

Head for "The Buoy"



Want to get in on the chase after 1,000,000 tasty chinook salmon; fish "the best chinook river in the world;" hook into one of those prized upriver brights? It all begins at the fabled Buoy 10 fishery on the Columbia River, the first week of August, and continues into October.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has predicted a run of over 900,000 chinook salmon will pass through the Buoy 10 fishery this summer/fall.

Several outdoor writers, and other "experts" have labeled the Columbia "the best chinook river in the world."

Now, if you decide to go, you definitely won't be alone. As one ODFW biologist put it, "on some days you can expect up to 100,000 lines in the water."

At times it seems most of them are hooking fish. It is quite an experience to be surrounded by a hundred or so boats and most of them fighting fish.

One Saturday, while gathering data for a magazine article on the fishery, I visited two of the popular boat launches in the area, Hammond and Warrenton.

By 10 a.m., Hammond had launched 505 boats, and that's not counting all those that were already moored there.

One fellow told me he sat in line, in the dark, for almost an hour waiting to launch. Some boat trailers have to park so far away that savvy boaters bring a bicycle to make the trek back to the launch.

A few miles upriver at Warrenton, 312 boats had been launched, and they have a larger number moored there.

This is only two of the launches in the area. There are two more a few miles upriver.

Then there are the launches on the Washington side. One can assume that at least a like number of boats are launched from that side of the river.

Figure an average of four anglers per boat, means a spider web of lines in the water.

The boat launching rush can be amusing/entertaining if you are just watching. Or, quite stressful if you are involved in the launching. Best if women and young children are kept at a distance.

No wonder the locals call it "Zooey 10."

Hiring a river guide is a good way to learn the fishery. Let him deal with the crowded conditions. Usually, their boat will be moored at one of the marinas. Meeting time is set, you show up, walk down and climb aboard.

We have learned several key things; the guide is fishing almost every day. He or

she (there are several women guides) knows where the fish are, when and how to fish for them.

They do the grunt work, even clean and bag your catch.

There are over 200 river guides available in the area, some from as far away as Hells Canyon.

I am not in the business of drumming up business for guides.

There are many skilled salmon anglers that fish Buoy 10 in private boats. I know of several here in Keizer. There are also more than a few that don't have a clue about river etiquette and salmon fishing.

We are taking our guided trip this year with Jim Stephenson, of Jim Stephenson's Guide Service, out of West Salem.

We fished Buoy 10 with him last year and had two great days.

My companions are Bob George and Jeff Kennedy of Salem. We will fish two days.

On our drive to Seaside, Stephenson texts a message confirming all the reports we have heard, fishing has been painfully slow. He has been averaging one fish per day.

We meet Stephenson at his boat--in Warrenton--at first light. He informs us that a modest bite had taken place on the Washington side yesterday.

We soon join an armada of boats around the bridge on the Washington side. We see a couple of boats battling fish.

We drop four lines into



Submitted

G.I. Wilson, Bob George and Jeff Kennedy show off their Buoy 10 catch on August 17.

the water, and to our surprise, Bob's rod slams down to the surface. Fish on! We have been fishing less than a minute.

After an exciting battle, Stephenson slides the net under a fat 22-23 pound chinook. What a start. High fives are in order.

Back to fishing. We see nets flying in different directions. Stephenson says this is the most action he has seen this season. Maybe the run has arrived.

By the time our day is over, Jeff has landed a mint-bright 20-pounder and a 7-8 pound hatchery coho. My fish is the runt of the day, a meager 10-pounder. We release a small jack and a tulie.

But, it has been a great day. Our limits of chinook and a bonus coho. The best day Stephenson has had this season.

We meet Stephenson the next morning 30 minutes earlier. We are pumped up on caffeine and adrenaline.

Heavy fog has settled in. We have to use the GPS to navigate crossing the river. Visibility is no more than 25-30 yards at times.

Crossing the Columbia in the area of the bridge can be dangerous. Boats frequently run aground on Desdemona Sands.

When we arrive on the Washington side, and the fog begins to lift, we are in awe at the number of boats. Word has spread. Fishing was hot yesterday. Minutes drag into hours. Not a bite. Out of that mass of boats, maybe 4-5 nets out. It is dead.

Stephenson makes calls to guide friends in different areas. Same bad news. Where are the

fish?

Bob texts friends fishing the Oregon side. Same story. No fish.

We spend the rest of the day trying to locate fish. One weak bite that missed the hook.

So, in 48 hours we go from Stephenson's best day to his worst.

As we always hear at these times, "That's fishing."

When good numbers of salmon leave the Astoria area anglers follow. Hot spots become the Longview/Rainier area. Then Troutdale, and below Bonneville Dam.

These fish are headed for the upper reaches of the Columbia and its tributaries with anglers trying to ambush them all the way. But, no other area gets the hype and pressure like Buoy 10.

MCNARY, continued from Page 10

second quarter. McNary had a 17-0 halftime lead.

On their first drive of the second half, the Celts had fourth and one on their 36, and a Gilbert keeper moved the ball to the Forest Grove 28. He then carried the ball to the 18 and passed to Jose Solorio for first and goal on the 7. He

passed to Van Voorhis for the final touchdown of the game, and Johnk kicked the extra point for a 24-0 score with 8:28 left in the third quarter.

"We had more trouble than we would have liked," McNary coach Jeff Auvinen said. "But it happens. We didn't play very well offensively, but the kids played their hearts out. We need to clean things up."

Gilbert rushed for 135 yards and passed for 127.

"This week, our strategy

was just to take care of ourselves," Gilbert said. "We have to improve our offense for our game against McMinnville."

