



## Rallying the Runners

Excited staff were rewarded Wednesday night with a basketball victory and prizes at halftime during the annual Staff Appreciation Night.

Page 7

## Spanning Time

Oregon's past awaits discovery on the back roads of Linn County, where covered bridges can be found crossing many creeks and rivers.

Page 12



# The Commuter

Wednesday,  
February 8, 2006

A weekly student Publication

Volume 37 No. 12

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

## Budget shortfall triggers strategic staff cuts

Dan Wise  
The Commuter

LBCC has cut almost 18 full-time contracted positions as a result of the steady erosion of the legislatures support for education, according to College President Rita Cavin.

"We knew as soon as we got the appropriation from the state we were going to be about \$1.5 million short and we were going to have to make it up," said Cavin.

That realization put in motion a process that led to the cutting of the full-time positions as well as reductions in supply budget and non-contract personnel. The cuts, which were made Jan. 27, have totaled over \$1,333,000 so far, according to Cavin, and further cuts may be necessary to make up the shortfall but will be decided when the new vice president is named at the end of February.

*Editor's Note: Next week The Commuter will examine the effect layoffs are having on personal lives and staff morale.*

The process began last fall with a series of forums to let the campus know about the

problem. "Then we did a campus-wide survey and polled every single person who worked here about their ideas and about closing the gap," said Cavin.

A Special Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) was then formed and it met and reviewed the recommendations from the

survey. The committee concluded that the necessary cuts should be strategic instead of across the board, and they developed a set of guidelines for those cuts.

It was decided that tuition increases could not be the sole method for covering the shortfall.

"The college does not wish to close the budget gap by asking our students to absorb all the unfunded costs through tuition increases," said Cavin.

Tuition has steadily increased over the

▶ Turn to "Layoffs" on Pg. 4

## MySpace gives students place to interact online, find friends and rate instructors

Elizabeth Uriarte  
The Commuter

Many students who attend college do so for more than just education; they are also looking for friends. College is an excellent hub for social interaction, but for those who may be shy in person, or find it difficult to be outgoing, there is yet another way to reach out to peers: MySpace.com.

MySpace is an online community that is free to the public, allowing people the chance to connect with peers, family, friends, and friends of friends. When you create a profile, you can share music, photos, thoughts, interests, journals, and just about anything else.

Another feature of MySpace is the ability to connect with other students at LBCC using the school search. There are currently 1,193 LB students registered with MySpace, with more being added constantly. The LBCC

*"I use MySpace daily, or whenever I have a chance to get online — it's addicting!"*

Krista Sederlin

page includes a forum for group discussion, a classifieds section with ads for roommates and textbooks, and "Grade My Professor," a feature where students can leave their comments about instructors.

"Grade My Professor" is both informative as well as amusing. Students rate instructors in a variety of areas: lectures, homework, fairness, grading, accessibility and tests. "He can be your best friend or your worst enemy. He's definitely not afraid to tell you what he thinks," said one comment on journalism instructor Rich Bergeman, who received an overall grade of B based on six votes.

Another student remarked about social science instructor Doug Clark: "He's got an attitude problem and his class was not enjoyable. I dropped it after the third week." Being that this was the only comment made,

▶ Turn to "MySpace" on Pg. 4

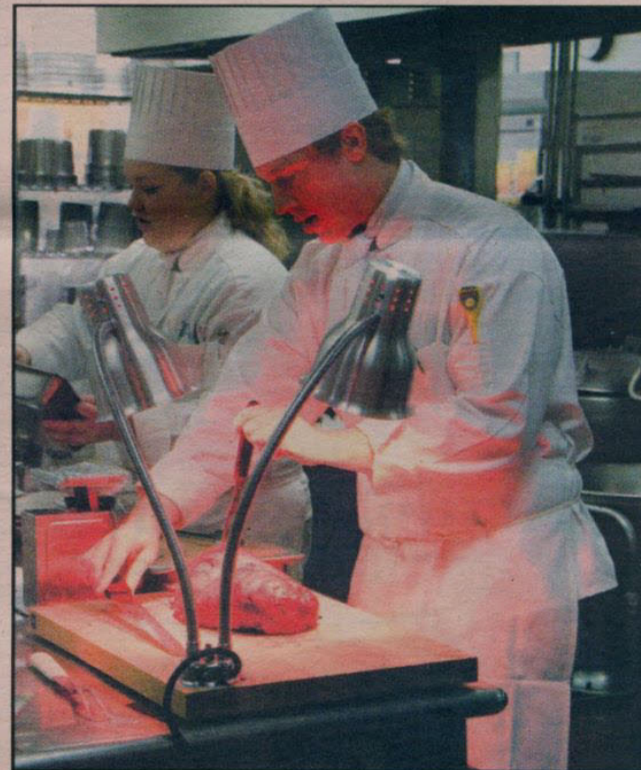


photo by Kyla Hoyt

Joey Metts and Tammy Battles, first-year culinary students, prepare a roast in the LB kitchen for lunch last week.

## Students serve up Mediterranean fare

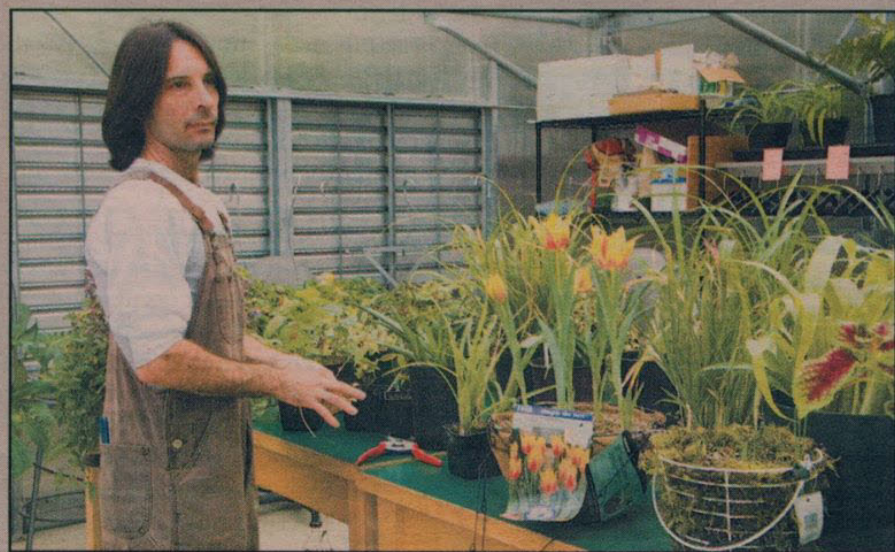
Amanda Rappé  
The Commuter

Stuffed grape leaves anyone?

This is one of many dishes with a Mediterranean flair that will be served at the winter banquet LB Culinary Arts students are hosting on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons Cafeteria.

The "Mediterranean Feast of the Sun" banquet will include 40 different dishes from countries bordering

▶ Turn to "Banquet" on Pg. 4



### Plant Primping

New Horticulture Club President Jason Cratz prunes plants to prepare for Tuesday's plant sale. The money from the sale goes toward equipment, new plants and field trips for the club members. They will hold a Mother's Day plant sale in the spring.

photo by Zack Wait

### The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High-55  
SUN!!! (enjoy it while you can)  
Low-35  
Wednesday

High-55  
Cloudy  
Low-35  
Thursday

High-55  
Mostly Sunny (so close)  
Low-35  
Friday

High-55  
Partly Sunny  
Low-35  
Saturday

High-55  
Partly Sunny (at least its not rain)  
Low-35  
Sunday

### Index

Opinion..... 2, 3  
Campus..... 4, 5, 9  
Sports..... 6, 7  
Funny Bones..... 8  
Arts & Entertainment.... 10, 11  
Discovery..... 12



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# OPINION

**Send letters to The Commuter:**  
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them  
 and keep them at 300 words or less.

## Can our government be down-sized?

The first thing that we need to look at is what our government is. Abraham Lincoln described it as a "government of the people, by the people, [and] for the people." Ultimately, it's what the majority of the people want that counts, it's an

extension of the people. The only reason for reducing or abolishing government would be if it's not accomplishing what the people want.



JOEL DEVYLDERE

It comes down to whether you think our government is better at spending your money than you are. If the people of this country really think that the government is efficient, then they should continue to increase the amount of money they put into it.

But is the government that efficient?

Take public schools, for example. Each year, we spend more and more tax dollars on our school systems, and their test scores progressively become worse. It's hard to compare, however, because every few years, the standardized tests become easier. Despite the worsening education standards, no citizen has the choice to take their money and go to a better school.

The system has become so bad, that many people, especially the wealthy that are paying for the public schools will send their children to private schools. Most of which, by the way, use only a fraction of the budget that the public schools use and produce drastically better test scores.

