

# The Curve

By **JIM TAYLOR**  
For the *Keizertimes*

In the middle of April, my friends—Stinky, Crab Bait—and myself took a road trip to Rufus Woods Lake, below Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in central Washington. Rufus Woods is a 51-mile long reservoir behind Chief Joseph Dam.

The lake is home to five net pens, each about an acre, owned by Pacific Seafood, to raise triploid rainbow trout for stores. When you see farmed steelhead in a store they are rainbow from Rufus Woods Lake. They are sterile and can't reproduce; they



grow very fast and big. Many are released into the lake for the Coville Tribe and fishermen. There is a two fish limit over 14 inches.

After driving most of the night—seven hours—we backed Crab Bait's jet sled into the water. Seven miles down the river was where we were going to fish. An acquaintance had fished there the previous week and gave us the information on where to go and what to use. The air temperature



Jim Taylor

was just above freezing and it was a cold 25-minute trip down the river.

When fishing in a new area there is a learning curve no matter how good a fisherman you are. We started with a black and purple jig under a bobber and it worked well. Most of the fish were under 20 inches but we finally caught three that were four to six pounds. A good day.

Day two started with another cold ride. I wrapped a space blanket around myself to break the wind. It worked well but may have messed up some Air Force radar. We decided to use soft beads, used in steelhead fishing, under our bobbers. It worked well even when we trolled slowly. We kept six 6 to 7 pound fish and released about 60 smaller fish. The learning curve was flattening.

Our third day resulted in an epiphany. After catching some of the usual 15-20 inch 'tweeters,' a large muddy creek entered the river. The Columbia was 39 degrees and we could see down at least 15 feet. Back in the cove where the creek entered it was 50 degrees with two feet of

visibility. The depth ranged from two to 10 feet; the fish liked it there.

I had the only fly and so I tied an #8 black woolly bugger fly and cast it out and let it sink a few seconds then began to strip it in slowly. After about three strips, I hooked a big fish and brought it to the net. A beautiful nine-pound rainbow. On the next cast I caught a tweeter but that was enough to get my buddies to tie on woolly buggers. With their spinning rods and a split shot weight it worked great. We kept six fish and released at least 75 others

On our last day we set a 10 a.m. deadline to quit fishing because we had a long drive home. At 9:30 we caught our sixth keeper. We'd released about 50. The six were 8 to 11 pounds. To make it even better, we were by ourselves with nobody in our area.

This was the greatest trout fishing we'd ever experienced. Also the best eating fish. Deep orange meat and a lot of fat. Do you think we're going to return? We're planning a mid-May trip. We are flattening the curve. At least 'til next time.

## brainfood

### Air Raid Signals?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13				14	15				16				
17								18					
19				20				21					
22			23					24					
		25		26	27	28		29		30	31	32	33
34	35	36		37				38					
39				40									
41									42				
43						44			45				
			46		47			48		49	50	51	
52	53	54	55					56	57			58	
59							60				61		
62						63							
64						65					66		

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Country McEntire
- 5 Half of the sway
- 8 Needlepoint or ceramics
- 13 Part of QUOTE by Miami's Joe Robbie
- 16 TV sound
- 17 Part II of QUOTE
- 19 Wickedness
- 20 Allow
- 21 With \_\_\_ the ground
- 22 \_\_\_-tete
- 24 Min. daily requirement
- 25 Mideast area
- 29 Theater area
- 34 Mosquito kin
- 37 Snide asides
- 39 Wolverines' home
- 41 Previous
- 42 That \_\_\_ say
- 43 More attached to
- 44 Personnel pleaser
- 46 Indian of Keresan
- 48 A piece of Bacon
- 52 Minot man
- 56 Misspeak, in a way
- 58 A *Chorus Line* number
- 59 Part III of QUOTE
- 62 Chair man?

#### DOWN

- 63 End of QUOTE
- 64 English resort
- 65 It is, in poetry
- 66 Jog
- 1 Pig in a banquet?
- 2 Pianist Blake
- 3 Wild goose
- 4 Have a headache
- 5 Something about life
- 6 Peer Richard?
- 7 Produce-\_\_\_: breeding criteria
- 8 Valente, of TV's *The Entertainers*
- 9 Lee, of TV's *High Rollers*
- 10 Hebrew month
- 11 Opp. of 5 Down
- 12 *The Bridges at \_\_\_-Ri*
- 14 Before Lama
- 15 2 o'clock on a compass
- 18 Indy 500 racer
- 23 Actress Rolle
- 26 Lagos native
- 27 Buy \_\_\_ in the year-book
- 28 The heart of
- 30 Tatum and Jodie roles

- 31 Clark's comics friend
- 32 Germanic lang.
- 33 Of diffusion
- 34 Gangbuster
- 35 Odd number
- 36 \_\_\_ part
- 38 Acad. at Annapolis
- 40 The big sleet
- 45 "What thou \_\_\_, write \_\_\_"
- 47 Neurotic anxiety
- 49 Sub nemesis
- 50 "\_\_\_ to bed"
- 51 Leavening
- 52 The rolling bones?
- 53 Rush order letters
- 54 US st.
- 55 Bread spread
- 56 Cambodia's neighbor
- 57 Syr.'s neighbor
- 60 Frat letter
- 61 3G of comics

**crossword**  
answers pg A10



## Cat of the Week

**Name: CHAZ**  
**Age: 6**

**HISTORY:** Chaz is a special needs cat on a particular diet and medication for chronic asthma. Frequent vet trips are necessary to keep him healthy.

**PREFERRED HOME:** A quiet home with no dogs and children over the age of 13. He's shy and cautious at first, but a new owner would soon discover his affectionate and loving personality.



We have moved! Our new location is 4157 Cherry Avenue, Keizer • 503-362-5611