

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

NFL suspends Hardy for 10 games

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL suspended defensive end Greg Hardy for 10 games without pay Wednesday for conduct detrimental to the league after concluding there was “credible evidence” he roughed up his former girlfriend nearly a year ago when he was a member of the Carolina Panthers.



Hardy, who joined the Dallas Cowboys as a free agent on a one-year, incentive-laden deal, was notified Wednesday of the decision in a letter from Commissioner Roger Goodell. Hardy plans to appeal.

Goodell cited “sufficient credible evidence that Hardy engaged in conduct that violated NFL policies in multiple respects and with aggravating circumstances.” His assault case had been dismissed in a North Carolina court because his accuser refused to cooperate with prosecutors, but an NFL investigation concluded that Hardy used physical force against Nicole Holder in at least four instances.

Subway creates Mariota bust from sandwich fixings

Marcus Mariota already is part of the lore of a famous statue, having won the 2014 Heisman Trophy. Now he has something that might not be so prestigious, but is edible.

After signing on with Subway restaurants as their latest “Famous Fan,” Mariota unveiled a life-size food sculpture Wednesday in his hometown of Honolulu. The main ingredient of the structure: guacamole.

That made the Oregon quarterback and likely early pick in next week’s draft laugh loudly. He says “When they first showed it to us at the house, my mom, she made sure I got a photo with it.”

The statue was made by food sculptor Jim Victor.

“The risk is not necessarily in moving forward, but I think sometimes, the risk can be in being fearful of moving forward.”

— **Sam Presti**
Oklahoma Thunder general manager on the firing of head coach Scott Brooks on Wednesday. Brooks was 338-207 (.620) in seven seasons and was the 2009-10 NBA Coach of the Year. The team made the Western Conference finals three times from 2010-14, and made the NBA Finals in 2012, but missed the playoffs this season as injuries limited the Thunder to a 45-37 record.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1903 — The New York Highlanders, later renamed Yankees, win their first game as a major league team, 7-2 over the Washington Senators.

1954 — The NBA adopts the 24-second shot clock.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

HERMISTON

Prep rodeo comes to Farm-City Arena

Cow cutting finals kick off event

By **MATT ENTRUP**
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — For the first time, high school rodeo champions will be crowned at Farm-City Arena when the Intermountain High School rodeo team holds its home doubleheader this weekend.

Before a single steer is wrestled, a single barrel turned, cow cutters will get their chance to claim an Oregon High School Rodeo Association (OHSRA) championship during a special session held on Friday at 10 a.m.

“It’s kind of a new concept for us holding the cutting finals before the state finals,” said Intermountain coach Curtis Pederson. “But we’re going to give it a try and see how it goes.”

Heppner sophomore Kolby Currin enters in fourth place,

See **RODEO/2B**



A summer sun sets over the Farm-City Arena which will host the Intermountain HS Rodeo Friday through Sunday in Hermiston.

EO Media Group file photo

NBA Playoffs

Trail Blazers hobble home

Memphis goes up 2-0 as series shifts to Portland

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Known for pounding opponents inside with Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph, the Memphis Grizzlies are showing they can be just as effective outside the paint.

Hey, they can even shoot 3-pointers.

Mike Conley and Courtney Lee each scored 18 points, and the Grizzlies beat Portland 97-82 Wednesday night to grab the franchise’s first 2-0 lead in a playoff series.

The Grizzlies took full advantage of starting the playoffs at home for only the second time in their short postseason history. They had only won their playoff opener once before, and that was on the road in San Antonio in 2011.

“All we did is just take care of home court, which we were supposed to do,” Lee said. “We didn’t want those guys to come in here and get one and switch home-court advantage in their favor.”

Gasol had 15 points, and Randolph and Beno Udrih added 10 apiece.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 24 points and 14 rebounds, and he also had four blocks with two steals. Damian Lillard added 18 points but the Trail Blazers lost their first two playoff games for the first time since 2011, when they fell in six games to Dallas.

Game 3 in this best-of-seven series is Saturday night in Portland, and the Trail Blazers hope to draw on their fans the way the Grizzlies have.

“We got to try to do something there,” Lillard said.

Memphis is known for its bruising inside game with Gasol and Randolph. That duo combined to shoot 9 of 31, not that it mattered with Memphis shooting 50 percent (8 of 16) outside the arc and 42.7 percent overall.

