

CLOSE TO HOME

# Against the tide makes for new adventure



Baker Bay at dusk.

DAVID CAMPICHE PHOTOS

**A**dventure is a bit like putting your ear up to a seashell and waiting for sound to spill out; waiting, as we do, for a surprise. One that may tame us or set us free. Adventure can be a roiling in the belly or a deep meditation. Adventure comes in big and small packages, physically or mentally.

Generally, courage is the fuel that propels us outward or inward, that circles the wagon train called adventure.

Courage is Atticus Finch, Rosa Parks and Reinhold Messner. Courage is facing the first day at high school, replete with bullies.

My moment might have fermented on a recent Sunday, but it could have been any day. It just happened that the tide was right — high and flooding.

Before age 70 and back surgery, I felt fearless in a kayak. Choppy seas, storms and surging tide caused anxiety but seldom overrode any sense of imminent mortality. Smart or not, I paddled into rough water. Be aware: In a kayak, one measures wave height differently than in a conventional water vessel. A 5-foot wave is a big deal.

## Down the big river

More than a decade ago, Richard Fencsak, Bernie Gerkens and I followed the Lewis and Clark route from Bonneville Dam westward to the Pacific Ocean. In November, just like the Corps of Discovery, we found storm. Day to day, we challenged following seas as we

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Fishing boat in the channel at Baker Bay.

