

GUIDES: Angler finds path to guide service with tournament fishing success

Continued from 1B

Now that Gabriel’s teaching will move from the classroom to strictly the river, he’s looking forward to growing the business, which has hosted clients from as far as Montana.

What attracts even experienced anglers is the abundance of walleye and the opportunity to even catch salmon, steelhead and sturgeon, but even with the increasing number of guides — experience and knowledge show on the river.

“The fish just aren’t from bank to bank,” Gabriel said. “They are in real specific spots and sometimes it’s just a matter of 10 or 15, 20 feet — moving one way or the other makes all the difference.”

Gabriel is very familiar with the Columbia River. Even before making Eastern Oregon his home, him and his father would make the nearly 200 mile round trip to the 1,243 mile long river.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Fishing guide Kimo Gabriel wipes down his boat after returning from a fishing trip Wednesday in Boardman.

Gabriel’s earliest memories where fishing for catfish on the weekend, but his dad remembers another time when Gabriel was just three years old.

“It seems like every time I talk with my dad, he brings it up,” he said. “My dad is 96 and he likes to reminisce about fishing. He keeps reminding me that when I

was about three years old, we were fishing below the Wickiup Reservoir over in Central Oregon and he says that he put some kind of bait on the line for me, I

threw it out — and he was fishing his own line — and said I started yelling to him, ‘Daddy, daddy, daddy,’ as a six-pound brown trout was dragging me into the river.”

Now Gabriel commands the water, bringing in haul after haul with his clients. Each person is limited to 10 fish apiece, which is a limit that is often exceeded causing anglers to release their catch.

On Wednesday, the three-man crew reached their limit fairly early and decided to take the water to fulfill their allotted time.

“It’s an eight-hour day unless people get to the point where they are like, ‘Man, this is too hot,’ which happens a lot, or they catch what I consider their limit and sometimes they are happy with that and want to come in,” Gabriel said.

The early wake up call, around 6 or 7 a.m., is followed by a usually unpredictable day on the water. Gabriel always starts at the

Boardman Marina and will continue down the river “until somethings happens,” as he says.

“Sometimes it doesn’t happen until I get down to Crow Butte,” he added. “Today they were biting really well real close, we didn’t have to go anywhere really.”

Location, current, water temperature and food are key in Gabriel keeping clients happy, and at \$200 a pop, they are mostly paying for the experience.

“It’s getting real competitive and if you don’t know what you’re doing, it’s going to show. It’s quite a learning curve,” he said. “If you know what to look for in a current, you can find the fish, I think. Once you do it for so long it starts to become second nature but then again, I know what I’m looking for.”

If interested in Gabriels Guide service, he can be reached on his cell (541) 571-4343.

REPORTER: Football state championship highlights the past year

Continued from 1B

row counties.

The memories, friends and experiences I have made and had in Hermiston will stay with me forever.

It was here where I was reminded day in and day out why I chose this crazy career. I smiled as teams, athletes and coaches hoisted trophies and celebrated championships and I was heartbroken when local teams came up just short of the postseason.

Throughout both counties, I was continually impressed with the talent and grit every single student possessed and, as someone who didn’t play sports in high school, I was also constantly amazed by how

much athleticism was on display.

Each game on different fields and inside different gyms, I was welcomed by kind coaches and talented athletes. I hope I did your stories justice, and I hope that whoever comes next will find the same joy I did in a city “where life is sweet.”

Alexis Mansanarez has been a sports reporter for the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald since August 2017 and is leaving for a new job at the end of this week. She can be reached on Facebook (Alexis Mansanarez), Twitter (@alman-sanarez) and Instagram (@almansss).

ROUNDUP: Legion baseball back to winning ways

Continued from 1B

among the top two or three in the nation, for sure.”

Thomas Mabbott shot a perfect 100 as Hermiston’s high gun, one of five kids nationally that shot 100 for the round. After Mabbott, Kaden Smith shot 98, Case Hiatt 96, Blake Betz 95 and Tyson Stocker 95. Smith said that even on a national stage with 800 other competitors around them, the Hermiston boys didn’t really feel any nerves or pressure on Friday.

“There’s been a couple of non-high school events in the last few weeks we encouraged the kids to go to for the feel of big competition,” Smith said. “These five took advantage of that and with 800 other kids, they handled it well. They’re focused.”

Competition continues

on Saturday with individual qualifying rounds on Saturday where 1,440 competitors will shoot to make the cut to the top 400 that will compete for the individual championship on Sunday. Along with the five Hermiston kids that competed in Friday’s team competition, Trevor Wilson will compete in individual tournament..

“Our goal is to qualify all six kids in the finals,” Smith said, “and they can all do it.”

Hodgen Distributing snaps losing skid in Centralia

The Hodgen Distributing Legion baseball team snapped its seven-game losing skid on Friday, when it defeated Baden Elite Red

(Bellevue, Washington) 9-1 at the College Showcase Tournament in Centralia, Washington.

Hodgen Distributing (19-15) got a strong pitching performance from Ryan Stahl, as the soon-to-be Pendleton senior struck out five in a five-inning complete game while allowing only three walks, two hits and one run.

Stahl had strong run support that produced six runs in the second inning and three runs in the fourth inning to back him up. In the second, Hodgen scored all of its runs with two outs. With two runners on, Matthew Demianew got things going with a RBI single and Ty Beers followed with a RBI double for a 2-0 lead.

Then after Kyle Field was hit with a pitch, Chris Large hit a two-run single to center to add on to

the lead. Quinn Doherty was later hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and Rudy Esparza hit a RBI single to cap the six-run frame.

In the fourth inning, Cooper Roberts hit a RBI double to left field that scored Logan Weinke and then both Roberts and Curtis Simons would later score on errors to end the scoring.

Esparza led the team with three hits in three at-bats.

Hodgen Distributing dropped its two previous games at the tournament, losing 3-0 to Boys of Summer (Redmond, Washington) on Wednesday and 8-0 to City Showcase 18U (Seattle) on Thursday.

The tournament is attended by scouts from at least 44 colleges from the Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA, and Junior College ranks.

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