

“Once you do it for so long it starts to become second nature.”
— Kimo Gabriel, owner of Gabriel Guides

Gabriel Guides

Fisherman uses experience, knowledge for ultimate day on the river

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Long-time fishermen John and Ray have set out on the Columbia River many times before.

When it’s just the two of them, they often come up short or even leave empty-handed. But with the help of a local guide, Wednesday evening each fisherman took home a gallon Ziploc bag full of walleye fillets — cut and cleaned by the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
The haul from a days worth of fishing walleye on the Columbia River on Wednesday out of Boardman.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Fishing guide Kimo Gabriel cuts a fillet while cleaning walleye for a customer Wednesday at the Boardman Marina.

expert himself.

Kimo Gabriel is in his 11th year as a guide. His business, Gabriel Guides, has taken mostly novice anglers as far as 40 miles out on the Columbia River in search of walleye.

After he relocated to Hermiston from Selah, just north of Yakima, Washington, Gabriel began the guide service after suc-

cess on the tournament fishing circuit. He has used Gabriel Guides to supplement his income as a science teacher at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston, a 32-year career of which he is retiring from this year.

“The success in the guiding made it easier to step away,” Gabriel said. “This is a pretty good supplementary income, and

it’s nice being your own boss. It’s nice, you know, where I can’t pick and chose who and what I deal with at school, I can pick and chose here.”

Until now, Gabriel’s choices were limited. He would come out most weekends and a few months in the summer. When it would get closer to the start of school, Gabriel had to prepare a classroom and

come fall, he would hardly touch the river.

“Usually around June it starts to pick up and in July I fish every day,” Gabriel said. “In August, I fish half of August or more and then school starts. It feels like I really have to jam a bunch of fishing into a short period of time.”

See GUIDES/3B

A sports reporter bids farewell to eastern Oregon

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

I wasn’t sure what to expect, if I’m being honest.

I knew that my first job out of college would most likely be in a small town, but moving from Seattle to Hermiston was ... a change to say the least. No more UberEats, no more Uber and definitely none of the convenience living in a big city can bring.

But something happened my very first day that sums up my entire 11 months here.

I was in the Starbucks drive-thru (of course) and when I pulled up to the window to pay for and grab my coffee, the barista told me the person ahead of my already took care of it. I was so happy I called my father to gloat about my free grande drip. I went on to tell him how something like that had never happened to me before, and that this town had made a good first impression.

The football state championship



Photo courtesy of Bev Mansanarez
Staff writer Alexis Mansanarez poses during one final stroll through Butte Park in Hermiston.

that followed didn’t hurt and the countless athletes, coaches, parents and fans I met along the way made my short stay here all the more special.

I want to thank you for letting a

stranger into your town, your lives and the cherished sports community in Hermiston, Pendleton and all throughout Umatilla and Mor-

See REPORTER/3B

Sports roundup

Hermiston sits atop national leaderboard

HHS traphooting team takes top spot in team qualifying

East Oregonian

The Hermiston High School trapshooting team put together a tremendous performance for its first day at the 2018 USA High School Clay Target League National Championships in Mason, Michigan, on Friday.

Friday’s competition was a team qualifier, where 180 competing teams from across the country were narrowed down to the top 80 that will compete Sunday for the team championship. Of those 180 teams, Hermiston finished No. 1 overall with 484 points out of a possible 500, ahead of St. Michael-Albertville (Minnesota) with 480, Delano (Minnesota) with 479, Fenton (Michigan) with 479 and Chaparral (Kansas) with 475.

“Those boys have prepared all year for today,” Hermiston coach Slade Smith said. “We had to kind of push humility into them, because there’s still a long ways to go to finish it. But they’re not getting too cocky, they’re feeling confident ... they know they have to do it again on Sunday.”

Hermiston’s finish atop the leaderboard Friday is an important one for the team, as Sunday’s team championship round is a cumulative competition where Friday’s qualifying and Sunday’s championship team scores will be added together and the team with the most targets hit is the champion. That gives Hermiston a four-target cushion going into the finals, which is a lot in trapshooting, according to Smith.

“We’ve put ourselves in a good position,” Smith said, “and if we do it again on Sunday, then we have a good chance to finish

See ROUNDUP/3B

Sports shorts

Lonzo Ball to undergo surgery on his left knee

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Lakers guard Lonzo Ball is scheduled to undergo arthroscopic surgery Tuesday on his left knee.

The team said Friday that it will provide an update on Ball’s condition after the surgery. He has a torn meniscus.

Ball, who was chosen by the Lakers with the second overall pick in last year’s draft, averaged 10.2 points and 7.2 assists during his first NBA season. He started 50 games.

Drivers aim to expand Kentucky Speedway winners’ club

SPARTA, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky Speedway’s winners club is seeking new members.

The biggest challenge is a demanding screening process.

Just four NASCAR Cup Series drivers have won the seven 400-mile events at the 1.5-mile tri-oval. Brad Keselowski and Kyle



Busch



Truex Jr.



Keselowski

Busch have combined for five wins and were favored here last July, but Martin Truex Jr. got the victory on the way to the series

championship. Matt Kenseth, the 2003 Cup champion, won here in 2013.

Considering how points leader Busch, second-place Kevin Harvick — who has five consecutive top-10 Kentucky finishes — and Truex have combined for 13 wins this season.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1967 — Eddie Mathews of the Astros hits his 500th home run off San Francisco’s Juan Marichal. 1968 — Hank Aaron hits his 500th home run off Mike McCormick

2013 — Jordan Spieth becomes the youngest winner on the PGA Tour in 82 years. The 19-year-old outlasts David Hearn and Zach Johnson on the fifth hole of a play-off to win the John Deere Classic. He’s the first teenager to win since Ralph Guldahl.