

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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FARM-CITY PRO RODEO

Taruscio shines in hometown

Stanfield native top bulldogger for second performance

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Travis Taruscio has competed professionally in rodeo for many years now, and he is more than used to the weekly grind of traveling to compete.

However his commute to work on Thursday evening is no doubt the shortest trip he makes all year, as the Stanfield resident had a five minute drive from home to compete at the 30th Farm-City Pro Rodeo. And the hometown boy gave his friends, family, and hometown fans something to stand up and applaud for, as the steer wrestler dazzled the arena with a time of 4.1 seconds to win the night and the \$100 bonus.

"It really feels great," Taruscio said of competing at his hometown rodeo. "To see friends and family in the stands when they don't get to see you compete all year and then you get to perform like that when they're around is great."

Taruscio set the bar pretty high for the night, as he was the event's first competitor to dash across the dirt. He held off Hemphill, Texas' Heath Thomas who finished at 4.2 seconds and Namou, Louisiana's Rowdy Parrott finished third with 4.9 seconds. The win also gave Taruscio another \$500 bonus and a memorial knife for the Gray Ribbon Award, given in the memory of late Farm-City board member Darrell Sallee.

"Darrell was a good guy and always nice to me so it means a lot to take this home," Taruscio said.

Barrel racer Kimmie Wall may call Utah home, but Eastern Oregon has treated her well over the last few years including in 2016 when she took home the Farm-City barrel racing championship. She rolled into town to compete on Thursday and did not disappoint. Riding her nine-year-old mare named Foxy, Wall sped around all three barrels in a

"It's a small town in the middle of nowhere, but it's dang sure a big-time rodeo."

— Tilden Hooper,
Carthage, Texas

See RODEO/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Roger Nonella, of Redmond, ropes his calf in 10.4 seconds Thursday night at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston to win tie-down roping.

MLB

Three-run double in ninth sinks Mariners

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Mike Trout looped a three-run double just inside the left-field line with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels cooled off the Seattle Mariners with a 6-3 victory on Thursday night.

Trout's bases-clearing hit off Seattle closer Edwin Diaz (2-5) came after the Mariners staged a three-run rally of their own in the eighth inning to tie the game at 3-all. Diaz had major control problems in the ninth, walking three batters, including Cameron Maybin on a 3-2 pitch to bring Trout to the plate. The reigning MVP pulled a 1-1 breaking ball and just kept it fair.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout swings for a three-run double against the Seattle Mariners during the ninth inning of a baseball game Thursday in Seattle.

The surging Mariners were coming off a 6-3 road trip to move into the second wild-card spot in the American League. Along with the ninth-inning problems, the Mariners saw ace James Paxton leave in the seventh inning with a strained left pectoral muscle.

Seattle used the long ball to rally in the eighth inning. Jean Segura hit his seventh home run of the season against Angels reliever Bud Norris, and the duo of Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz continued to come through for the Mariners. Cano drove a

two-out double into the left-center field gap off Norris (2-5) and Cruz followed with his 27th homer of the season and fifth in the past five games to pull Seattle even.

Cam Bedrosian pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

The Angels got a brilliant starting performance from Tyler Skaggs, who pitched shutout ball into the seventh. Skaggs allowed five hits and struck out five in his second start since coming off the disabled list.

C.J. Cron hit a solo homer in the second inning and Andrelton Simmons added a two-run shot in the fourth, both off of Paxton. It was the first homers allowed by Paxton since June 27 against Philadelphia and the first time he allowed multiple homers in a game since June 1, 2016.

Paxton had tied a franchise record by winning his previous seven starts dating to July 2, when he beat the Angels. But he was not sharp in his attempt at No. 8 and could be headed to the disabled list for the second time this season.

Prep Football

High schooler dies when log falls on him in football drill

Team was doing U.S. Navy SEALs conditioning drill

By FRANK ELTMAN &
KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

FARMINGVILLE, N.Y. — A high school football player performing a drill used by the U.S. Navy SEALs for conditioning was killed Thursday when the log he and teammates were carrying fatally struck him in the head, police said.

Joshua Mileto, 16, was taking part in a preseason exercise camp with the Sachem East High School football team when the accident occurred at the school

See FOOTBALL/2B

Sports shorts

La Grande litle league team moves on to NW Regional title game

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Only one game now stands between the La Grande 11/12 little league team and a trip to Williamsport, Pennsylvania and the Little League World Series.

Playing at the Northwest Regional on Thursday, La Grande (Oregon) defeated Washington (Walla Walla) 8-4 to remain unbeaten in the tournament. The win came on the heels of a 3-2 walk-off victory against Montana on Monday night.

The championship game is scheduled for Saturday at Noon and will be televised on ESPN as well as WatchESPN.com. La Grande will play the winner of Montana and Washington (Walla Walla), who play Friday at Noon on ESPN.



"For me, I believe that Dale Jr. has had a big part in kind of stunting the growth of NASCAR because he's got these legions of fans and this huge outreach of being able to reach ... but he's won nine races in 10 years at Hendrick Motorsports and hasn't been able to reach outside of that."

— Kevin Harvick
NASCAR driver on his weekly radio show on SiriusXM's NASCAR channel added that other leagues such as NBA and NFL are successful because the best players are the most popular.

US men's soccer team gets boost in latest FIFA rankings

ZURICH (AP) — The United States climbed nine spots to 26th in the FIFA rankings after winning the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

The U.S. had dropped 12 places to 35th in the July rankings, one above the Americans' low in July and August 2012. Much of that drop was attributable to a devaluation of points from last year's Copa America.

Brazil regained the top spot Thursday after a one-month absence, replacing World Cup champion Germany.

Brazil hasn't played since June, while Germany was last in action when beat Chile on July 2 in the Confederations Cup final. The rankings are based on results over a four-year period.

Argentina remained third. Switzerland rose to fourth and Poland moved to fifth.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1970 — Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Jim Bunning beats the Houston Astros 6-5 to become the first pitcher to win 100 games in both leagues since Cy Young.

2012 — Candace Parker scores 21 points and the heavily favored U.S. women's basketball team wins a fifth straight Olympic gold medal with an 86-50 victory over France. The win is the latest in an unmatched run for the Americans in the past 16 years. The U.S. has won 41 consecutive games in the Olympic competition since taking the bronze medal in 1992.

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