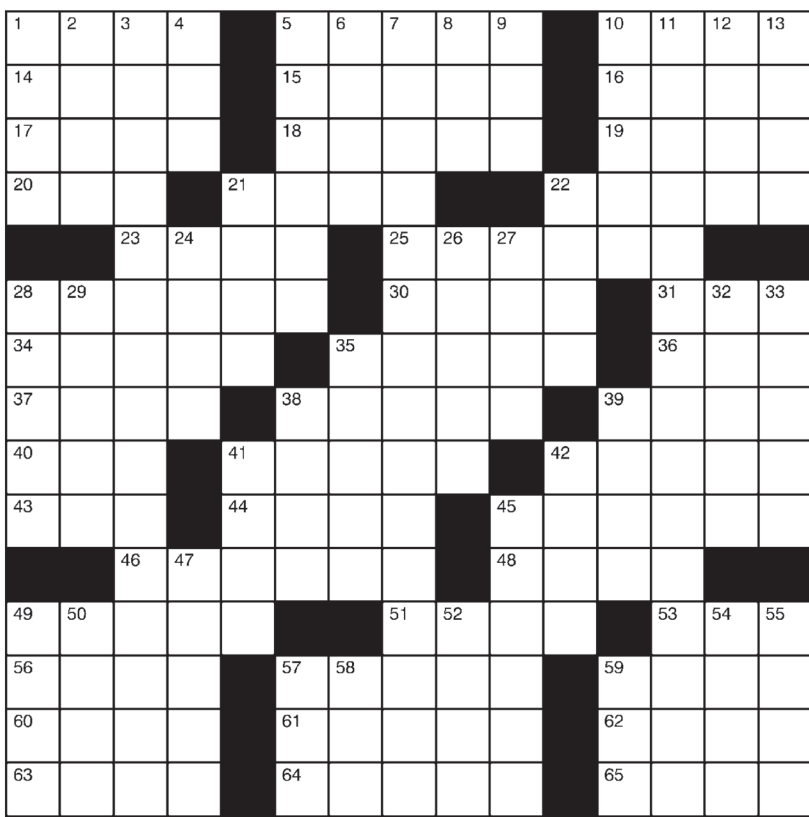
McNary's defense got its first shutout of the season, holding Forest Grove to 141 yards on the ground and just four in the air along with four interceptions.

The Celts play at McMinnville Friday, Oct. 7.

The 4-1 Grizzlies are coming off a 24-12 win over South Salem.

crossword

Sounding Off



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Entertain
- 5 ___ up: in hiding
- 10 Normandy town
- 14 Kind of examination
- 15 University of Maine location
- 16 Exclamation
- 17 Very black
- 18 French painter
- 19 Network
- 20 Garland
- 21 Chinese dynasty
- 22 Natural weapons
- 23 December song
- 25 Blue dye
- 28 Actor James ___
- 30 Immunizing agents
- 31 Servicemen: abbr.
- 34 Anything of value
- 35 Sheepish sound
- 36 Compass pt.
- 37 Spanish rivers
- 38 Like some eyes
- 39 Mine entrance
- 40 Greek letter
- 41 Calloused
- 42 Ski locale
- 43 Massachusetts cape
- 44 Impressed deeply

DOWN

- 1 Thwart
- 2 Sea eagle
- 3 Finding out how things stand
- 4 English cathedral city
- 5 Sermon
- 6 Algerian city
- 7 Eastern body of water
- 8 Compass dir.
- 9 Downy
- 10 Small branch
- 11 Julie Andrews movie

- 12 Baltic dweller
- 13 Is in arrears
- 21 Proper
- 22 Decree
- 24 Folding money
- 26 In want
- 27 Low cart
- 28 Magna ___
- 29 Person from Pakistan
- 32 Bog bird
- 33 Linear unit
- 35 Kentucky college
- 38 Hollywood ___
- 39 Century plant
- 41 Martyr of '76
- 42 London district
- 45 Stopped
- 47 Accumulate
- 49 Forest valley
- 50 Blow one's top
- 52 Plumlike fruit
- 54 Kind of cracker
- 55 Greek war god
- 57 Fearless flyer
- 58 Israelite tribe
- 59 Angle or pod

WMS, continued from Page 10

Windy conditions limited both teams' passing, and the only touchdown pass for either team came on Whiteaker's first score, when Canini hit Camenisch for a 43-yard strike. Whiteaker's secondary of Ethan Schurr, Cameron Parks and Camenish held Straub's passing game in check.

Larimer also heaped praise on his offensive line of Noah Cervantes, Matthew Mehlhoff,

Eric Sorenson, Griffin Hubbard, Coleman Young and tight end Brady Jackson.

"This game will be a huge confidence builder for our line because with good technique and effort our O-line more than held its own against kids who were bigger than us, well coached, and really tough players," he said.

Whiteaker's defense settled down in the second half.

"Straub's primary running back was really an amazing player and had us on our heels in the first half and their QB could really run too," Larimer said. "Our kids responded really well after halftime."

Young led the defense with 10 tackles, including three for

loss, and Noah Unwin, in his first varsity action after a call up from the JV, had eight tackles.

Claggett Creek got its first win, defeating Stephens 30-16 on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Ethan Martin had a 99-yard touchdown run and caught two touchdown passes. Dyami Rios had a 60-yard touchdown run. Jack McCarty threw for two touchdowns and Elijah Devoursney had five catches in the game.

"Our starting defense led by Jose Delgado made a great stand on fourth and goal from the half yard line," Claggett Creek head coach Aaron Carr said. "Overall we played a really good football game and had zero penalties."

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