“If they are going to keep giving us that, we’re going to keep taking them,” Gasol said of the outside shots.

Memphis was 22nd in the NBA shooting 3s this season while Portland ranked eighth. But the Grizzlies shot 50.9 percent against the Trail Blazers sweeping all four games in the season. So the Grizzlies’ 3-point accuracy didn’t surprise Portland

See **BLAZERS/2B**



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) and center Joel Freeland, of England, right, leave the court after losing to the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 2 of an NBA basketball Western Conference playoff series Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn. The Grizzlies won 97-82 and lead the series 2-0.

AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

FACES



“Mariota”

PENDLETON

T-Wolves crush Knights in double dip

Freshman hurler carries no-hit bid into sixth

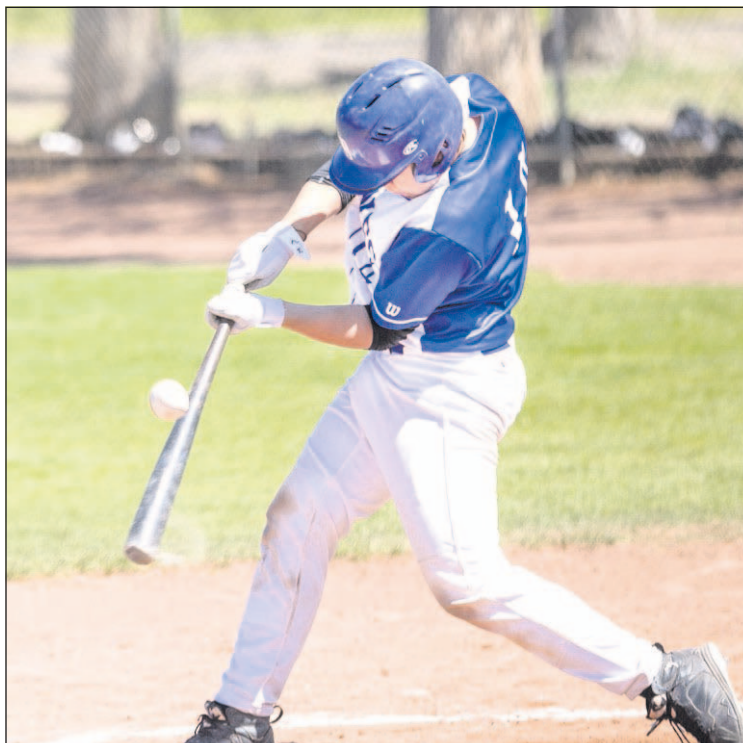
By **ERIK SKOPIL**
East Oregonian

Not since his freshman year of high school had Jonathan Boyer breached the midway point of a game without allowing a hit. He made it 5 1/3 innings Wednesday.

Not once in the last four seasons had Blue Mountain Community scored 20 runs in a doubleheader. The Timberwolves matched that number Wednesday.

The last-place Timberwolves rode the pair of anomalies to their third double dip sweep of the season, putting down visiting Wenatchee Valley 7-3 and 13-0 at the BMCC baseball field.

“All of it came together, our pitching, defense and hitting all came together,” BMCC coach Brad Baker said. “We’ve done



Jacob Urbach, of Blue Mountain Community College, connects with the ball Wednesday against Wenatchee Valley College in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

bits of pieces of it together, today we put it all together.”

Boyer, a 6-foot-6 freshman from Wasilla, Alaska, was dialed in during the club’s second victory. Making just his second start

for the T-Wolves (12-22, 4-14 East Region), the big right-hander hit his spots almost without exception. He faced four more than

See **T-WOLVES/2B**

Prep Tennis

Bulldogs rebound for win

Hermiston girls tennis beats The Dalles

EO Media Group

HERMISTON — Following a 5-3 loss to Pendleton that left players frustrated, the Hermiston girls tennis team rebounded Wednesday in a big way.

With many competitive matches and three tie-breakers, the Bulldogs outlasted the Riverhawks 5-3, keyed by a 6-4, 5-7 (10-8) win by No. 3 singles player Mackenzie Hill to clinch the victory.

“No one was real happy with their play after Pendleton,” head coach Jason Sivey said. “It made us step back and think about what we’re doing today, for sure, and I think that we came out and played a pretty good match with them not being real happy with their previous performance.”

“A lot more smiles coming

See **TENNIS/2B**