



# All Hands on Deck!

*LB Students Set for Eclipse.*

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PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

All hands were on deck of the OSU's research vessel Pacific Storm as The Space Exploration Club hoist the weather balloon over their heads during a test mission on Monday. They prepared for their launch next week, where they will attach a camera and GPS equipment to the balloon in order to obtain images of the eclipse's shadow over the Earth during the Solar Eclipse 2017.

THE LINN-BENTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to:

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PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Everyone works to retrieve the balloon from the air with the tether. Shortly after its retrieval, the wind takes it back into the air.

## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Linn-Benton Community College's Space Exploration club is setting sail for the history books.

The team embarked on a practice cruise for their Eclipse Ballooning project aboard one of Oregon State University's research ships the Pacific Storm on Monday, Aug. 14.

The goal of the cruise was to test out their weather balloon launch prior to the eclipse on Aug. 21. They are one of over 50 teams from around the nation taking part in NASA's Eclipse Ballooning Project. Which features teams looking to take near-space footage of the upcoming total solar eclipse.

The team piled into OSU's Pacific Storm research vessel at 9 a.m. and rode two hours off the coast of Newport, Oregon to launch their practice balloon. The major concern for the team was that the balloon might snag onto something on the ship when they try to get it airborne, but they were able to get a clean launch and the group is feeling confident about the real deal next week.

"It's promising, we did everything we wanted to do as far as the practice launch goes. Over 10 months of planning and we're here on the home stretch," said said Osvaldo Galvez, who has been with the team since fall of 2016.

Galvez and the team were happy to get an opportunity to work on the ship and get an idea for what was to come on Aug. 21.

"It was a humbling experience being around engineers and fishermen who have been doing this for such a long time. It was also good to just get a feel for the ship; there are so many variables we aren't used to because a lot of us haven't been on ships like this before," said Galvez.

This was apparent as the movement of the boat caused debilitating motion sickness for some of the team's most valuable members. Matt Lucas, who recently took over project manager duties, and Dawson Reithmayer who is referred to as the "launch master" by the group were both struggling to cope with the motion sickness.

"I really like all the people here, and I just tried to think of the project. There's no time to think about being sick on projects like this," said Reithmayer.

Lucas felt disappointed he wasn't able to contribute more to the team's practice run but expressed his enthusiasm for how much he trusted the members of his team.

"It's a little frustrating that I couldn't do more, but I just had to power through, and give all that I could," said Lucas.

The two were able to fight through it and still managed to give detailed instructions to each team member on what they needed to do. With a successful launch from the boat under their belt, the team was extremely pleased.

"I think it just shows how well we know each other and how well we work together as a team," said Delphine LeBrun Colon, one of the team's leaders.

Levi Willmeth, another one of the team's leaders, who will be unable to make the Aug. 21 cruise, felt the project was in good hands and happy with the team's performance.

"It's great to see everyone stepping up and fulfilling different roles," said Willmeth.

Motion sickness won't be the only problem facing the team next week, as many weather forecast services like Accuweather and Weather.com expect a partly cloudy day that could potentially prove problematic for the launch.

"We will probably have to review our cruise plan because we could be looking at a couple different factors that will affect the cruise, with weather being the biggest factor we have to prepare for, but with luck we'll have the first video of the moon's shadow as it begins to cross the continental U.S.," said Parker Swanson.

Lucas isn't concerned with the weather at this point in the project. The team is more focused on perfecting the launch process and making sure everything is ready on Aug. 21.

"There's no point in worrying about

the weather now. It will change and we will have to work with what we have. It's like what Parker [Swanson] says: mother nature bats last."



STORY BY  
JOSHUA STICKROD  
@STICKRODJOSH

# WE WANT YOU!

The Commuter wants to hire an  
Advertising/Marketing Coordinator  
Right Now!

We're seeking just the right person to lead the business and marketing functions of LBCC's award-winning newspaper and online site.

This is a perfect part-time job for a student or others with some advertising, marketing and sales experience who are looking to build their resume!

#### Duties include:

- + Working with advertising and marketing clients on campus and beyond
- + Public relations
- + Record-keeping and billing
- + Graphic design
- + General office work

Interested? Contact us today.

