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Photos by Thomas Colvin/For The Daily Astorian
Astoria High School's T.J. Colvin receives the Phoenix Suns' youth camp coach's award, and poses with, left to right, in the back, Phoenix draft picks Mikal Bridges (10th overall pick in the first round), No. 1 overall pick Deandre Ayton, Elie Okobo (first pick of the second round) and second-rounder George King, along with the Phoenix Suns' mascot, The Gorilla.

Astoria hoopsters learn from the best



Astoria basketball players Tony Tumbarello, left, and T.J. Colvin on their trip to Arizona.

WORLD CUP
US ratings down 42 percent with no American team playing

Associated Press
MOSCOW — The lack of a U.S. team caused a big viewership drop for World Cup telecasts. The 48 group stage broadcasts on Fox and FS1 averaged 2,069,000 viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. That is down 42 percent from the 3.54 million average on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC four years ago and down 15 percent from the 2,429,000 average on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC eight years ago. Excluding games involving the U.S. team in previous World Cups, the average declined 28 percent from the 2014 tournament in Brazil and was up 1 percent from the 2010 tournament in South Africa. Most group-stage kickoff times this year were morning EDT, starting as early as 6 a.m., and the latest matches began at 2 p.m. Games in 2014 started mostly from noon to 4 p.m. EDT, while in 2010 games there were many matches at 10 a.m. and some as early as 7:30 a.m.

SCOREBOARD
LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
Junior State baseball — (at Warrenton HS): Astoria vs. Seaside, 1 p.m.; Knappa vs. Warrenton, 4 p.m.

The Daily Astorian
As a commitment to developing a strong high school basketball program, two Astoria Fishermen flew south to Arizona last month to take part in a Phoenix Suns' youth camp. The day camp took place June 19 to June 23 at Williams Field High School in Gilbert, Arizona. Astoria sophomores-to-be T.J. Colvin and Tony Tumbarello both participated, and at the conclusion of the camp,

Colvin received the coach's award and had his picture taken with Phoenix's entire draft class, including No. 1 overall draft pick Deandre Ayton, out of the University of Arizona. The Suns' summer camps are advertised as "the perfect camp experience for every hoop-loving kid from beginners looking to learn about the game to advanced players needing to hone their skills." Campers gained personal attention from experienced coaches and instruction from members of the Phoenix

coaching staff, as well as Suns players. Colvin and Tumbarello were both freshmen wings last year in Astoria's junior varsity program.

Will LA mean LeBron behind the scenes and on the big screen?

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Space Jam 2?" A whole new "House Party" franchise? With the leadership of LeBron James, anything is possible. As James comes from Cleveland to Los Angeles looking to take the Lakers to more championships with a blockbuster \$154 million contract announced this week, he could also push those two 1990s properties closer to reality and go from part-time presence to major player in Hollywood. James hasn't yet spoken about his plans for Los Angeles. But if he wants to, he's already shown he can act, and not just in that good-for-an-athlete way. His one real film role, playing himself in the 2015 Amy Schumer film "Trainwreck," directed by Judd Apatow, won big raves. The Associated Press' Lindsey Bahr called him "a comedic revelation." Ann Hornaday of The Washington Post said he showed "expert, deadpan timing."

James' co-stars agreed. "He was really good. Like everything with him it was very effortless," said Bill Hader, who played the movie's male lead with James as his sidekick and previously acted with James when he hosted "Saturday Night Live." "He's always listening. I know actors that don't listen, they're just waiting to say their line. He listened." Hader said there was frequent improvisation on "Train-



Arthur Mola/Invision/AP
Executive producer LeBron James attends a September 2017 premiere for 'The Carter Effect' during the Toronto International Film Festival at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

wreck," and LeBron easily kept up with the sketch comedy pros like Hader. "You'll never believe this, but he was super confident," Hader told the AP with a laugh by phone from the Toronto set of the film "It 2." "But not cocky," Hader added. "I remember Chris Rock was on set and rattled off a line suggestion really fast for LeBron, and LeBron said it back during the scene verbatim," Hader said. "I remember thinking, 'I can't do that.'" He wouldn't be the first Laker to try acting. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Shaquille O'Neal had their share of famous, and infamous roles. And Kobe Bryant ended up with an unlikely Academy Award for an animated short based on a poem he wrote about basketball.

LeBlanc goes 7 strong innings, M's beat Angels

Associated Press
SEATTLE — Wade LeBlanc is a journeyman. His 10-year career has featured stops with seven different organizations and even one in Japan, where he thought he was finished. In the left-hander's second stint with Seattle, it appears he's finally found a home. LeBlanc (4-0) allowed one run over seven innings after inking a contract extension with the Mariners earlier in the day, and Seattle beat the Los Angeles Angels 4-1 on Tuesday night for its eighth straight victory. The Angels' Shohei Ohtani was activated from the 10-day disabled list and went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his return. He had been sidelined since June 8 with a Grade 2 ulnar collateral ligament sprain. "I think it was huge that I got all those at-bats in the simulated games," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "It's a different game up here in the big leagues. Maybe still not quite there yet, but just keep on working hard, come back tomorrow." The Mariners announced they signed LeBlanc (4-0) to the extension before his start and the soft-tossing left-hander showed them they made a good decision. LeBlanc allowed three hits, struck out four and retired his final 11 batters. "It's huge," LeBlanc said. "It's life-changing money, obviously, but for me, I've never been the kind of guy to know where my family and I are going to be the next year this early."



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear
Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz gestures as he crosses home plate in front of catcher Martin Maldonado after hitting solo home run off of Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Noe Ramirez during the eighth inning of Tuesday's game in Seattle.



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