



OUR VIEW

Has it been a year already?

When I was growing up, I remember everyone from my parents, to grandparents, to aunts and uncles, friends, and even neighbors always told me how the years just run together when you get older.

I never believed them, though, because the years in school always felt like they took as long to complete as it took dial-up internet to start up.

Well, until now.

On Friday, I celebrated my one-year anniversary of working at the East Oregonian even though it felt more like just a few months had passed. It's said a lot, but I mean it when I say it felt like just yesterday that my then-22-year-old self walked through the glass front doors of the EO's headquarters for the first time, with no clue what awaited me inside and around the schools of Eastern Oregon.

In one very short year, this job has expanded

my sports horizons and knowledge, and taken me places I never would have imagined myself in. I went to two rodeos within two months of being on the job, which was two more than I had been to in all of my first 22 years on this earth. I experienced



ERIC SINGER
EO Sports

my first Pendleton Round-Up adventure, which ended up being both overwhelming and fun to cover. And it also has also given me my first in-person experiences with sports such as motorcycle hillclimbing, prep rugby, prep trap shooting, prep lacrosse, and the madness that is school bus racing at the Hermiston Super Oval.

It also gave me the opportunity to watch, write about, and soak in the sheer dominance that some of the prep sports teams displayed over the past year.

The Heppner Mustangs were one of the most well-rounded prep football teams that I've ever seen,

See SINGER/5B

MLB

Hall of Fame done, Griffey preps for number retirement

Mariners to shelve No. 24 after batting practice

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Just as much as the smile and the backward hat, the sweet swings and the 630 home runs, the No. 24 became synonymous with Ken Griffey Jr.

Griffey chose it after

hitting 24 home runs one season between his high school and summer baseball teams, and he wore it throughout his 13 seasons with the Mariners.

"Baseball is all about numbers. Some of the greatest players to play in sports wore 24. It wasn't planned but it was definitely one of the things when I signed my first contract that was one of the things I asked for was to be able to wear 24," Griffey said on Friday. "It's

See GRIFFEY/5B



Sy Bean/The Seattle Times via AP
Ken Griffey Jr. looks out across the Seattle skyline after hoisting a flag with a number 24 in Mariner's colors on top of the Space Needle, Friday, Aug. 5, 2016.

Sports shorts

Yankees slugger ready to retire

NEW YORK (AP) Mark Teixeira plans to retire at the end of the season, announcing his decision during a tear-filled news conference Friday at Yankee Stadium.

FACES



Teixeira

His 404 home runs are fifth among switch-hitters, trailing only Mickey Mantle (536), Eddie Murray (504), Chipper Jones (468) and Carlos Beltran (415).

Teixeira made his decision around the time of the All-Star break.

"My body can't do it anymore," he said.

"I gave you everything I had," he said to Yankees fans in the televised announcement.

Slowed by injuries, the 36-year-old switch-hitting first baseman is batting .198 with 10 homers and 27 RBIs. A three-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove winner, he is in the final season of a \$180 million, eight-year contract.

Olympics

Games open with green plea



AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris

Fireworks explode over the Maracana Stadium during the opening ceremony at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 5, 2016.

Rio welcomes world with sultry music, call for conservation

By MAURICIO SAVARESE & JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — With fireworks forming the word "Rio" in the sky, hip-wiggling dancers and supermodel Gisele Bundchen shimmering to the tune of the "Girl from Ipanema," Rio de Janeiro welcomed the world to the first Olympic Games in

South America with a serious message: Let's take better care of our planet.

After one of the roughest-est-er rides from vote to games by an Olympic host, the city of beaches, carnival, grinding poverty and sun-kissed wealth lifted the curtain on the games of the 31st Olympiad with a high-energy gala celebration of Brazil's can-do spirit,

biodiversity and melting pot history.

The opening ceremony, a cut-price but welcome moment of levity for a nation beset by economic and political troubles, featured performers as slaves, laboring with backs bent, gravity-defying climbers hanging from the ledges of buildings in Brazil's teeming megacities and — of course — dancers, all hips and wobble,

grooving to thumping funk and sultry samba.

