



## HERMISTON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The six members of the Hermiston trap shooting team that are going to the national championships pose in front of the Hermiston Gun Club. Left to right: Tyson Stocker, Case Hiatt, Thomas Mabbott, Kaden Smith, Trevor Wilson and Blake Betz.

## Legion baseball

# Hodgen wins two in Boise

Hermiston Legion made its way to Tri Cities on Fourth of July

East Oregonian

Hodgen Distributing recorded a pair of seventh inning rallies as it won both games of a doubleheader against the Idaho Cubs in Boise on Tuesday, winning 10-9 and 6-4.

In the opener, Hodgen Distributing (18-8) trailed the Cubs 8-7 as the visitors came to bat in the top of the seventh inning. Chris Large and Logan Weinke both reached on consecutive Idaho errors and Kyle Field drove them both in with a double to center field to put Hodgen in front 9-8. Two batters later, Cooper Roberts drove in an insurance run with a sacrifice fly RBI to right field that scored Field for a 10-8 lead.

Roberts' RBI proved to be crucial for Hodgen as the Cubs got one run back in the bottom half of the seventh before Field closed the door for the final out.

In the second game, Hodgen again trailed late in the game, this time by a 4-3 deficit after five innings. The rally got started in the sixth inning with a RBI single from Rudy Esparza to tie the game at 4-4.

Then in the seventh, Ty Beers and Large each reached base on fielding errors and Weinke followed with a sacrifice fly RBI to left that scored Beers to put Hodgen in front 5-4. Three batters later, Roberts hit a grounder to third but the Cubs misplayed it for another error that scored Large for a 6-4 Hodgen lead.

Large finished off the game on the mound in the seventh with two strikeouts to seal the win. He allowed only two hits and one unearned run over four innings with six strikeouts to earn the win.

Ryan Stahl, Beers, Esparza and Zander all tallied two hits apiece on the day. Beers picked up a double and a triple with three runs and two RBI, Zander scored four runs, walked twice and drove in one run, Esparza drove in three runs and Stahl doubled and scored a run.

Hodgen Distributing will start play in the Spokane Tournament on Thursday.

See LEGION/3B

# Gearing up for the nationals

Three-time trap shooting state champions now set sights on national title

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
Staff Writer

**H**ERMISTON — There's a lot that stands out when it comes to Hermiston's Thomas Mabbot. He stands a few inches taller than his trap shooting teammates, his curly red hair can barely be contained under a hat with the well-known 'H' on the front and according to him, he competes in one of the most unique sports open to high schoolers.

"It's truly unique," Mabbot said when asked to try and explain it to those who aren't familiar.

Soon at the Hermiston Gun Club, Mabbot was joined by five other teammates, all of whom will be making this trip to the first-ever trap shooting national championships. The USA High School Clay Target League will bring together over 2,000

student athletes to compete for the sport's highest honor. It's been four years in the making, but the growth of the trapshooting isn't a surprise to Hermiston's shooters, who have seen their league grow since its start three years ago.

One of the biggest reasons for trap shooting's growth is its accessibility to both boys and girls as well as young adults with disabilities.

As the six teenagers are sprawled across a bench with trap houses evenly tucked away in the gravel behind them, they echo that very message.

"It's not hard to get into and there's lots of people to help you," one said across the table.

"Anyone can do it," another added.

"Even if you've never shot a gun before," Mabbot said, "you can come out and start trap shooting. It's not a hard sport to get into."

While some on Hermiston's team have been shooting longer than others, Mabbot picked up the sport in seventh grade and willfully admitted that up until this year,

he wasn't good.

"I used to be terrible at it, and I guess this year I got good," he said. "I used to think it was all about shooting, but it's all mental. That's the hardest part, you just have to get your brain right."

This season, Mabbot's brain and shot are right on target as he had the best finish in the state tournament this past weekend. Mabbot led Hermiston to its third consecutive state title with a second-place finish (99 points). He claimed the No. 2 spot after a tie-breaking reverse run with Newberg's Ryan Kramer.

"It was some of the best I ever shot," Mabbot said. "I was really happy with it. I don't even know what else to say, it was really fun."

Also pitching into the three-peat was Mitchell Pimentel, who placed third (98); Tyler Pearson, who finished tied for seventh place (97); and Kaden Smith, who also finished in a three-way tie for 10th place (96). Cole Smith, Tyson Stocker

See HERMISTON/3B

## OREGON STATE BASEBALL

# Beavers' trio take next step, ink professional deals

By BOB LUNDEBERG  
Albany Democrat-Herald

Two of the greatest middle infielders in Oregon State history reportedly signed professional contracts on Sunday.

