

PENDLETON

Boxing to take center stage on Saturday

Pendleton Convention Center hosting amateur boxing invitational

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For two years, Blanc’s Boxing Gym in Pendleton

has racked up thousands of miles traveling to boxing meets. The non-profit club has traveled to places like Portland, Bend, Boise, Idaho, Spokane, Washington, Seattle, Washington among others to get their kids chances to fight people other than their coaches or fellow teammates. But on Saturday, the distance to the next fight for Blanc’s Boxing will total in the single digits, as the club is hosting

its first-ever ‘Meet in the Middle’ amateur boxing invitational at the Pendleton Convention Center. “We’re real excited,” Blanc’s Boxing Gym coach Michael Blanc said in an interview Thursday. “We’ve been traveling to fights for two years and we’ve always wanted to start putting on shows locally to bring in some money for the club.” Organization of the event came together pretty quickly, with Blanc

and co-coach Robert Brooks starting work with the City of Pendleton in early June, trying to nail down a date and location for the event. And after those details were hammered out, all that was left was the name, which Brooks said ‘Meet in the Middle’ was an obvious choice for them. “We usually travel about three hours to a fight, whether it’s to

See BOXING/2B

PENDLETON

Burnside Invite a muddy mess

Meet provides chance to scope out district competition

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Since it opened nearly three decades ago, the links at Wildhorse Resort and Casino have been frustrating golfers with their many strategically placed pitfalls. But the fairways lined by tall grass, numerous bunkers and water that (typically) comes into play on half the holes have never served as more than beautiful scenery for the cross country runners that participate in the annual Kyle Burnside Memorial Wildhorse Invite hosted by Pendleton High. Those runners were greeted with a couple hazards they couldn’t side-step on Thursday when rain showers gave way to high winds, and the record turnout quickly transformed parts of the race course into a muddy morass. “We put on longer spikes than normal, but even with the spikes it was horrible out there, just slipping and sliding everywhere,” said Hermiston junior Isaac Sanchez, who placed fifth in the boys varsity 5,000 meters. “The conditions are rough so that always plays a factor, but for me it’s more just getting over the mental aspect that it’s windy that day and just racing like you would (normally), no matter the conditions.” By the time every middle school, high school and youth club runner had crossed the finish line, 754 pairs of feet had tread more than 1,875 combined miles on the spongy turf. Union’s Alex Graffunder led the boys race nearly from start to finish, and Enterprise’s Isabelle Tingelstad won the girls varsity 5,000. Team scores and complete official results and times were not available at press time. For Sanchez and his Hermiston teammates, the meet served as an important way to measure themselves against their district competition with their state qualifier coming up in less than two weeks. “We kind of saw this as a preview to

See BURNSIDE/2B



Isaac Sanchez, of Hermiston, edges out Union’s Jeremy Baxter at the finish of the Kyle Burnside Memorial Wildhorse Invite at the Wildhorse Golf Course.

Prep Roundup

Bucks secure playoff spot

Pendleton wins for fourth time in six games

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Pendleton volleyball team locked up a postseason berth with another gritty five-set win on Thursday. The Buckaroos took sole position of second place in the Columbia River Conference and are in line to host a game in the 5A play-in round after beating The Dalles 25-16, 22-25, 22-25, 25-15, 15-12. Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said unforced errors played a role in the second and third sets, but the Bucks (7-10, 4-4 CRC) were able to keep their composure and finish strong. “The girls got off to a good start, but had a rough time getting around their own errors ... but were determined in the fourth and fifth (sets),” Lapp said. “They were able to overcome their mental struggle they’ve been having this season in this game.” Haley Greb paced the Bucks with 14 kills and Maureen Davies and Kalan McGlothran both had strong games at the net. Davies finished with nine kills and four blocks, and McGlothran added seven kills and five blocks. Lauren Richards had team-highs with 23 assists and three aces. The Dalles (4-11, 3-5) lost its setter in the second set with an apparent ankle injury. Pendleton closes out the league schedule at Hermiston on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

See PREPS/2B



College Football

Oregon State’s Treston Decoud overcomes difficult path to Corvallis

In this Mar. 29, 2016 file photo, OSU’s Treston Decoud, right, runs a drill during a spring practice.

Godofredo Vasquez/ The Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP



Senior defensive back now hoping to grab attention of NFL scouts

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Oregon State cornerback Treston Decoud is the embodiment of perseverance. From an arduous childhood in Louisiana to his mother’s cancer battle and then a circuitous journey

to Corvallis, Decoud has been undeterred. He refused to wallow in self-pity even after a serious concussion last year. “It’s made me a stronger, it’s made me wiser,” he said. “I don’t take any of this for granted.” As a senior this season, Decoud is hoping he’ll grab the attention of some NFL scouts. He got off to a promising start when he was named Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week following a pair of interceptions — one of which he returned 75 yards for a touchdown — against Idaho State in the Beavers’ second

game. It ended a 22-game streak without a pick for a Beavers cornerback. Decoud was also effective last weekend in Oregon State’s 47-44 overtime victory over Cal. He broke up a pair of passes as the Beavers held Cal to 124 yards passing — well off the Bears’ 428-yard average going in. The 6-foot-3 Decoud limited Cal’s top receiver Chad Hansen to just four catches for 16 yards, at one point even wagging his finger ‘no’ after preventing a catch. See DECOUD/2B

Sports shorts

Kings put star goaltender on IR

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) The Los Angeles Kings have placed Jonathan Quick on injured reserve after the star goalie got hurt in the first period of their season opener. Quick incurred an unspecified lower-body injury during Los Angeles’ opener at San Jose. He was replaced by Jeff Zatkoff for the final two periods of the Kings’ 2-1 loss. The Kings described Quick’s absence as “week-to-week.” Quick is among the NHL’s top goalies, backstopping the Kings to two Stanley Cup titles and winning the 2012 Conn Smythe Trophy as the postseason MVP. He was a finalist for the Vezina Trophy last season. The unorthodox, athletic American goalie is exceptionally important to the Kings, playing in 140 of their 162 regular-season games over the past two seasons.



Quick

“I think at the end of the day you help him make the best decision for him, but you let him make the right decision. If it’s safe. We’re not going to let him make a decision that puts himself in further jeopardy.”

— Jim Mora

UCLA football coach speaking about the health of sophomore QB Josh Rosen. The QB’s status for Saturday’s game at Washington State is up in the air after suffering a pair of injuries last week.

MLB announces qualifying offer price tag for 2017

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of qualifying offers for Major League Baseball free agents will be \$17.2 million this year. The figure, announced Thursday, is up 8.9 percent from \$15.8 million last year. It was determined by the average of the top 125 major league contracts this year by average annual value. A qualifying offer can be made through the fifth day after the World Series, and a player has a week after that to accept. If a team makes a qualifying offer to a player who signs a contract with another club before the June draft, his former club would get a draft pick as compensation at the end of the first round. The qualifying offer was \$15.3 million in 2014, \$14.1 million in 2013 and \$13.3 million in 2012.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1945 — The Chicago Cardinals end the longest losing streak in NFL history at 29 games with a 16-7 victory over the Chicago Bears. 1990 — Joe Montana passes for career highs of 476 yards and six touchdowns and Jerry Rice ties an NFL record with five scoring receptions as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Atlanta Falcons 45-35. 2005 — Ryan Newman sets a NASCAR record by winning his fifth consecutive Busch Series race, the Charlotte 300 at Lowe’s Motor Speedway. Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com