

Sports shorts

Diamondbacks want upgrades to Chase Field

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Diamondbacks are threatening to sue Maricopa County and leave downtown Phoenix unless their ballpark is upgraded.



In a letter to county officials Thursday, the Diamondbacks say the county has failed to make \$187 million in repairs to the ballpark that opened in 1998. The letter also says if the Diamondbacks determine a retrofit of Chase Field isn't feasible and if the county doesn't grant permission for the team to look elsewhere, "we will ask the court for all appropriate relief."

They also say that according to its contract with the county that runs through 2028, the Diamondbacks are prohibited from trying to move until 2024.

RG3 looks for fresh start, signs with Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) — Robert Griffin III is getting a chance to revive a career that once seemed unstoppable.

One of the NFL's brightest and flashiest stars just a few years ago, Griffin signed Thursday with the Cleveland Browns, a franchise on a perpetual mission to find a quarterback to bring it back to glory. Griffin hasn't been the same since his dazzling rookie season in Washington in 2012, but the Browns are taking a chance he can still lead on and off the field. Griffin met with the Browns last week and they will now give him a chance to resurrect his career and win their starting job.

FACES



Griffin III

"People that say, 'I won't let my son play [football]' are fools ... This is the greatest game in the world. I think it teaches more values than any other game that you play. You have things that happen in your life that aren't going to be good. If you play football, you know how to handle them. It doesn't necessarily equate in track and other things."

— **Bruce Arians**
Arizona Cardinals head coach in an interview with The MMQB's Peter King at the NFL meetings in Florida, when asked about the future of the game of football.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1972 — Bill Walton scores 24 points to lead UCLA to an 81-76 victory over Florida State and the NCAA title.
2008 — Tennessee gives coach Pat Summitt her 100th NCAA Tournament win, a 78-52 rout of host Purdue. The win sends the Lady Vols to the NCAA regional semifinals.

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PENDLETON

Buckaroos score season-high 18 in rout

Nine-run fifth inning carries Bucks to easy win

East Oregonian

BOISE, Idaho — The Pendleton Buckaroos kicked off a spring break trip to Idaho on Thursday afternoon by breezing to an 18-3 win over the Madison (ID) Bobcats in five innings at the Buck's Bags preseason tournament.

It marked the second-straight game where Pendleton's bats feasted on the opponents pitching staff, following up on its 17-7 win over Roseburg on Monday. The middle of the Bucks' (4-2) lineup did plenty of damage in this game, as the 2-4 hitters combined for six hits, 10 RBI, and six runs scored. "We've been swinging the bats really well," Pendleton coach T.J. Haguewood said. "Our baserunning

Baseball



Pendleton

18



Madison (ID)

3

was excellent today, and we had some big timely hits. We got a little deep into their bullpen and the game just got away from them."

Quinn Cockburn headlined those performances by reaching base in four of his five trips to the plate with two hits, five RBI, three runs scored, one walk, and one hit-by-pitch. The only time he did not reach base was on a sacrifice fly RBI in the third inning. Sophomore Nick Bower got the

start in left field and had his best performance of the early season at the plate, going a perfect 3-3 at the plate with two RBI and three runs scored.

Wyatt Morris got the start on the mound for Pendleton and threw five strong innings where he allowed just three hits and three runs (one earned) with two strikeouts. Morris also had a solid day at the plate, going 1-4 on the day with three runs scored as Pendleton's lead-off hitter. Morris has had a solid start to the 2016 season, serving as the

See BUCKAROOS/2B

Men's College Basketball

Ducks soaring among elites



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

Oregon forward Dillon Brooks, right, shoots over Duke forward Chase Jeter during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the regional semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, Thursday, March 24, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

Oregon knocks off Duke to reach regional final

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Oregon Ducks took a double-digit lead early in the second half against the defending national champions, and they never flinched down the stretch.

After taking down mighty Duke with remarkably little drama, these high-flying Ducks are on the brink of the Final Four.

Dillon Brooks scored 22 points and Oregon advanced with an 82-68 victory over the Blue Devils

on Thursday night in the West Region semifinal of the NCAA Tournament.

Elgin Cook had 16 points and nine rebounds for the top-seeded Ducks (31-6), who will meet Oklahoma on Saturday. The second-seeded Sooners routed Texas A&M 77-63.

After a season-long rise in the Pacific Northwest, the Pac-12 champion Ducks emphatically arrived on the national stage with a strong second-half rally to beat the

Sweet 16



Duke

68



Oregon

82

Blue Devils (25-11) for the first time in school history.

"I think we don't have a history of being a basketball school, but I think we did some great things this year to prove we deserve it," said Jordan Bell, who had 13 points and seven rebounds. "I think we played one of our best games this year. Everybody, not just including me. I think we showed everybody we're a good team."

The win is a landmark for a foot-

ball school making its basketball mark. But it was also remarkable for what the Ducks didn't allow in the second half.

No nerves, no panic — and no rallies by Duke.

The Ducks didn't take the enormity of their accomplishment for granted, even though they can't spend much time thinking about it right now.

"Duke is a household name," coach Dana Altman said. "Coach K, I have a great deal of respect. So yeah, our guys knew the significance

See DUCKS/3B

ECHO

Cougars use big innings to down Colton

Mackenzie Gonzales strikes out 10 in dominant performance

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

On a chilly day with a biting wind coming in from right field, two innings separated the Echo Cougars and Colton Vikings in an inter-conference match-up Thursday afternoon in Echo.

The Cougars scored eight runs in the bottom of the second, buoyed by three Vikings errors, and plated six runs in the fourth en route to a 14-1 mercy-rule shellacking.

"We hit the ball hard today," Echo (2-1) coach Bryan Bailey said. "We had some hard-hit balls. We executed bunts. We executed hit-and-runs. We executed



Echo junior Mackenzie Gonzales delivers a pitch early during the Cougars' 14-0 rout of Colton on Thursday in Echo.

Staff photo by Sam Barbee

Prep Roundup

Thieme, Pierce pitch Rockets to victories

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — the Pilot Rock baseball team remained undefeated with their fourth and fifth wins of the season in a non-league doubleheader against the Umatilla Vikings on Thursday.

Pilot Rock starting pitchers Levi Thieme and Bryson Pierce controlled their outings and made big impacts at the plate as well as the Rockets won 7-3 and 12-2 in five innings.

Thieme struck out 18 batters, walked four and gave up three

See PREPS/2B