Nick Madrigal, the 2017 Pac-12 player and defensive player of the year, agreed to a deal with the Chicago White Sox. 2018 Pac-12 defensive player of the year Cadyn Grenier is now

a member of the Baltimore Orioles organization.

The juniors helped lead OSU to its third College World Series title last week. The Beavers finished the season 55-12-1 overall after taking two of three from Arkansas in the CWS finals.

Monday afternoon, OSU announced that senior third baseman Michael Gretler signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Right-handed pitcher Drew Rasmussen



Madrigal



Rasmussen



Gretler

agreed to terms with the Milwaukee Brewers last month.

Madrigal, a second baseman, was taken fourth over-

all in June's Major League Baseball draft. He hit .367 this season with three home runs, 34 RBIs, 15 stolen

bases and 41 runs scored despite missing 26 games with a broken left wrist.

The 5-foot-8, 165-pound Madrigal was also drafted out of Elk Grove High (California) by the Cleveland Indians in the 17th round but turned down professional baseball. Madrigal, a three-year starter and career .361 hitter, reportedly agreed to a full slot value signing bonus of \$6.4 million.

Prior to the Corvallis

Super Regional, Madrigal said coming to OSU was "the best decision of my life."

"Not only because of baseball, but all the life lessons I've learned along the way and the friendships I've made," he added. "I am very thankful to be able to say I came here and played for this program. Looking back on it now, I definitely think I

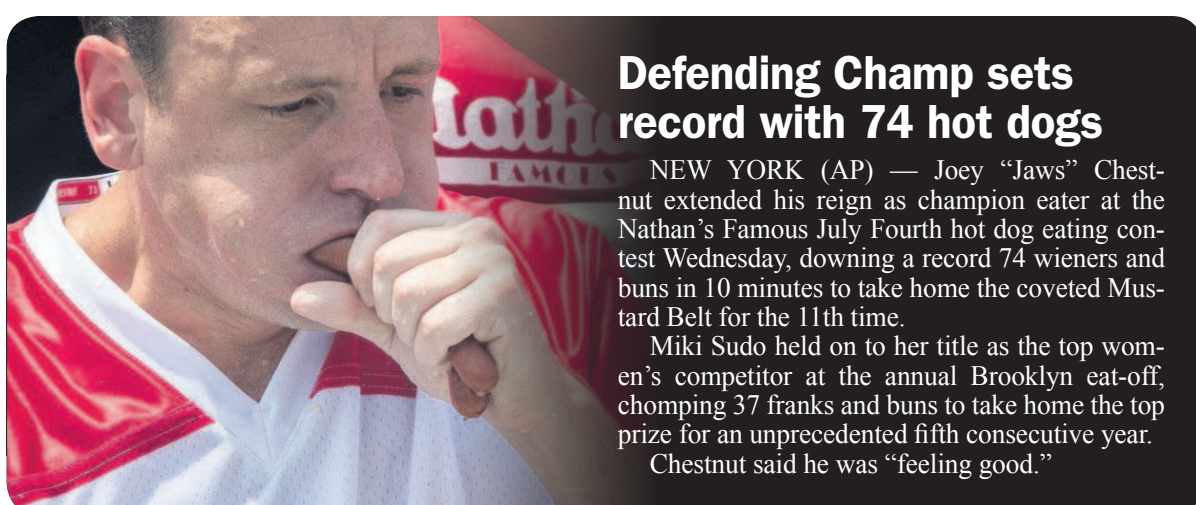
See OSU/3B

## Sports shorts

### European, South American referees picked for QFs

MOSCOW (AP) — FIFA has picked European and South American referees to handle the World Cup quarterfinals that feature only teams from their regions.

The Uruguay vs. France game will be refereed by Nestor Pitana of Argentina on Friday in Nizhny Novgorod. It will be his fourth assignment, including the opening game.



### Defending Champ sets record with 74 hot dogs

NEW YORK (AP) — Joey "Jaws" Chestnut extended his reign as champion eater at the Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest Wednesday, downing a record 74 wieners and buns in 10 minutes to take home the coveted Mustard Belt for the 11th time.

Miki Sudo held on to her title as the top women's competitor at the annual Brooklyn eat-off, chomping 37 franks and buns to take home the top prize for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year.

Chestnut said he was "feeling good."

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1947 — Larry Doby becomes the first black to play in the American League. He strikes out as a pinch-hitter for the Cleveland Indians in a 6-5 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

1968 — The Philadelphia 76ers trade Wilt Chamberlain, basketball's greatest offensive player, to the Los Angeles Lakers after they are unable to sign him to a contract.

2003 — Serena Williams beats sister Venus 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 for her second straight Wimbledon title.

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