Another case of government misspending is the epidemic of duplicate organizations. The Army and the National Guard, for example, both accomplish essentially the same task yet are divided into separate government agencies. If they were consolidated into one, it would save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

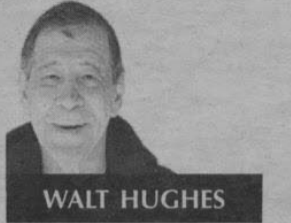
In both examples, people could spend a lot less money with better results if they didn't have to resort to government means. This seems to be the norm with government agencies that aren't controlled directly by the people, but by non-elected administrators, especially on the local level. The government was created to perform tasks that the majority could agree on in the most efficient way possible like laying roads and organizing military.

Whatever you believe, do something about it. E-mail our state senator, Andy Olson at rep.andyolson@state.or.us and tell him to vote no on budget increases. As Henry David Thoreau said: "Let every man make known what kind of government would command his respect, and that will be one step toward obtaining it."



Tackling this week's subject is not nearly as hard as some might think. The issue of downsizing and smaller government is nothing more than a Republican smokescreen. That old idea may have worked back in the 1900s, but take a hard, serious look around today.

First, other than cutting programs that benefit the lower middle class and outright poor people who are either disabled or barely make enough to feed their faces anyway, where do you begin to downsize or shrink the monumental governmental organizations entrenched in our society today? And even if you cut the entitlement programs, the only thing you will accomplish is putting the



WALT HUGHES

beneficiaries of those programs in even greater peril than they already are.

It seems that it all started with a fellow named Ronald Reagan. If you lived in California back in the 70s you might remember that he ran that state so far into debt that they thought they would never be able to bail it out. Actually, other than juggling the books, they never have. Many a proud voter may still possess the corner of that blue ballot that said "I voted, did you?" on Proposition 13.

Reagan got himself elected president of the United States and proceeded to run up the largest debt this country had ever seen up to that point. Funny thing was he started with the unions. Reagan got tough and broke the aircraft control tower operators union, and things got started. The Republicans have never quit harping on the subject to this day. The only thing they want to downsize is government regulation that makes them pay taxes.

But we're talking about downsizing and shrinking the government here. Wonder how you do that when some of the strongest unions around represent government workers. Want to find a real enlightening fact? Try firing a government worker. Try firing a teacher. Try firing a cop or a fireman. Between their unions and the U.S. Civil Service Act it's almost impossible to get rid of a government worker.

Everyone, including Santa Claus, would like to see less government interference, while at the same time they want policemen, firemen, paramedics, medical services and so on, and all of those people are protected by strong unions. So where do you "downsize" the United States government. The only thing the average Republican wants is to stuff more money in the pockets of his fat-cat buddies while collecting \$50 an hour for \$10 worth of work. It's an admirable idea, but it won't work.

## Palestinian, Israeli conflict shouldn't be harmful to children

**Harrison White**  
 The Commuter

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is one of the most problematic underlying issues in global politics today. Each side feigns working towards peace while carrying out attacks on the other.

Aside from the border wars and ethnic clashes, there is a more important issue: the inhumane treatment of children in Israeli prisons. About 377 children are held in detention, according to a fact sheet published by Jews for Justice for Palestine (JJFP).

Last year, London's Pluto Press published a book

called "Stolen Youth: The Politics of Israel's Detention of Palestinian Children." The book describes the many stories of child abuse at the hands of Israelis as well as courts that operate in a distinctly different manner than those dealing with Israelis.

This illustrates one of the worst of the region's double standards: Palestinians are supposedly under the rule of Israel, but they don't receive the same rights.

The most important point of this book is the refusal of the state to treat detainees from the occupied territories with human dignity. For example, children are often arrested and taken from their homes in the middle of the night, interrogated in a detention center and beaten

and tortured, in clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention (which the UN decided that Palestinians are protected under).

Prison abuse, such as forcing someone into the same position for hours, and the raids on homes are apparently the vogue of the Israeli Defense Forces. Families are restricted, constantly, from visitation; confessions are signed in the Hebrew language that the children may not understand and denial of medical attention is all part of the system.

Israel, then, is acting just as much the terrorists they characterize the Palestinians as. (Notwithstanding Hamas' generally complying with the ceasefire agreement, and the Israeli forces managing to kill more in a week than the apparently unprincipled enemy did in a year).

It is apparent that change must occur on some side. The problem lies then when one carries out guerilla attacks and suicide bombings as an occupied people, and the others who believe in a mandate of control over the land take hostage the children that might someday work out a peace between the peoples, perhaps even a coexistence.

Israel strongly supported Apartheid in South Africa. It is not shocking that they now wall in people who have a common Semitic heritage but believe in a different God. It recalls the anti-Catholic and immigrant movements in antebellum America, where cheap labor was wanted but basic human rights were refused.

The worst is that this treatment is in violation of an agreement; the Convention for the Rights of the Child, signed by the very people carrying out these acts. I doubt strongly that torture and the practices of these prisons are, as the CRC article 40.1 requires, conducted in a way that allows children to be "treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth."

### The Commuter

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# OPINION

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Pro-lifers protect unborn, ignore other injustices

To the editor:

I read in the newspaper the other day that our illustrious president spoke to some anti-abortionists. The president assured them that they were "fighting for a noble cause." He said that because their efforts were aligned with the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the basic notion of looking out for the little guy, meaning the unborn babies, that they would succeed in their efforts to re-define the law on abortion.

I took exception to several aspects of Mr. Bush's statements. The first one is that it offends me that the president of the United States promotes his own religious agenda as much as this president does. I would think that for everyone that isn't a Christian it is irritating at the minimum to have Mr. Bush constantly interjecting himself, and thereby the authority of the office he holds, into so many civil issues that honestly don't concern him as president. As president he should be doing everything in his power to assure all of us, no matter what our belief system is, that we are of concern to him. I don't think he does that in any way, shape, or form.

The next thing is that abortion isn't a black and white

issue. If you do any objective research whatsoever you'll find yourself mired in controversy at every step. I'm not necessarily an abortion advocate; I'm also not anti-abortion. My point is that when the abortion issue is black and white it doesn't allow any flexibility for situations that cross the line on both sides of the issue.

The other thing that gets to me is the "right to lifers". If life is so important how come they aren't involved in efforts to stem the rising tide of deaths from AIDS all over the world? In Africa there are more orphans whose parents have died of AIDS than anywhere else in the world. Where are all the right to lifers in that scenario?

I don't see them driving trucks up and down the streets with billboards on them advertising the dire need for action to prevent more deaths and more orphans in that cause. Over 30,000 innocent civilians have been killed since we decided to "Liberate" Iraq. Where is the outcry from right to lifers about the loss of life there? I actually see the people supporting the anti-abortion actions as usually very supportive of the war in Iraq as well. How does that work? Let's see, we need to save fetuses but if they are already born then it's okay to drop bombs on them if we think it is in their best interests to do so. Hypocrisy is rampant everywhere, but it seems to me that Mr. Bush and the groups he identifies with most have an exceptional amount of it.

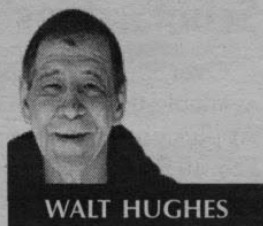
Terry Thayer

## COMMENTARY

### Sun's return brings warm feelings

With all the hustle and bustle of school it's sometimes difficult to just stop and look around for a while.

Have you ever noticed how unique and well-manicured the center courtyard looks lately?



WALT HUGHES

Have you ever really paid attention to how well the grass and the rest of the grounds are kept? Ever pay attention to how the floors shine even though a few thousand people walk across them every day? Ever notice that the trash cans always seem to be empty even though you seldom see anyone emptying them?

How about the instructors? Ever notice that most of them usually have a smile? Ever notice that even though LBCC usually has a couple of thousand people

moving around during school hours it is a rather quiet place?

Have you ever noticed that the vast majority of the people who work here are usually cordial and more than willing to help you solve a problem?

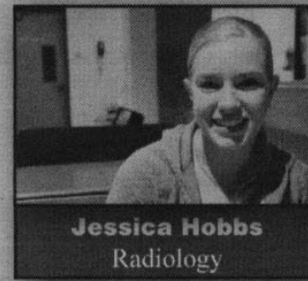
Have you noticed that the sun really does shine occasionally? Have you ever stopped just to watch the birds going about the business of trying to get something to eat?

Have you ever stopped to think just how lucky we are to be going to a really decent school where people care enough to help you learn something? Have you noticed that new programs are being added with the idea of helping you wade your way through the two years or so that it will take you to get a degree?

Last of all, have you noticed that I have done my very best to find things to smile about and leave the Republicans alone today?

