

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

## Sports shorts

### MLS adds security at its stadiums

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans attending games at Major League Soccer venues will be subject to pat down searches or screenings with wands starting Saturday.



New guidelines announced by the league also prohibit large purses, coolers, briefcases, backpacks and other large bags. Bags will also be subject to searches.

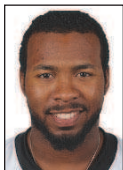
Ray Whitworth, senior vice president of security and operations, said the updated measures will bring MLS in line with other professional sports leagues in the United States.

Each venue will decide which screening measure — pat downs or wands — is used. The security procedures will apply to all soccer games at MLS venues, not just league games.

### Panthers rescind franchise tag on All-Pro cornerback

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Josh Norman, one of the NFL's top cornerbacks, is now an unrestricted free agent after the Carolina Panthers surprisingly rescinded their non-exclusive franchise tag offer to the All-Pro.

## FACES



Norman did not sign the franchise tag offer from the Panthers which would have paid him \$13.9 million in 2016.

Now he can sign with any team.

Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman said in a release Wednesday that "after a number of conversations with Josh's agent we realized that a long-term deal was not attainable" and that the organization wishes him well.

"It's a tough price to pay. We're very sure we're going to get the player we want."

### — Howie Roseman

Philadelphia Eagles executive vice president of football operations on the team's trade with the Cleveland Browns.

The Eagles gave up five draft picks in exchange for Cleveland's No. 2 overall pick in next week's draft, and Roseman said the team intends to select a quarterback. Cleveland received the Eagles' No. 8 overall pick as well as a third and fourth-round pick in this year's draft, and the Eagles' first-round pick in 2017 and second-round pick in 2018.

Phil Humber throws the first perfect game in the majors in almost two years, leading the Chicago White Sox to a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1996 — The Chicago Bulls wrap up the most successful regular season in NBA history with their 72nd victory, getting 26 points from Michael Jordan in a 103-93 decision over Washington. Jordan sets an NBA record by winning his eighth NBA scoring title, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's record of seven.

2012 — Phil Humber throws the first perfect game in the majors in almost two years, leading the Chicago White Sox to a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

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

## College Golf

# Lien, Simmons lead Lewis-Clark surge

## Warriors men win Frontier Conference championship

East Oregonian

TEMPE, Ariz. — Chris Lien opened his final round at the Frontier Conference Championships with three-straight birdies, and the Lewis-Clark State senior from Heppner went on to post the lowest

round of the 54-hole tournament to win the men's title on Wednesday.

Lien made the turn at ASU Karsten Golf Course at three-under par for the day and was five-under before hitting bogeys on two of the final four holes to come into the clubhouse with a 68. That



Lien



Simmons

was enough to surpass Rocky Mountain's Colton Murphy, who entered the final round with a four-stroke lead that disintegrated when he shot three bogeys and two bogeys on the front nine to make the turn at seven-over.

Lien finished with a three-round

score of 76-74-68—218 and Murphy came in at 76-70-79—225 to tie for second. L-C State's Casey Brown held a two-stroke lead on Lien headed into the final 18 but was hurt but a double bogey on No. 5 and a triple bogey on No. 18 to finish tied for second with 74-74-77—225.

Lien's rise to the top on Wednesday mirrored that of the team as the Warriors overcame a five-shot deficit to win the team title with a score of 304-301-292—897.

See WARRIORS/2B

# Clippers dominate Blazers



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, right, goes up for a dunk as Portland Trail Blazers forward Maurice Harkless defends during the second half in Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, April 20, 2016, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won 102-81.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

## HERMISTON Rodeo title races starting to emerge

Intermountain team looks to boost rankings at home rodeo

East Oregonian

Title races are beginning to take shape as the high school rodeo season has hit the halfway point and begins the push toward the state finals on Friday in Hermiston.

With this weekend's action at Farm-City Arena representing one of the final three events before the standings are cut to the top 20 for the state championships, several Intermountain team members are among the group looking to solidify their status as title contenders in Hermiston.

One need look no farther than the boys' all-around race to get a glimpse of the Intermountain team's strength this season.

Five of the top eight come from the Umatilla-Morrow County based squad, and Hermiston's Preston Pederson leads the

See RODEO/2B

## Intermountain High School Rodeo

- **What:** The Intermountain High School rodeo team is hosting its annual doubleheader rodeo this weekend.
- **When:** Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 1 & 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon.
- **Where:** Farm-City Arena, Hermiston
- **Cost:** Free admission, concessions available

## Los Angeles closes strong for 2-0 series lead



By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Chris Paul scored 25 points, J.J. Redick added 17 and the Los Angeles Clippers pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 102-81

Wednesday night and take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Damian Lillard and Mason Plumlee led the Blazers with 17 points each. CJ McCollum added 16 after being held to nine in their 20-point loss in the series opener. Plumlee

and Al-Farouq Aminu had 10 rebounds each. Portland shot a season-worst 34.1 percent.

Game 3 is Saturday in Portland.

Blake Griffin had 12 points and nine rebounds and DeAndre Jordan had 18

See BLAZERS/2B

## HERMISTON

# Bulldogs' Sexton signs with Blue Mountain baseball

Hermiston senior chose Timberwolves from several other offers

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Tyler Sexton has had a love for the game of baseball for as long as he can remember.

That love has grown stronger and stronger over the course of his high school career, and now he has the opportunity to take his talents to the collegiate level for at least the next two years.

On April 5 at a ceremony at Hermiston High School, Sexton put pen to paper and signed on to play baseball at Blue Mountain Community College.

"Every kid has that dream of playing at the next level either in college or the major leagues," Sexton said. "I liked the school and I like the program so it's good to find a place where I feel like I belong."

"It's definitely a blessing to be



Hermiston senior Tyler Sexton, center, signs his scholarship to play baseball at Blue Mountain Community College on April 5 at Hermiston High School with his parents, Kim, left and Jim, right, and varsity coach Lance Hawkins, far right, looking on.

able to maintain my health so I was able to play at the next level."

The Bulldog senior said he considered several other schools as well, such as Yakima Valley Community College, Clackamas Community College, and Columbia

Basin College, but in the end Blue Mountain won over his heart.

Sexton said that Blue Mountain coach Brad Baker will slot him in as a pitcher, but also wants to utilize his powerful bat and 6-foot-4 frame at first base.

The decision to attend Blue Mountain came with the stamp of approval from his parents, father Jim and mother Kim, who are excited to have just a short drive to Pendleton to be able to watch Sexton at the Timberwolves home games.

"My mom is especially happy I'm staying close to home," Sexton said with a smile. "(My family) is going to be able to make it to home games since it's only a half hour drive versus Clackamas or Yakima Valley that were an hour to four hours away."

Through 14 games for Hermiston in his senior season, Sexton is hitting .307 (12-39) with 10 RBI, eight runs scored and a pair of doubles at the plate. He has also been very strong on the mound as a reliever and starter, throwing 26.2 total innings with a 3.78 ERA while racking up 33 strikeouts to 16 walks and 17 hits.

Contact Eric Singer at [esinger@eastoregonian.com](mailto:esinger@eastoregonian.com) or (541) 966-0839. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.