



## Waterfront construction projects begin March 9

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

Crestline Construction crews will begin construction on two Port of Hood River waterfront enhancement projects on Monday.

The Nichols Basin West Edge Trail project site is located along the entire western shore of Nichols Basin, from the ordinary high water line to N. 1st Street. Construction will continue through June 2015, with all access to the site prohibited for the duration of construction. Funding for the Nichols Basin West Edge project was provided by grants from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Hood River Valley Parks and Rec District, and the Port of Hood River.

The Pedestrian Bridge Trail project is located on both sides of the Hood River Pedestrian Bridge, including areas near the Hood River County History Museum and the Marina Boat Launch.

Vehicle access to the Spit, the Museum, or the Marina area will not be affected. Two brief periods of closure for pedestrian/bicycle access over the Pedestrian Bridge will occur, date and times of those closures will be posted on the Port's website at portofhoodriver.com.

For more information contact Liz Whitmore, Port of Hood River Waterfront Coordinator via email at [lwhitmore@portofhoodriver.com](mailto:lwhitmore@portofhoodriver.com)



## Drift boating for steelhead

I traded the old drift boat for a new one last fall; my new one is an 18 foot wide-bottom Willie drifter complete with a UHMW (synthetic) bottom. Yes, it's big, but this boat's plastic bottom makes the craft row easily, not stick on rocks, and its size means it's in no way tippy and allows me to haul gear and people safely over shallow river bottoms.

Owning a drift boat (or jet boat for that matter) opens up a whole new world of fishing as compared to not having one. Not only can you access miles of water on your favorite steelhead stream, but that of dozens of rivers within driving distance from your home. Adding a warm coat, rain gear and a boat heater can make a winter trip mostly comfortable for a female companion or young angler.

And while you might start off catching fish the same way you did from shore, by float or drift fishing, having a drift boat will allow you to employ new fishing methods — all fun to learn and effective at catching fish. Some boating methods you might learn from a friend, by booking a trip with a guide, or by reading the balance of my column.

## Back-Trolling Plugs

Holding your boat steady in the river current while letting a diving plug out, downstream from your craft 40 to 50 feet might sound like a mindless fishing method, but believe me when I say, doing this effectively is harder than you might think and will absolutely make you a better oarsman. After all, with all you gear and friends, your job will be to maneuver a 1,200-pound boat in a way that positions a quarter-ounce plug(s) where you want it.

Keep in mind, this fishing method works best when river levels are medium to low in height, meaning the color of the river should range from steelhead green

(3-4 feet visibility) to gin clear.

The idea is to hold your boat steady in the river current, at the head end of a hole or drift, let your plugs float out downstream from your boat, engage your reel (this will cause your plugs to dive) and then row just enough so your boat will slowly drop downstream while allowing the river current to keep your plugs diving near bottom. Under most conditions you'll want to run your lures 40 to 50 feet behind your boat.

The strike of a steelhead hitting a plug is likely the hardest one you will ever feel. It's important to wait until the rod bottoms out before setting the hook and to have your thumb firmly planted on the reel spool when doing so. You don't want to set with a quick snap, but rather pull the hooks into the fish with a strong and firm upward motion.

## Side Drifting

Similar to when back-trolling plugs, the way you maneuver your boat will have everything to do with your success, meaning: your boat is more than simply a casting platform, since to do this correctly, its operator (you) must keep the boat moving downstream at or slightly slower than the river current.

Once again, you will be starting at the head end of a hole or drift and begin moving downstream with the current, at which time you will need your friends to parallel cast out, across and upstream from your craft. It will then be your job to keep your boat moving ahead of or even with your lines as they drift along in the current.

Because your boat is moving at the same speed as your outfits, little or no line belly develops, meaning very little weight is needed to keep your offerings close to the bottom. Unlike when drift fishing from shore, you're not looking for a steady tapping of the river bottom here — within a foot or so of the bottom with an occasional tap is plenty good. Some anglers, depending on river height, will use a single split shot. Most employ a short slinky-type sinker consisting of three to six shot, which is the correct amount of weight for this fishing method.

And while rivers like the Hood and White Salmon are not normally fished from a boat, there are nearby rivers like the Sandy, Clackamas, Washougal and Kalama where boat fishing is often done. Booking a trip with a guide is what many anglers do to participate in this popular sport.

## EAGLES

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never relinquished the lead. A couple of fouls sent LaSalle to the line twice, resulting in four made free throws, and last-second desperation shots for HRV failed to fall.

Noteboom was pleased with his team's shooting — something he said the team has relied heavily on this season — shooting 50 percent on twos (11/22) and 45 percent on threes (14/31). However, he noted that allowing LaSalle to get to the line had a huge impact on the game, especially since HRV had so few attempts themselves.

"We put them on the foul line, we put them in the double bonus, and they didn't miss a foul shot in the second half," Noteboom said.

LaSalle hit all 15 of their foul shots in the second half and went 19 of 22 for the game. HRV only had one foul attempt in the second half — a miss — and went six for eight total. Noteboom also said LaSalle's size advantage proved to be a challenge, although he commended his squad for battling for boards.