## PERSPECTIVES

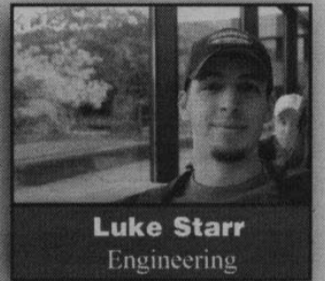
### What do you use the MySpace Web site for?



Jessica Hobbs  
Radiology

"Basically just talk to my friends and keep in touch with friends that aren't local anymore."

"Have a couple buddies in Iraq, and we talk."



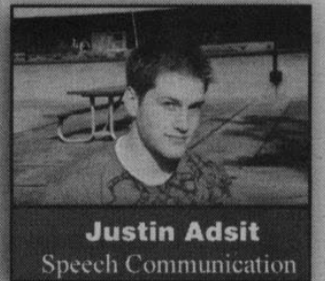
Luke Starr  
Engineering



Jessy Johnson  
Undecided

"I don't because I don't like it."

"I canceled mine, but it's a great way to keep in touch with friends, But I would rather see them in person."



Justin Adsit  
Speech Communication



Tamara Bishop  
Medical Assistant

"I don't use it. I don't have the time."

"I use it when I'm bored, and I just talk to somebody. A lot of my friends are on it, so it's a great form of slow communication."



Lisa Judson  
Chemical Engineering

Compiled by Kyla Hoyt



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# CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus.

## MySpace: Internet forum facilitates friendships

◀ From Pg. 1

Clark's final grade was an F.

Not all comments were as negative. Speech instructor Mike Houghlum received a grade of A+ based on three votes. "Not only does he make class interesting and fun, he is very understanding when it comes to being flexible for testing, homework, and attendance," said one comment.

Forum discussion is not the quickest method of communication, but it allows students to put forth their views on specific topics, and discuss events and issues within the college community. Recent discussion topics include "winter 2006 classes," "Ultimate Frisbee," and "Meeting people at LBCC."

"I use MySpace daily, or whenever I have a chance to get online; it's addicting!" said Krista Sederlin, a radiology major at LB. "It's a fun and creative way to get to know the people that you thought you knew well even better. I've learned a lot about people by just looking at their pages and reading stuff about them," she said.

Sederlin said one problem with MySpace is that people seem to be in

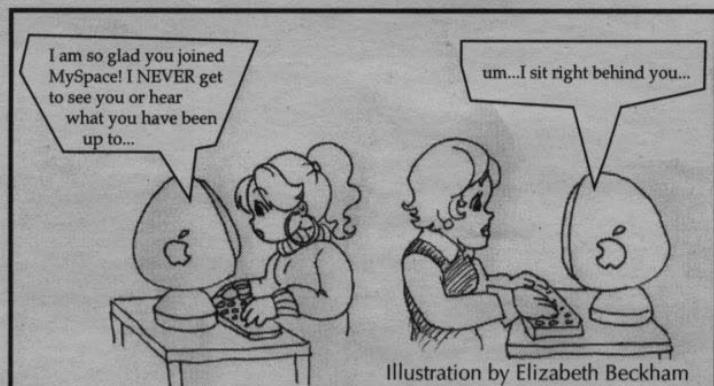


Illustration by Elizabeth Beckham

competition with one another over the amount of friends they accumulate. "They become 'friend list whores' and try to get everyone to add them," she said.

Some parents are concerned that MySpace offers too much information about underage users. Anyone can view public profiles, so younger patrons must use caution when displaying their personal business and photos. In addition, there seems to be no censorship, and while this may be convenient for adult users, it also allows underage users to be exposed to graphic content.

A recent incident at North Eugene High School raised numerous concerns about the

safety of teens using MySpace when one student was harassed online by two others, according to news reports.

North Eugene principal, Peter Tromba, said about MySpace: "As a parent I was just really blown away by the absolute lack of any kind of filter or quality control."

Creating a MySpace profile is simple, though it can be time consuming, depending on the amount of detail provided. There are also several online html editors available to make pages unique and eye-catching.

"I use MySpace about three to five times a day to talk to my friends and to connect with people from my high school," said Sonja Bryson, social science major. "I don't really know many people at LB, so I don't really use it for that but I am open to the option of meeting people that I go to school with. I'm a MySpace junkie. I take the quizzes, add bulletins, and blog about my life."

Bryson also added, "I love how you can feel close to someone and have a friendship even if they are hundreds of miles away."

## CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

\*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

**Summer Paid Internships for Branch Managers (#3931, Albany).** If you are looking to gain experience, build your resume and earn money this summer, come to the 20-minute information sessions to be held Wed, Feb. 8 at 11am, 12noon, 12:30pm, 1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm and 2:30pm in the Alesia Room (CC 203). Interviews will be on the 16th. We provide superior training and support. See [studentpainters.net](http://studentpainters.net) for more information.

**Retail Nursery Staff (#3985, Corvallis)** This job can be full-time or part-time working for a retail nursery. Good knowledge of plants is a must!! Pay is \$8.50/hr.

**Truck Loader (#3993, Albany)** If you are looking for a part-time (averages 15 hrs/week) job and are an early morning person (M-F, 4:30-7:30am) this position is looking for you! Pay is \$11.38/hr.

**Distribution Center Warehouse Worker (#3999, Albany)** This full-time (30+ hrs/week) position pays \$11.17/hr with shift differential for the 2nd Shift. You work four 10-hr/days or nights a week. Work for the largest distribution center around here. Apply today!

### Solutions

S	E	S	S	S	N	S	N	S	S	P	S	S	T	E	P	S	
D	I	N	E	N	O	N	K	N	T	O	N	E	R	E	R	E	S
A	V	A	H	E	C	A	V	A	L	I	S	A	C	H	A	G	H
R	E	E	D	I	T	O	B	E	R	E	R	E	D	I	T	O	B
G	R	E	T	A	G	T	A	I	L	L	R	E	T	A	G	T	A
S	R	E	R	E	R	T	E	P	E	R	E	R	E	R	E	R	E
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T	A	B	T	A	B	T	A	B	T	A	B	T	A	B	T	A	B
R	I	N	G	R	A	D	E	D	G	E	R	E	D	G	E	R	E
C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H	O	C	H	O
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S	O	F	T	I	M	P	S	S	E	W	E	D	S	O	F	T	

## Banquet: Culinary flair creates extreme cuisine

◀ From Pg. 1

the Mediterranean Sea including Italy, Spain and Morocco.

Each recipe is researched and created by Culinary Arts students. Among the dishes being served is a Spanish specialty called paella, pork and wine in

coriander.

"They do a lot of testing," said Laurie Chang of the LBCC Hospitality Services.

Since the banquet is part of the students' training, she said that as they are researching, they are also looking for "the common

grounds of cuisines."

Each term the culinary students put together a banquet. Fall term they hosted a prime rib dinner, and for spring term they will host a French Banquet with around seven courses.

They are selling 200 tickets to

the Mediterranean Feast, which must be purchased in advance and will be available for \$19.50 per person until March 1.

Tickets are available in room CC-214 or to buy in person or for more information call Chang at 917-4391.

## Layoffs: LB refrains from slashing programs despite deficit

◀ From Pg. 1

last five years from \$39 to \$69 per credit hour. Tuition alone would need to increase an additional \$10 per credit hour to generate enough funds to cover the projected budget deficit.

Taking the recommendations of the committee, the two college vice presidents, Mike Holland and Ed Watson, were each charged with finding \$1 million in cuts.

The extra amount was designed to give some flexibility in the decision making process, according to Cavin. From there, the department and division heads were given the task of finding the needed reductions from management, classified and faculty employees. The results were presented to Cavin, Holland and Watson who then met to make the final decisions.

"It was a very painful process for us," said Cavin.

This process was different than the last cuts a few years ago, according to Vice President for Administrative and Student Affairs Holland. Former President Jon Carnahan handled most of the cuts himself so he would bear the brunt of any criticism.

"We certainly could have done that the same way, but Rita and Ed and I are put together differently, and we wanted to have the best thinking from the people that are closest to the departments and programs. All the low-hanging fruit had been picked the last time and we could have done some real damage to the college if we didn't get the best advice from the people closest to the action," said Holland.

In addition to materials and service cuts of \$116,786, Management contracted was cut \$221,438, faculty contracted and part-time \$389,017 and classified contracted and part-time \$580,725 according to Cavin.

The remaining \$166,000 will be cut after the new vice president is named if new revisions can be found elsewhere.

Cavin stressed the decisions were made with strict attention to the decision principles developed by the SBAC. Almost \$500,000 in cuts was rejected outright, and narrowing the remainder involved a long and agonizing process made more difficult by the complicated

**"The college does not wish to close the budget gap by asking our students to absorb all the unfunded costs through tuition increases."**

President Rita Cavin



benefit structure.

According to Tammi Drury, president of the classified workers association, the members have been involved with the process from the beginning. Starting with the budget survey and continuing with the participation on the SBAC, the administration has solicited their opinion regularly.