The crowd roared when Bundchen sashayed from one side of the 78,000-seat Maracana Stadium to the other, as Tom Jobim's grandson, Daniel, played his grandfather's famous song about the Ipanema girl "tall and tan and young and lovely."

See CEREMONIES/3B

Horse Racing

Milton Freewater chasing Derby dreams

Horse named after Oregon town in care of top connections

BY TIM TRAINOR
East Oregonian

Meet Milton Freewater — the horse, not the town.

A 2-year-old thoroughbred, Milton Freewater has the opportunity to be a major player on the road to the 2017 Kentucky Derby. And, along the way, he just may raise the profile of the Umatilla County town of 7,000.

The colt was bred in California by the husband-wife team of Mike and Patty Harrington, who each have a connection to the city of Milton-Freewater.

Mike attended both Oregon State University and Washington State University. At OSU he roomed with Bobby Ten Eyck, a Milton-Freewater kid. Patty's first husband was Richard Grieb, who lived in Walla Walla. The couple had a daughter together and the family would often travel



Patricia Harrington shows Milton Freewater, a horse she bred and named, just before it entered the auction ring and sold for \$250,000.

Photo courtesy Patricia Harrington

across the state line to party and rope.

"My first husband was a cowboy," said Patty. "Well, this husband is a cowboy too. And Milton-Freewater is a cowboy town right?"

Mike and Patty met later, when both were working at Longacres Racetrack outside of Seattle. Their career led them to California, where they now have a breeding and training operation.

The couple didn't have a name picked out for the offspring of Creative Cause — a horse Mike campaigned

to a fifth-place finish in the 2012 Kentucky Derby — and their broodmare Lovehi. But while looking at the newborn foal, Milton Freewater came tumbling out of Patricia's mouth.

"She said 'There's that little Milton Freewater,'" remembered Mike.

"I don't know why I said it," said Patricia. "It just has a nice rhythm."

It was kind of an unofficial, around-the-barn name for awhile, but when it came time to register the horse with the Jockey Club, both

Mike and Patricia agreed the gray colt couldn't be called anything else.

As he progressed through his training, the Harringtons thought they might have a pretty good horse on their hands. He was well-bred, healthy and fast. Milton Freewater quickly proved it on the track. The horse won his first race, breaking his maiden and the track record in an April 22 stakes at Los Alamitos in Cypress, Calif.

"He was spectacular,"

See MF HORSE/5B

"This has been so weird not to be at the track. It's frustrating ... I just want to get better. Nothing else is a priority. Our intentions are to get cleared and get back to racing. I'm not ready to quit."

— Dale Earnhardt Jr.
The ultra-popular NASCAR driver made his first public appearance to speak about his recovery from the concussion that has forced him to miss the past three races and will keep him out for at least two more.

Athletics suspend coach after hidden camera discovered

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) The Oakland Athletics say a team employee has been suspended after it was discovered he hid a camera inside the weight room at the Coliseum.

Strength and conditioning coach Mike Henriques was sent home when the A's were on a recent road trip. Henriques said he set up the camera to watch players working out and rehabilitating from injuries. He is in his fifth year with the team.



The A's said Friday that there is an ongoing investigation. Yahoo Sports first reported the story and said an independent law firm is handling the investigation.

The camera was discovered by a player on July 25, one day after the A's left on a nine-game road trip.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1926 — Nine-teen-year-old Gertrude Ederle of New York City becomes the first woman to swim the English Channel as she crosses the waterway in 14 hours and 31 minutes.

1999 — San Diego Padres star Tony Gwynn becomes the 22nd major leaguer to reach 3,000 hits.

2006 — Tiger Woods wins his 50th PGA Tour title, shooting his fourth-straight 6-under 66 for a three-stroke victory over Jim Furyk in the Buick Open. Woods is the seventh member of the PGA Tour's 50-win club.