

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

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## PENDLETON

# Motorcycle hillclimbing returns to Oregon

### City to host the state's first event in 30 years

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

For the first time in 30 years, motorcycle hillclimbing is back in Oregon.

The Nitro into the Blues hillclimb, part of the North American Hillclimbers Association circuit, is set to take place this weekend in

Pendleton as part of the Pendleton Bike Week festivities, marking the first sanctioned hillclimb event in the state since Grants Pass held an event in 1986. Event promoter Ron Dillon, who has put on more than 200 various events since 1979, said that the sport used to be popular in Oregon, with Portland and Salem being a hotspot in the 1950s and 1960s.

"It's a fun sport to watch," Dillon said.

So what made it come back to the state, and why pick the city of Pendleton?

"It all started with the Pendleton Bike Week," Dillon said. "The

### Nitro into the Blues

• When: Friday (Noon-5 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.), Sunday (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)  
• Where: 41095 Taylor Lane in Pendleton.

organizers contacted me a year ago and said they were interested in doing a hillclimb event, so I came over and met with them. Me and (Travel Pendleton recruiter) Pat Beard looked at various locations and when we found one, we went for it."

So Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

more than 150 professional riders will take their turn at the hill that sits one mile south of Rieth on a ranch at 41095 Taylor Lane. It measures out to be a 275-foot-high vertical climb, as well as a roughly 400-foot-high climb in length, which is average in size compared to the rest of the circuit, however Dillon says that does not mean it will be easy.

"We're not sure what to expect," Dillon said of the hill. "Nobody's ever tried it, which is exciting. There may be no riders go over it, or everyone might, we just don't know."

Friday's action will take place from Noon to 5 p.m. with semi-

pros, kids, women, and men aged 40+ taking their shot at the hill, while Saturday's 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. schedule is filled with continued qualifying from those classifications, as well as the top-level professionals.

Then on Sunday to complete the event, the Open Pro Finals will take place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., featuring many riders running bikes with engine horsepower touching the 200 mark.

There has been plenty of preparation for the event taking place over the last week, such as getting the dry hill in shape to handle three

See HILLCLIMB/2B

## NFL

# Seattle ready as camp nears

In this Dec. 13, 2015, file photo, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson looks to pass during an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Baltimore.

AP Photo/Patrick Semansky



## Most of Seahawks' questions answered as camp opens July 30th

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — When the Seattle Seahawks won the Super Bowl after the 2013 season, they created a roster with depth no one else in the NFL could match.

Ask around, and the Seahawks believe they've constructed a roster entering this

camp with the talent and depth to rival that championship squad.

"I think it's going to be one of our most competitive camps," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "This is a chance for us to have a roster that reminds us of a couple years back and hopefully it'll play out that way."

The Seahawks begin training camp on July 30 with relatively few questions. There

is no Super Bowl hangover like last season lingering over the franchise. There aren't contract disputes or huge injury concerns.

Yes, there are questions about the offensive line and when a couple of key offensive players will be ready. But for the most part, it's been a mostly quiet offseason from one of the presumptive favorites in the NFC.

See SEAHAWKS/2B

## PENDLETON

# Ellis leaves BMCC

### Men's basketball coach departs after four seasons for NCAA job

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

After four years as the head coach of Blue Mountain's men's basketball program, Adam Ellis felt it was time to move on.

He recently accepted an assistant's position at the NCAA Division II school Saint Martin's University in Lacey,

Washington under second-year coach Adam Pribble. Ellis says the decision was a tough one to make, but in the end felt like it was the right move for his career.

"It's never easy in this business so it never feels right when you leave," Ellis said on Thursday. "For me it was a family decision ... I was offered a position with a program that is on the rise with a great university and an unbelievable coach who really saw value in me."

"Just like when we recruit our guys to a program we tell them you have to go where you are wanted."

Ellis came to Blue Mountain following a tenure as an assistant coach at Marina High School in Huntington Beach, California and as head coach at his alma mater of Tekoa-Oakesdale High School in Washington. He got his first taste of the NWAC after playing two years at Spokane

See ELLIS/2B



Ellis

## Basketball

# NBA moving All-Star Game

### League cites North Carolina's anti-LGBT law as reason for change

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
Associated Press

The NBA is moving the 2017 All-Star Game out of Charlotte because of its objections to a North Carolina law that limits anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

The league had expressed its opposition to the law known as HB2 since it was enacted in March, and its decision Thursday came less than a month after state legislators revisited the law and chose to leave it largely unchanged.

"While we recognize that the NBA cannot choose the law in every city, state, and country in which we do business, we do not believe we can successfully host our All-Star festivities in Charlotte in the climate created by HB2," the league said in a statement.

The league added that it hoped to announce a new location for next February's events shortly. It hopes to reschedule the 2019 game for Charlotte

See ALL-STAR/2B



In this June 23, 2015, file photo NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks during a news conference to announce Charlotte, N.C., as the site of the 2017 NBA All-Star basketball game.

AP Photo/Chuck Burton

## Sports shorts

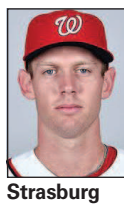
### Dodgers give Strasburg first loss

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justin Turner homered twice and drove in five runs and the Los Angeles Dodgers ended Stephen Strasburg's undefeated streak by beating the Washington Nationals 6-3 on Thursday.

Turner hit his 16th and 17th home runs, a two-run shot off Strasburg in the first and a three-run shot off the right-hander in the third, to set a career high.

Strasburg (13-1) lost for the first time since Sept. 9, ending a run of 16 consecutive winning decisions. Making it through the sixth, he allowed a season-high six earned runs and seven hits — all in the first three innings — and struck out 10.

At one point Strasburg struck out seven of nine Los Angeles batters and allowed just one base runner after the third.



Strasburg

"It is never-ending. Especially when people are getting new contracts every day. You sit there and you're like, '(Dang), really?' I'm just to the point where it's kind of like, if you don't think I'm valuable, then just get rid of me."

— Michael Bennett

Seattle Seahawks defensive lineman speaking to the Huffington Post about his contract situation. Bennett has been very outspoken about his hopes of getting a more fair contract.

### ACC becomes latest to have own conference network

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford said Thursday the ACC Network will launch in August 2019 as part of an extended media deal with ESPN that now runs through the 2035-36 season.

Speaking at his annual forum during the ACC Kickoff media days, Swofford said there will also be the creation of a digital channel that will be online next month. The league will move to a 20-game league schedule in men's basketball by 2019, part of an effort to boost the available content toward the goal of airing more than 1,300 events annually through those outlets.

The deal also includes a grant-of-rights provision allowing the ACC to retain control of media rights for any school that leaves the conference through the length of the TV deal.



### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1962 — Gary Player of South Africa becomes the first non-resident of the United States to win the PGA championship.

1984 — Kathy Whitworth becomes the all-time winner in professional golf tournaments by winning the Rochester Open. Whitworth, with 85 career wins, passes Sam Snead's total of 84 PGA tournament victories.

2012 — Bradley Wiggins becomes the first British cyclist to win the Tour de France by protecting the yellow jersey during the final professional ride into Paris.

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