Drury feels the administration has made every attempt to communicate the budget problems so the members would understand the scope of the problem. While they have not had much to say about the final decisions, Drury feels they were adequately informed of the reasons.

The classified employees will lose 14 full-time positions in addition to some part-time, according to past association president and current Treasurer Bev Gerig. This is the biggest cut, but theirs is the largest employee association at the college, with approximately 253 members, she continued.

While faculty was not cut as heavily as classified employees, Anne Marie Etheridge, president of the Faculty Association, says its members are also affected.

"These are people we work with every day and it is difficult to see them go through this," she said. Etheridge has worked with many of the staffers for a number of years and considers them like family.

"You can only cut so much materials and services before you have to get into personnel. There are some areas you can't reduce supplies because of safety hazards, or it would seriously impede the educational process," she continued. "We hope this round of cuts will help us not have to go through this next year."

Ed Watson, vice president for academic affairs, feels

over the long run, the process they developed is sounder than in the past.

"Most of the time, upper management will not have as much knowledge of the day-to-day workings of the college," he said.

Watson said he was fully involved with the decision-making process and will continue to be so after his replacement is named. He felt there was very little that could be cut from the instructional side without cutting programs.

"It didn't make sense. We would be losing tuition by cutting, and at the same time offering fewer choices for students. It would be a negative spiral," explained Watson.

In addition to staff and M&S cuts, a \$3 per credit hour raise in tuition will be placed before the Board of Education in March, according to Holland. If approved, it will take effect summer term.

In a budget message to the school, President Cavin says, "We have a creative and innovative culture; we have a history of thoughtfulness and prudence. These are the qualities that will give us strength and resilience until our revenues increase. If we stay true to our core values and our mission, we can help one another through this challenging passage."

### Scholarships available

Over 50 scholarship awards totaling over \$40,000 are available this term to students who fill out one form. Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10 for the LBCC Scholarship and Awards Process. For information contact the Financial Aid Office or look online in the scholarship section of the LB Web site.

### Pulitzer reporter to speak

David Cay Johnston, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter will be at the LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. His presentation is called "Stealing From the Future, Tax Cuts for the Rich: Debt for You." Admission is free.



Copy Editor: Melissa Chaney  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus.

## Student Programming Board seeks members for next year

Ellen Purkerson  
 The Commuter

Inspirational speakers, interesting workshops, fun family activities; many students on campus enjoy attending these events without a thought for who plans them. The members of the Student Programming Board are the ones who make these things happen. The deadline is fast approaching to turn in applications for next year's team.

Application forms, available in the Student Life and Leadership office, will be accepted until noon on Friday, Feb. 10. Any student may apply, regardless of previous work experience.

"Everyone gets an interview," said the current team coordinator, Alena Purkerson. Interviews will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The purpose of the SPB is to promote activities that are both educational and fun, said Purkerson. Along with the Associated Student Government, the SPB provides an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. As an added bonus, those serving on the SPB earn full tuition grants for either two or three terms, depending on the position.

Eight positions are open: two coordinators and six specialists. Coordinator positions require a commitment of eight hours per week, including meetings.

The team coordinator prepares meeting agendas and facilitates weekly SPB meetings. Other responsibilities include coordinating and overseeing all other group members, offering help wherever needed and attending a weekly meeting with

*"I would recommend everyone to try student leadership at least once during their school time."*

Matthew Hamel

the SPB advisor and the ASG president.

The multicultural activities coordinator coordinates events related to cultural diversity and serves as a member on the Multicultural Council. This position is responsible for coordinating the annual Children's Winter Festival, the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and at least one other event.

The six specialist positions must each maintain five hours per week, including meetings, and are responsible for planning at least one event per term.

The specialists are responsible for the following:

- Intramural sports—coordinates and plans intramural sports activities and recreation for the student body.

- Health and recreation—coordinates events that promote student health and awareness.

- Campus recreation—plans events that are of interest to everyone on campus, such as the annual fall picnic, Spring Fling and the Valentine Flower sale.

- Center events—coordinates events related to the Benton, Lebanon and Sweet Home centers, working with center staff and students to publicize SPB events.

- Series events—coordinates events related around a central theme of interest.

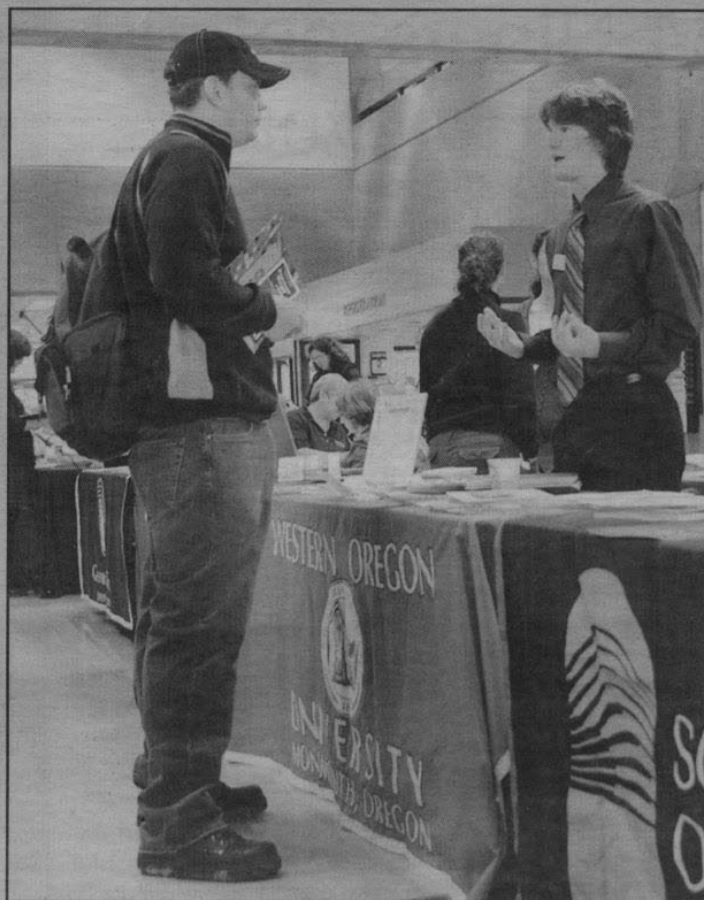
- Political activities—plans activities that are politically rel-

evant to students; and facilitates open communication between LBCC and legislative officials.

All eight positions require the participant to do at least two service learning credits per year, maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and be registered for a minimum of six credits. They must also be prepared to work an occasional weekend or evening, volunteer to help with at least three activities per term and attend leadership workshops.

"It's been a great learning experience," said Matthew Hamel, the current political activities specialist. "I would recommend everyone to try student leadership at least once during their school time."

Shawn Hayward, intramural sports specialist, said he really enjoys knowing what is going on, being involved, and planning activities. "Being involved makes school more fun."



### University Hopefuls

Dan Foster, LB criminal justice major, queries Nan Miller of Western Oregon University at College Transfer Day in Takena Hall last Thursday.

## BE A LEADER: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SCHOOL!

Why be a student leader? We who serve in the Associated Student Government and the Student Programming Board are committed to providing activities and educational experiences that promote an active, exciting student community here at Linn-Benton Community College. When you are a part of the action in the Student Life & Leadership office, you not only earn money in the form of grants to help pay for your education — you also get valuable leadership experience, and a chance to make your college community the fun, friendly place that you want to be a part of.

**So come! Be a part of the Associated Student Government or the Student Programming Board, and Take Charge!**

Associated Student Government: Applications are now available for all positions on the 06-07 ASG team. Positions and compensation include:

The following positions receive 12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms:

- President
- Vice President
- Public Relations Secretary

The following positions receive 12 credits for Winter & Spring terms:

- Science & Industries Rep.
- Business & Health Occupations Rep.
- Student Services & Extended Centers Rep.
- Liberal Arts & Human Performance Rep.
- At-Large Rep.

Applications are due Friday, February 10 at noon in the Student Life & Leadership office. Candidate Forum: time and date to be announced. Election voting times: 7:30 a.m., February 21 — 11:30 p.m., February 22. For more information, stop by the Student Life & Leadership office or call Bill Hand, 05-06 President, at 917-4475.

The Student Programming Board is seeking applicants for next year's student leaders! Positions and compensation include:

The following positions receive 12 credit talent grants for Fall, Winter & Spring terms:

- Team Coordinator
- Multicultural Activities Coordinator

The following positions receive 12 credit talent grants for Winter & Spring terms:

- Intramural Sports Specialist
- Health & Recreation Specialist
- Campus & Recreation Specialist
- Center Events Specialist
- Series Events Specialist
- Political Activities Specialist

Applications are available in the Student Life & Leadership office. Applications are due by noon on Friday, February 10. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2 p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership Conference Room. If appointed, individuals will serve one year. If interested, or for more information, stop by the Student Life & Leadership office or call Alena Purkerson, 05-06 Team Coordinator, at 917-4472.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution

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# SPORTS

Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation.