"(The Falcons) were bigger than us, so we had to rebound or it was going to be a really long night for us and I think we did a really good job of that," he said.

Buckley led the team in scoring and rebounding

with 17 points and seven boards. Clarke led the team in assists with five and had 12 points and was responsible for hitting "some key shots," according to Noteboom. Junior guard Skyler Hunter also hit double digits with 12 points.

The 75-70 loss obviously wasn't the result Noteboom was looking for, who said that had they won, this would have been the first time the Eagles had made the playoffs in 20 years. Still, he was pleased with how much the team had improved this season.

"We've made a lot of progress; I'm really proud of this team," he said. "They've worked really hard and we play at a high intensity here."



**SCOTTIE ZIEGNER** gets pushed in the back by a LaSalle player as he goes for a layup during the fourth quarter of Tuesday night's game. Ziegner, who is a senior, scored six points and grabbed two rebounds and two assists in his final game with HRV. The Eagles ultimately lost to the Falcons by a score of 75-70.

Photo by Ben Mitchell

## BOWL

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scratch 695 series that was 98 pins over his average. That was also the top scratch series posted in league action last week at Orchard Lanes and it was the third time that Jeff has made the team of the week this season.

Young power ball artist Aaron Troxel wasn't far behind in the same session where he notched a solid scratch 639 series that was 90 pins over his average. Aaron is one of the new breed of youngsters who doesn't put his thumb in the ball, cradling it in his hand and then when he releases it, his two fingers that are in the ball create incredible revs that cause it to take a 90 degree turn into the pins. With all that ball action, those poor 3-pound 6-ounce pins don't have a chance when he's on his game. This is the first time Aaron has made the team of the week this season.

Ed Busick also found the range in the Industrial where he tossed a fine

scratch 241 game and 616 series that was 88 pins over his average. Ed makes the weekly trek from The Dalles to experience the competitive action of league play and he has been bowling well lately, so it comes as no surprise to see him deservedly basking in the limelight. This is the second time Ed has made the classy crew this season.

And last, but certainly not least, holding down the anchor spot on this starring five is former bowler of the year at Orchard Lanes and a true legend in ladies bowling in Hood River, Nina Kruckenberg. Nina found some of that old-time magic in the ladies Tuesday morning Workshirkers league where she fired a fine scratch 204 game and finished the session 85 pins over her average. This is the first time Nina has made the team of the week this season.

Fireworks are going to be the order of the day for the wild Tuesday Nite Mixed league this week as they are going to have their championship roll off between the first and second place teams in both halves. Take Ten, Team Nishi, Double A Or-

chards and Got Sand are going to battle it out in a three-game match with the title going to the team that knocks down the most pins. This is going to be a barn-burner between four great teams.

Congratulations are also in order to the powerhouse Cardinal Glass team who won the second round in the Fraternal league. Bowling for Cardinal Glass is Jeremy Bloom, Bryan Mason, Brandon Kawachi and Mike Parke, definitely an all-star crew of four of the best bowlers in Hood River. This win qualifies them to compete in the league championship roll off at the end of the season. This is the toughest league in town with all the top shooters around, so it's quite a feather in any bowler's cap to win it and you can't do that unless you win a round. Look out for Cardinal Glass! Great bowling everybody!

## LEAGUE REPORTS:

**Monday Night Industrial:** Greg McDaniel: 267 game & 671 series  
Gordon Sim: 258 game & 668

series  
Jeff Miller: 258 game  
Randy Tumlinson: 247 game  
Ed Busick: 241 game

**Tuesday Morning Ladies Workshirkers:**  
Nancy Asai: 201 game & 558 series  
Nina Kruckenberg: 204 game

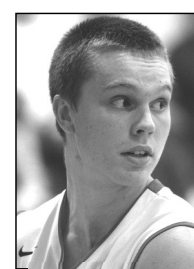
**Wednesday afternoon Colts & Fillies:**  
George Buck: 211 game & 548 series  
Polly Bull: 177 game & 499 series

Dave Baumsteiger: 206 game  
Aaron Troxel: 235 game

**Wednesday Evening Fraternal:**  
Jeff Chenier: 256, 235 games & 695 series  
Bernie Keys: 194 game & 523 series  
Michael Allen: 257 game  
Casey Barker: 248 game  
Lynn Spellman: 248 game  
Jason DeGeus: 244 game  
Greg McDaniel: 241 game  
Jeremy Bloom: 240 game

**Thursday afternoon Lads & Lassies:**  
Gordon Sim: 256, 204 games & 638 series  
Barb Johnson: 430 series  
Joyce Ebersole: 179 game  
**Thursday County:**  
Ryan Pratt: 181 game & 506 series  
Ellen Davis: 185 game & 448 series

## Athlete of the Week



### Mason Bloomster

Horizon Hawks basketball  
Mason Bloomster achieved a double-double in Wednesday's 1A state quarterfinal game, scoring 17 points and snagging 16 rebounds, both team highs.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large pizza with 2 toppings from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 3-07-15.



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