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PHOTOS: ANGELA SCOTT

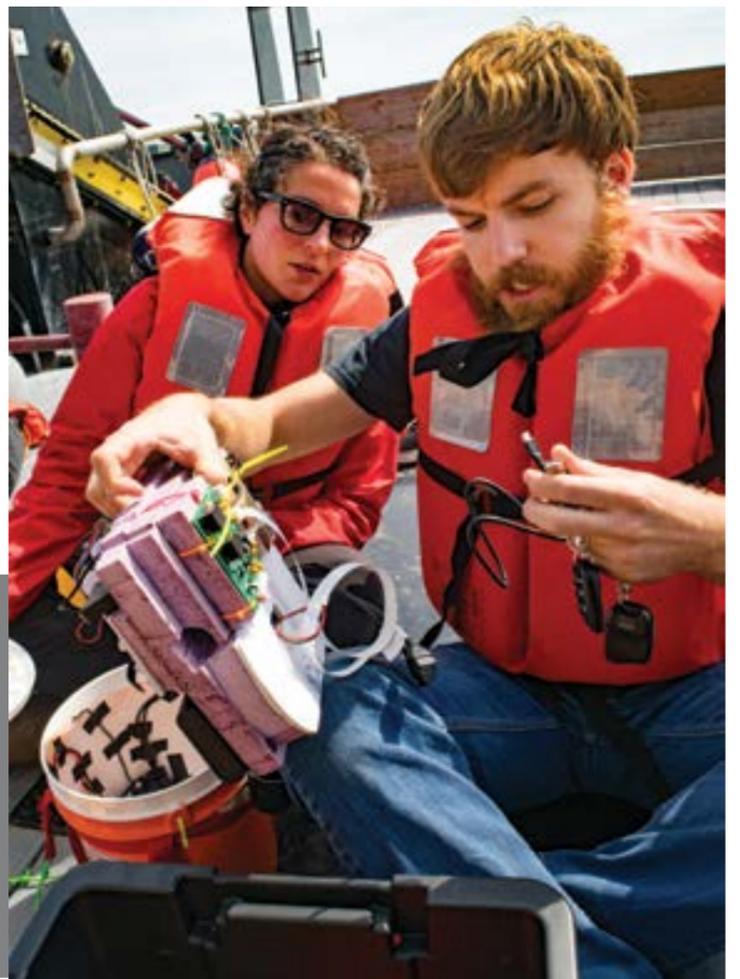
Daniel Gibbel descends to the lower deck where the test launch will be located.



Delphine La Brun Colon, Zac Lee, Matt Lucas, and Audrey Vaughn measure the tether that will attach to the Weather Balloon for testing purposes.



Parker Swanson advises The Space Exploration Club at LBCC, in Albany, Oregon.



Delphine La Brun Colon and Matt Lucas inspect the camera that will be attached to the balloon next week. Delphine La Brun Colon came back from her internship with NASA in Huntsville, Alabama to help and will return to her internship after the Solar Eclipse Mission.



In a matter of minutes a crew member of The Pacific Storm is able to retrieve the balloon from the water.



Oz Galvez unpacks equipment in a sealed container. Though the equipment will go unattached for the test, The Space Exploration Club becomes acquainted with the process of attaching equipment for deployment during the Eclipse next week.

# LBCC Hosts 'MR. BURNS'

*Escape the heat with this theatrical treat*

Have you watched 'The Simpsons' so many times that you can quote the series word for word? Are you looking for the next chapter in the life of Montgomery Burns? Come see 'Mr. Burns,' a post-electric, post apocalyptic, and dark comedic play that is based off of 'The Simpsons' and directed by Pat Knight. The show runs Aug. 25, Aug. 26, Sept. 1, and Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m., as well as a matinee show on Aug. 27. The show will be held in the Russell Tripp Auditorium, and tickets are available at [linnbenton.edu/tickets](http://linnbenton.edu/tickets). Tickets are \$14 for general admission, but all LBCC students, faculty, and staff can get tickets for only \$10. Need a better deal?

They have you covered! When purchasing tickets, use the promo code "EXCELLENT" to get a "buy two, get one free" deal. It's sure to be a great show, and we hope to see you there!



STORY BY  
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# HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS CENTER GRAND OPENING

A grand opening for Linn-Benton Community College's new Healthcare Occupations Center in Lebanon will be held Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

LBCC President Dr. Greg Hamann and Dr. Larry Mullins with Samaritan Health Services will speak at a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., with an open house from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The center is located at 250 N 5th Street in Lebanon, adjacent to COMP-NW Medical School.

The state-of-the-art 42,000 square foot facility brings LBCC healthcare programs into one learning space, providing greater opportunity for collaboration between programs and sharing of resources.

LBCC's Diagnostic Imaging program was the first to move in June, with classes already in session. The remainder of healthcare programs are moving in over the summer with a fall term start.

LBCC healthcare programs include diagnostic imaging, nursing, nursing assistant, medical assistant, coding and reimbursement specialist, dental assistant, polysomnographic technician, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician and occupational therapy assistant.

Construction was made possible through \$8 million in bond funds approved by voters in 2014, and \$8 million in state matching funds.

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# LBCC ECLIPSE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

*Totality Inspired*

## Sunday, Aug. 20

**Noon:** Check in and Registration for Campers

- 2 p.m. Festival begins. \$5 at the door. Free for kids (under 18), current LBCC students, and campers.

### Activities in the courtyard through the afternoon and evening include:

Hands on polymers - SLIME

Pin-hole camera construction booth (also look into solar filter material for cameras)

Thin film chromatography

Culture walk

Bed of nails

Gravity well

Spy satellite lens

Solar Observation Booth

Water rocketry

Wonderful Woosh Bottle

Incredible Imploding Barrel

Liquid Nitrogen Ice cream

Conservation of Angular Momentum

Demo

Cloud spotting activity

Exploding Bucket

Cool Ralph Demo

Kona Ice Snow Cones

Burning Salts

Star watching

Movies

Local Band "Up Rising" - playing good ol' rock and roll! Show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Breather!

**LBCC's Courtyard Cafe will be open with hot food for purchase from 5 - 9 Sunday night.**

### Activities in LBCC Russell Tripp Theater in Tadena Hall include:

2:30 p.m. Eclipse science, History, and Safe

Eclipse Viewing Practices

3 p.m. Weather Briefing

3:30 p.m. Eclipse science, History, and Safe

Eclipse Viewing Practices

4 p.m. Weather Briefing

4:30 p.m. LBCC Remotely Operated Vehicles & High Altitude Balloons In Action

5 p.m. Life and Death of Stars

6:30 p.m. Variable Stars