## '84 Niners, not just a team, a dynasty

With the Super Bowl concluded, it will be more than seven months till next season starts and the only question that will tide us over is: What team is the greatest of all time?

Everybody has their own opinion of who is the best, with many following the bandwagon of hype surrounding the 1985 Chicago Bears. If that Bears squad was the best of all time, then why didn't they win more than one Super Bowl with that core roster? Take the 1984 San Francisco 49ers as a prime example of a better team—the most dominant of four Super Bowl teams in the 80s dynasty that featured virtually the same nucleus of players in an era of football that was far from free agency.

In the 1984 NFC Championship game, the eventual champion 49ers shut-out the following year's champion Bears, 23-0. The '84 Niners, like the '85 Bears, lost only one game all season, but it was only by three points. The Bears lost their game by 14 points to Miami, the same team that the 49ers beat 10 months earlier in Super Bowl XIX by a score of 38-16, shutting out 1984 NFL MVP Dan Marino and his record setting passing attack in the second half of that game. The 1985 Bears gave up only 10 points in three playoff games, but the 1984 Niners still only gave up 26 to stronger offenses. Coaching is another no-contest. Bears head coach Mike Ditka and defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan's overrated "46" defense was a fad that fizzled out faster than the "zone-blitz" and was eventually exposed by Bill Walsh's innovative "West-Coast offense" and of course, Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana.

The "West Coast" is still run by more than 75-percent of the current 32 NFL teams. Walsh out-coached Ditka in 1987 with a 41-0 victory and again in the 1988 NFC championship, beating the Bears 28-3 at Soldier Field. 49ers defensive coordinator George Seifert then took over the reigns in 1989 and beat Ditka 26-0, and guided them to their fourth NFL championship as a rookie head coach with a 55-10 victory over Denver. Those 55 points were nine more than the record of 46 set by the '85 Bears in Super Bowl XX over a depleted and unworthy New England squad.

In the six contests between the two core teams from 1984 through 1989, the 49ers won four of those games by a combined score of 137-39 in all six. San Francisco won both playoff contests with their only two losses coming in injury-riddled regular season games. The '85 Bears were nothing more than an overrated, media-hyped one-time Super Bowl Champion that is more remembered for their player's personalities, nicknames and music videos. The 1984 49ers will be remembered as the best team amongst many great teams in a dominant decade of dynasty.



JAKE ROSENBERG

## FACE OFF

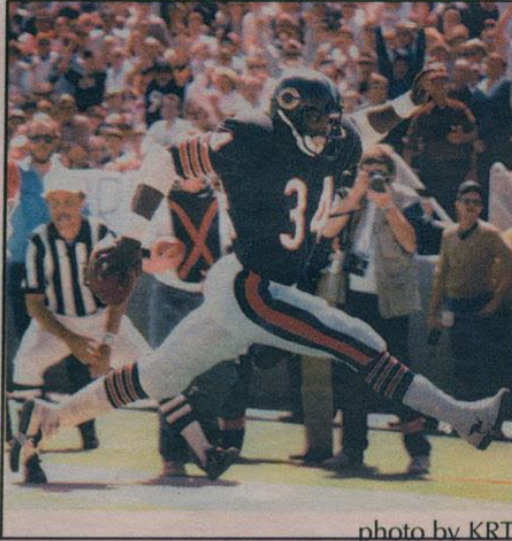


photo by KRT

Both the '84 49ers and the '85 Bears have a handful of Hall of Famers, including running back Walter Payton.

## '85 Bears shuffle to top of the Super Bowl list

Now that football fans are set to endure the seven-month journey called the "off-season," it seems like a good time to debate the best ever Super Bowl championship team. There has never been a more dominating and ferocious team to win the Super Bowl than the 1985 Chicago Bears.

The 1985 Bears went 15-1 in the regular season and 18-1 overall. The 1984 San Francisco 49ers is the only other team in history to win 18 games in a season. That 49ers team beat the Bears the year before in the NFC Championship game to reach Super Bowl XIX. The Bears of 1985 used that game (a 23-0 thumping) as motivation to unleash the most dominating team in NFL history.

The Bears had arguably the best defense to ever take the field. Their opponents scored only 10.9 points per game that season. That record is second only to the 2000 Baltimore Ravens, who won Super Bowl XXXV. However, the Ravens had no offense whatsoever and don't even belong in this conversation. The Bears' playoff opponents scored a TOTAL of 10 points in three playoff games. In the Super Bowl, the Bears defense allowed minus 19 yards in the first half that ended with a score of 23-3. The most dominated Super Bowl ever ended with a final score of 46-10.

Historically, fans remember the great Bears defense of 1985. People forget about an offense that was ranked second in the league, averaging over 28 points per game. This side of the ball included hall-of-famer Walter Payton, Olympian Willie Gault and pro-bowl quarterback Jim McMahon. The offense took a back seat to the defense in the spotlight, but was as efficient as the defense was great.

One thing this Bear team did that no other has ever done was invade pop culture. It was a media darling. The No. 1 reason was McMahon. His flamboyant style seemed careless and fancy-free, but it meshed perfectly with this team. Another was head coach Mike Ditka, hard-nosed and tough, and caught by TV cameras on a regular basis berating his players. But, he won, and he won often. And don't forget William "The Refrigerator" Perry. He became a national phenomenon when he (a front toothless 350-pound defensive lineman) scored a touchdown on Monday Night Football. Lastly, there was the hilarious, yet forgettable song, "Super Bowl Shuffle." This team was so confident they were going to win the Super Bowl they recorded the song during the regular season.

There have been 40 seasons of Super Bowl champions, some better than others. None of them have ever combined an all-time best defense, top offense and a team full of national personalities to make anything close to what the Chicago Bears of 1985 brought to the table. In my eyes, this team is undeniably the best Super Bowl team we have ever seen. One thing is for sure; you will never see a team like it again.



ADAM LOGHIDES



photo by KRT

### Seattle Annihilated

Seahawks sing the blues in Super Bowl XL. Wearing the sad blue uniforms throughout the playoffs, Seattle goes home disappointed after a 21-10 thumping at the hands of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Hines Ward was the game's MVP after catching 5 balls for 123 yards and a touchdown. Held to 95 yards rushing and zero scores after leading touchdowns during the regular season.

## Bring your best to 3-on-3

Neal Jones  
 The Commuter

On Feb. 15 in the Activities Center, a three-on-three basketball tournament will be held at LBCC.

All students and staff are welcome to sign up in the student life and leadership office. When signing up be sure to bring a validated ID card.

Prizes will be given to the first and second place teams.

The prize for the winning team will be one \$50 gift certificate per person to Big 5 sporting goods. The runners-up will receive \$20 gift certificate per person to Big 5 sporting goods. Right now it looks like it will be a double elimination tournament. Refreshments and food will be provided for everyone.

For more information contact Shawn Hayward at 917-4472 or e-mail him at haywars@linnbenton.edu.

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# SPORTS

Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation.

## Men topple UCC but fall to hot-shooting Storm

**Caleb Hawley**  
 The Commuter

The Linn-Benton men's basketball team (10-12, 3-5) ended a two-game skid with a victory over the Umpqua Timbermen (5-16, 2-6) Wednesday night at the Activities Center. However, this success did not carry over into Saturday, when the Chemeketa Storm (15-6, 7-1) defeated the Runners in Salem.

LB came out much stronger in the first half than they had in the past few contests. A double-digit lead was held for nearly half of the period. Ryon Pool and Cory Hull had a big first half with the inside game combining for 17 of the Runners' 42 first half points.

The Runners out rebounded the Timbermen in the first half 25-to-17, scored 22 points off turnovers, scored 16 second-chance points, and forced 13 Timbermen turnovers. A 42-29 lead gave the Runners an edge going to the half.

The second half was much closer than the first. LB started hot, building an 18-point lead with over 15 minutes to go. From that point the Timbermen and Runners traded blows as Umpqua slowly chipped their way back into the game.

With less than three minutes remaining, the Timbermen had found a way to cut the deficit to just eight points. If it weren't for the superb second half free throw shooting by the Runners (25 for 32 2nd half) this game may have had a different outcome. Kyle Masten led the free-throw frenzy nailing 12 of 14 in the second half. LB would go on to win the shoot-out 96-87.



photo by Sherry Majeski

**LB staffers Roxie Putnam and Nancy Morrill lead the cheers at the men's basketball game during Staff Appreciation Night last Wednesday in the Activities Center.**

"We stepped up a little bit on defense tonight. The last couple games we started off real slow. We've been down in the first half quite a bit in the last couple games. I think we jumped on them early, and that really helps," said Masten, a freshman guard.

