last year, is handling the pitching duties.

In a conference that includes No. 3 Dallas, the state runner-up last season, and No. 5 Central, Silverton may have an uphill climb.

The Foxes have started 2-3 overall and 1-3 in the Mid-Willamette Conference. Due to a scheduling mix-up, Silverton didn’t play any games over



Senior softball player Maggie Roth will play a key role for the Silverton High School team this season.

ANNA REED/STATSMAN JOURNAL

spring break.

“We’re gonna have to work really hard this year to stay in the top,” said Cortez, who is in his 18th season. “I think the kids have got it in ‘em. I told the girls, it’s not how we start, it’s how we finish.”

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