"I think we had a little harder practice the day before. We usually take a little off. I think we went after it a little harder and I think that brought the energy level up a little bit."

Several Runners had big performances that evening.

Pool led the way with 22 points and six rebounds and three assists. Masten scored 20 with five rebounds and six assists. Alex Stockner pitched in 17 points with an additional 6 rebounds, and Hull scored 18 off the bench. Dustin Vaughn led the squad with seven rebounds, five coming on the offensive end.

The Runners didn't see those kinds of numbers in Saturday night's game in Salem. Here the Runners got off to another slow first half. Chemeketa started the game with a 15-3 run and eventually outscored the Runners in the half 39-24.

A poor shooting performance hampered LB in the first half, shooting only 33.3 percent from the field to the Storm's 50 percent.

Six players from the Storm scored in double figures in the 87-67 rout of the Runners. LB only registered two players in double figures with Pool and Masten who scored 22 and 19 respectively. Pool also pulled in seven rebounds and Masten led the team with three steals. Chemeketa was relentless in their shot selection taking 70 attempts, 22 more than LB. Of the 70 shots taken, 23 were from behind the 3-point arc which the Storm shot nearly 40 percent.

"Chemeketa is a very good team," said head coach Randy Falk. "I have great expectations for them this season. I thought we had some good moments defensively. We just weren't consistent. I don't think defense is the issue. I think if you look at the stat sheet and see 23 three-pointers, that's the difference right there."

The LB men will next be taking on Portland (11-12, 3-5) this Saturday at home in the Activities Center.

## Lady Runners lose two by lopsided scores

**Ian Greer**  
 The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners (7-15, 3-5) were run over by two good teams last week, one at home to Umpqua on Wednesday and one on the road against Chemeketa Saturday.

LBCC came out prepared on Wednesday, but it wasn't enough to hold off the talented Umpqua team, as they lost 77-52.

Molly Fillion led the way for the Roadrunners with a double-double, registering 17 points and 10 rebounds. Rebekah Welch chipped in 13 and Sarah Long added seven boards and five blocked shots.

Saturday's game didn't turn

out to be much better for the Lady Runners when they traveled to Salem to face Chemeketa (8-11, 5-3). LB just couldn't get into a groove against the Storm and were defeated by a score of 78-58.

Statistically there were a few bright spots for the Runners that night, however. Whitney Bryant scored a team high 17 and a team-tying eight rebounds. Long recorded 12 points and eight rebounds, Welch added 12 points, and Fillion had five steals.

The Lady Runners next face Portland (7-14, 1-7) at home in the Activities Center. On Saturday, come support LB basketball. Admittance is free with the presentation of a student ID card.



photo by Sherry Majeski

**Rebekah Welch fights for a loose ball against Umpqua Wednesday in a game the Runners lost 77-52.**

## Coach Hawk to field promising baseball team this spring

**Robert Wong**  
 The Commuter

A well-rounded Roadrunners baseball team will try to avoid missing the playoffs, for a second straight year, with the new season now only a month away.

Coach Greg Hawk worked hard in the off-season to bring in quality players to LBCC. Two of Hawk's most touted recruits will be battling for time at first base: West Albany's Jordan Sim, an All-State selection, and Bryant Kraus, West Linn's "Louisville Slugger" and first-team All-American.

Other notable new faces include All-Metro team second baseman Charlie Olson from Lake Oswego HS, All-State pitcher Gary Richardson from Rogue River and pitcher Matt Alexander from South Albany HS.

Hawk is also looking to his returning

players to keep the Roadrunners in contention. Of second team all-leaguer and third baseman Tim Puckett, Hawk said, "He'll be a big player for us." Last year Puckett batted .316 with a team-leading 16 RBIs.

Hawk spoke highly of right fielder Frankie Drake, who played shortstop last year. Returning pitchers Ian Opsal, Kenny McCullers and Robert Stevens accounted for nine of LBCC's 17 wins last year and look to have good seasons under the tutelage of second-year pitching coach Mike Godfrey, Hawk said.

The opening day lineup will likely consist of Puckett at third base, shortstop Ethan Robbins of Douglas HS, Olson at second, and Sim or Kraus at first. The outfield will play Stephan George of Lakeridge HS in center field, Drake in right, and Tony Bellando of Douglas HS in left field, whom Hawk describes as

"as good a leadoff hitter as we'll find in our league." Jake Roy, a Corvallis High graduate, is slated to play catcher.

The starting pitching rotation will likely be made up of Alexander, McCullers, Opsal, Richardson and Stevens. To finish games Hawk will turn to set-up man Adam Simpson out of Centennial, who will in turn give way to his Centennial teammate, Tyler Pickett. Pickett is "a pure closer who loves competition. He has good speed and can throw to spots," Hawk said.

The Roadrunners have been preparing for the new season since September. Hawk described the six-week fall session as including frequent fundamentals and conditioning practices, along with intra-squad scrimmages and games against three outside opponents.

Finishing with a 13-17 (17-23 overall) league record, the Roadrunners finished

in fourth place overall in the NWAACC Southern Division last year. Hawk looks to improve on this standing by having the Roadrunners hit the ball to all parts of the field. He wants to use hit-and-run plays and bunts to manufacture runs. Hawk also stressed the importance of his players swinging at good pitches and showing discipline at the plate.

"I just think that this club is gonna be a very special club when it's all said and done," Hawk said.

The Roadrunners start their 2006 season with doubleheaders against Centralia and Pierce that will be played in The Dalles on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5, with times to be announced.

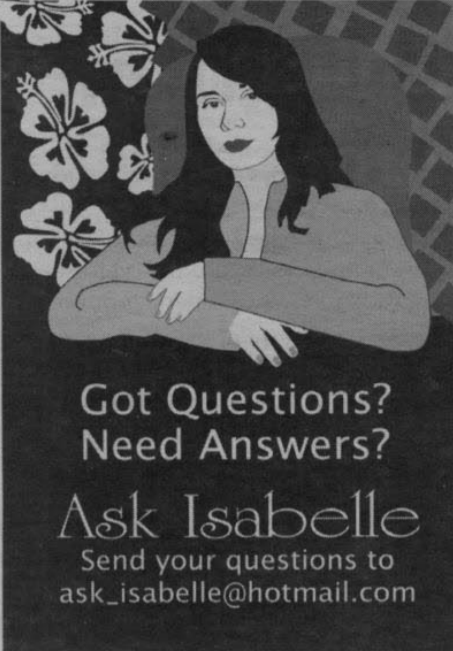
The Roadrunners league schedule kicks off at noon Tuesday, March 28 at SWOCC with their first home games against Lane on Saturday, April 1 also at noon.



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# FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, LBCC Commons menu and some fun facts to brighten your day.



**Got Questions?  
Need Answers?**

**Ask Isabelle**  
 Send your questions to  
 ask\_isabelle@hotmail.com

Dear Isabelle,

I just wanted to write and say how cool I think this new column is. I haven't written in with any of my own problems yet but I think the resource is great. It's just cool to see something so personal in the school paper. Thanks again.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thanks for the encouragement. Sometimes it just helps to talk to someone that will give you an honest and unbiased opinion. I hope you do write in. Usually you are not the only one who is going through any given problem. It helps others to see they are not the only ones confused. Thanks again for your support.

Dear Isabelle,

I know this is like a girl column or whatever, but I thought since you are a girl (right?), you could give me some girl advice. There is a girl in my class who I have been friends with for the last two years. We started school together and had a lot of the same classes. She is so smart and so amazing in every way. I think you know where I am going with this. How do I get her to see that I think she is amazing and for her to see me more than just her study buddy?

Signed, More than a friend

Dear Friend,

It's hard to cross over from the "just friends" stage to the "more than friends" stage. The key is to make your feelings known without bombarding her with your full-on confession. She will need time to digest what you have told her. Perhaps you could write down your feelings in a letter. Keep it simple and to the point. Try not to write her a novel even though I know you are dying to tell her everything you have been holding back all this time. There is no guarantee that she will reciprocate but at least you gave it a try. It's always better to know than to forever wonder what could have been.

### FOR ADVICE...

E-mail Isabelle for anonymous, fair and unbiased advice anytime at ask\_isabelle@hotmail.com or drop letters off at the Commuter Office, Forum 222, addressed to Ask Isabelle.

All names will be kept confidential and private. Isabelle will answer all letters as space allows so please be patient if we don't get to your letter right away.

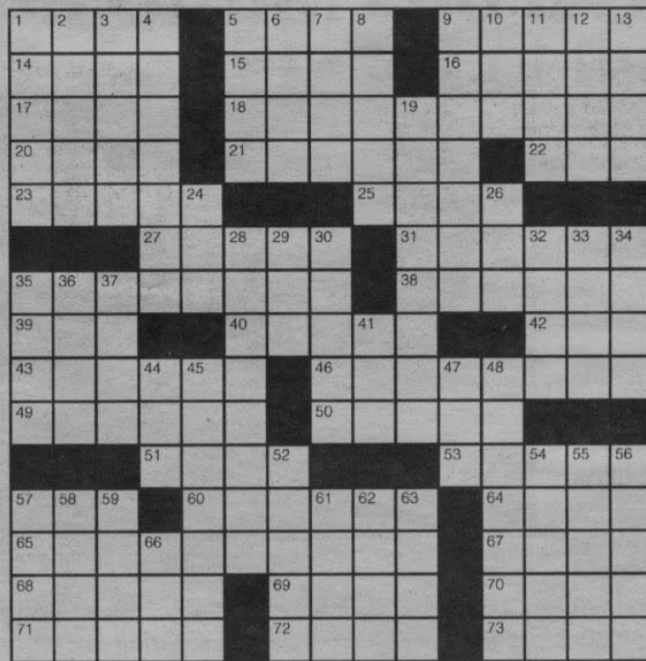
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Flabby
- 5 Little demons
- 9 Stitched
- 14 Louisville's river
- 15 Writer Bellow
- 16 Create text
- 17 Rather and Quayle
- 18 Loyalty
- 20 Trajectories
- 21 Barking dog
- 22 Surprised exclamations
- 23 Respectful Hindu title
- 25 Statuesque
- 27 Mother-of-pearl
- 31 Repeat again and again
- 35 Beltway
- 38 More nervous
- 39 Dander
- 40 \_\_\_ time's a charm
- 42 Slot-filler
- 43 Easter event
- 46 Poetic pairs
- 49 Noisy napper
- 50 Hide house
- 51 Follow closely
- 53 Re-mark prices
- 57 Make things happen
- 60 Find secondary corrections
- 64 Radio enthusiast
- 65 Spicy topping
- 67 Bar mitzvah dance
- 68 Spooky
- 69 Tie tie
- 70 Author Bagnold
- 71 Process parts
- 72 Desires
- 73 Espies

### DOWN

- 1 Fountain buys
- 2 "Lovey Childs" author
- 3 Grosbeak, e.g.
- 4 Step in salad preparation
- 5 Brit's indignant comment
- 6 Manly
- 7 Influence



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2/6/06

- 8 Enjoyed a siesta
- 9 Formed eddies
- 10 Time worth noting
- 11 Boozer
- 12 Impress clearly
- 13 Poor grades
- 19 Rarin' to go
- 24 Drinks counter
- 26 Part of a tour
- 28 Cliques
- 29 Collegiate cheer
- 30 Decree
- 32 Quote, as an example
- 33 Miami team
- 34 Crystal balls, e.g.
- 35 Taylor and Torn
- 36 Neighbor of Iraq
- 37 Fiddling emperor
- 41 Canape spread
- 44 Expertise
- 45 So-and-sos, affectionately
- 47 Part of mph
- 48 Bloodsuckers

**Answers  
Provided  
on Page  
Four**

- 52 Like an unsound boat
- 54 Rib-eye alternative
- 55 Condor's digs
- 56 Students with degs.
- 57 Poker "bullets"
- 58 Guitarist Atkins
- 59 Make weary
- 61 Sand ridge
- 62 PC image
- 63 Hanoi holidays
- 66 Kind of service



"Alright, maybe you're not giving me the full-on tough love, but it sure feels chewier than usual."



## ...Fun Facts...

- A snail can sleep for three years.
- 'Jedi' is an official religion, with over 70,000 followers, in Australia.
- More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.
- Baskin Robbins once made ketchup ice cream.
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history to not have a full moon.
- Seaweed can grow up to 12 inches per day!
- When nobody else is around, 47% of people drink straight from the carton.
- Dragonflies have six legs but cannot walk!
- The last time American green cards were actually green was 1964.
- To sell your home faster, and for more money, paint it yellow.
- It takes a drop of ocean water more than 1,000 years to circulate around the world.
- It takes about 63,000 trees to make the newsprint for the average Sunday edition of The New York Times.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

# Commons

FEB. 08 - FEB. 14

**Wednesday:**  
**ENTREES:** Meatloaf and Mushroom Gravy; English Style Fish & Chips; Vegetarian Chili w/Cornbread, sour cream & cheese  
**SIDES:** Mousseline Potatoes; Peas & Carrots  
**SOUPS:** Dilled Potato Chowder; Chicken & Wild Rice

**Thursday:**  
**ENTREES:** Pork Piccata; Coq au Vin; Spinach, Red Pepper & Feta Quiche  
**SIDES:** Scalloped Potatoes; Green Beans Amandine  
**SOUPS:** Ox Tail; Cream of Garlic

**Friday: Chef's Choice**

**Monday:**  
**ENTREES:** Turkey Cutlet w/Brown Butter Sauce; Texas Chili con Carne w/Cornbread; White Spinach Lasagna  
**SIDES:** Orzo/Pesto; Zucchini in Tomato  
**SOUPS:** Roasted Vegetable Chowder; Albondigas

**Tuesday:**  
**ENTREES:** Garlic Chicken; Swedish Meatballs w/Buttered Noodles; Cheese Enchiladas  
**SIDES:** Risotto; Cabbage w/Apples & Onions  
**SOUPS:** Egg Flower; Lentil

*Weekly Menu*



**Managing Editor:** Jennifer Overholser  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus.

## Geocaching treasure hunters use GPS, cash in

**Nancey West**  
 The Commuter

Getting the travel bug doesn't have to mean traveling to exotic places. Geocaching involves a tag, similar to a dog tag, which a geocacher leaves in a cache, to be moved by another geocacher to a different spot. The owner tracks the travel bug's movement; the object is to travel.

Geocaching is treasure hunting using the global positioning system, or GPS. A cache is a hidden container with a logbook, pen and possibly prizes.

Once the cache is found, the geocacher signs the logbook and may remove a trinket or a travel bug, leaving something in its place. The first to find (FTF) a cache may receive a gift certificate or something of more value. Though it is pronounced "cash," there is usually little value in the treasures left at the site.

The search begins on the computer by logging on to a site such as geocaching.com where dozens of hunts are listed. With names like "Stumped," "Knees," "Boat," "I Don't Need No Stinken Boat!" and "Pablo Mac's Mini-Micro Mélé," each site is rated for difficulty of the search and terrain. Information such as when the bug was hidden and hints of what to look for are given, along with comments from other geocachers. Next, the beginning waypoint in latitude and longitude coordinates is programmed into the GPS, and the hunt is on.

The GPS receives a message in the time

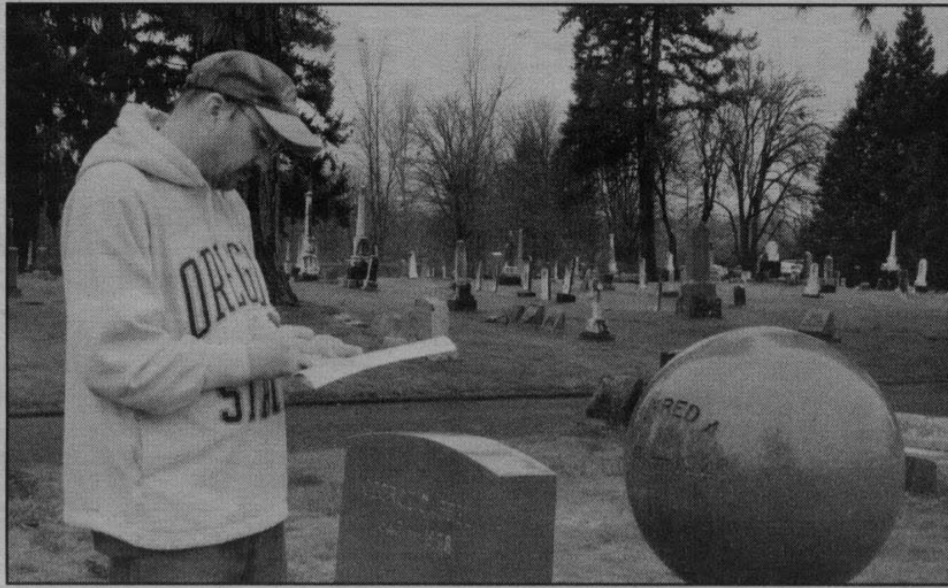


photo by Nancey West

Local geocacher John Kotyo finds clues using headstone dates at Riverside Cemetery.

it takes a Block I or II satellite signal to reach Earth. It then uses that information to calculate the distance between itself and the satellite. By repeating those calculations with four different satellites, a receiver can determine its location anywhere on the planet. The waypoint can be shown on the GPS with a map of the state or zoomed in to a few hundred meters of the location. As the GPS nears the site, the remaining distance is shown. Compass arrows on the GPS show which direction to travel. The search ends by logging on again at the Web site and recording what was found or not found.

Variations of the traditional cache have emerged, such as the mystery cache, in which there are puzzles to determine the waypoints; the location-less cache, in which an object is found and the coordinates then recorded; and the earth cache, whose sites contain educational earth facts. An event cache is a designated place and time for geocachers to meet.

"You'd think that it would be for younger people, but most of those coming to events are retired," said John Kotyo, a local geocacher, of a recent event cache. "It's also good for families to do together."

Besides picking up trash, geocachers emphasize using trails and respecting the environment, Kotyo said.

The global positioning system was developed for the military. The Navy developed a system to accurately locate the exact position of a submarine to determine a missile's trajectory, and the Army developed a radio beacon system to use in thick jungles. The Department of Defense eventually combined the two. The first satellite was launched in 1978, and the Air Force announced in 1995 that the global positioning system had reached full operational capacity.

GPS technology has a variety of uses. Many 911 systems have GPS capability to locate an emergency site and the nearest emergency vehicles. Rescue teams in remote areas use GPS to find the lost or injured, navigate the best routes to them and direct emergency crews. Most car manufacturers offer dashboard navigation systems in their latest models.

Surveying classes at LB use four higher-tech GPS that provide more accuracy. They are larger and require being immobile for a period of time to operate.

"The GPS may be set up on one point for an hour but can set a property corner within inches," said David Kidd, instructor. The coordinates are taken in the field and uploaded into the computer at the office to calculate the readings, Kidd said. "There are limitations. You have to see the sky to use it. Things such as branches or buildings can interfere with signals."

## Academic Affairs VP to retire at school year's end

**Jennifer Overholser**  
 The Commuter

After 12 years at LBCC, Vice President of Academic Affairs Ed Watson will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Watson, who announced his retirement in January, started his academic career 37 years ago when he began teaching in Portland at the age of 21. After learning of an overseas teaching opportunity from a friend, he ended up working for the Department of Defense for a number of years, teaching children from military families. He was based in England, but traveled to many other countries.

Watson received his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Oregon and later received a doctorate from OSU, majoring in curriculum supervision and minoring in exercise science.

The first in his family to graduate from college, Watson remembers teachers being important role models as a young child growing up in Portland. He started to seriously think about teaching as a career while in high school. "I've always had a direction," he said.

Through his career, Watson has taught health, math, science and physical education and has held positions as a coach, school administrative official, principal, vice principal and curriculum specialist.

At LBCC, Watson is involved with designing instructional

programs, developing the curriculum, and hiring faculty. He also assists in planning new facilities, oversees the athletic program and makes sure LBCC's curriculum is aligned with OSU.

He thinks LBCC is a healthy college, just the right size to be flexible, and appreciates that it avoids being autocratic. Other aspects he likes include the concern teachers have for students and the diversity that brings

different points of view.

"Community college is the best for me," he said. "It's been good."

In his free time Watson enjoys reading, playing piano, golfing, exercising and traveling. He enjoys spending time in Zihuatanejo, Mexico, where he and his wife purchased a condominium a couple years ago. They spent time there over winter break.

"My age, probably," Watson joked when asked what made

him decide to retire. He explained that he felt it was time to move on and do something different to "get off of the treadmill conveyor belt of life. You're always having to change a tire while you're driving."

Scheduling specialist Jan Huskey, who works closely with Watson, said that he is well liked around campus, explaining that custodians make appointments for coffee with him.

"He wanders around campus

and connects with people," she said. That wandering sometimes makes him hard to find, according to Janet Lodge, who has been Watson's executive assistant since he first became vice president. She and Huskey laughed as they recalled the times when they had to frantically try to find him on campus.

"I really like working with him," Lodge said, explaining he is very supportive and has a good sense of humor.

### CrossRoads Deli & Co.

33685 Hwy 99E (Next to Wilco) in Tangent  
 Sandwiches • Soft Drinks • Convenience Store  
 926-6323

Personal Pan  
 Pepperoni Pizza and a  
 32 oz. drink  
**\$2.50**  
 with coupon

2 Breakfast Burritos  
 or 2 Breakfast Sandwiches  
 Plus a 12 oz. Coffee or Cappuccino  
**\$2.99**  
 with coupon

## Valentine's Day Flower Sale

\$2 each or \$10 for six.

Ordering begins Jan. 31.

Have a carnation delivered to a special person on campus! Place your order in the Student Life & Leadership Office or at our table in Takena Hall. Flowers will be delivered between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on February 14. (We'll deliver to the centers between noon and 1 p.m.)

Sponsored by the LBCC Student Ambassadors and the Student Programs Board.

Assistance for tuxedos provided by Mr. Formal.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
 LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Information about plays, movies, books, artwork, and other entertaining or artistic endeavors.

## Albany's Pix Theatre features mix of movies, 'Olde Time' atmosphere

Amanda Bielenberg  
 The Commuter

For theater-goers seeking an inexpensive, unique movie experience, the Pix Theatre in downtown Albany has been renovated and reopened. On Jan. 6, the doors opened for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Owners Jeff and Robin Mexico restored and expanded Albany's quaint, old-fashioned theater to have an atmosphere that welcomes customers to Hollywood in its golden era.

Built in 1892 and renovated in 1982, the Victorian building on 321 Second Street was previously a grocery store and underground stable. With the hope of bringing in families by offering inexpensive shows and a unique, inviting atmosphere, the

Mexicos transformed this building into a theater that makes an event out of going to a movie.

The interior presents an old-fashioned element, with classic film images lining the walls, a welcoming ottoman bursting at the seams and the promise of a great theater experience. Comfort in this theater even goes so far as being able to listen to the movie in the bathrooms, as speakers have been installed for the ultimate movie experience.

Another attraction is the variety of tantalizing snacks including popcorn, Cinnabon pretzels, candy, soda, coffee, tea, mochas and decadent truffles, along with the soon to be offered espresso and pizza options.

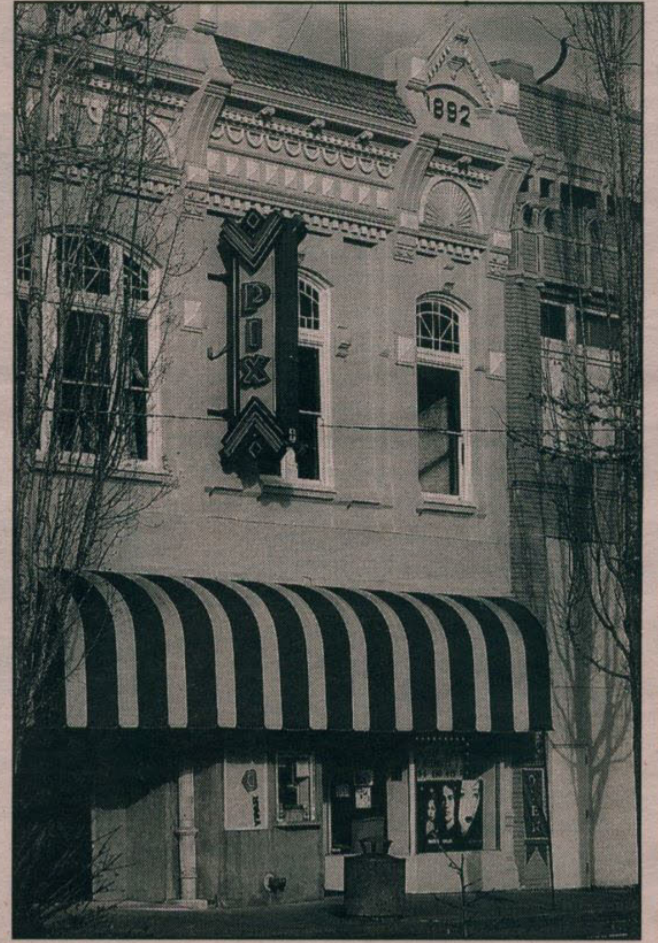
Currently, the Pix Theatre is show-

ing "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," and can be viewed on weekdays at 7 p.m. and on both Saturday and Sunday at 2, 4:30, and 7 p.m. Prices vary from \$4 for seniors to \$6 for adults, with an offered matinee price of \$4 for all ages. The theater will also be available for private parties and corporate functions in the future.

For more information, show times and prices, visit their web site at [www.albanypix.com](http://www.albanypix.com).

A bright symbol of a by gone era illuminates the entrance to The Pix Theatre in Albany. Originally built in 1892, the building is a classic example of Queen Anne architecture.

photo by Dan Wise



## Campus Shorts...

### Valley Writers Series focuses on music

The Valley Writers series at Linn-Benton begins winter term with The Art of Composing Music with Susan Peck on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Troubadour Music in downtown Corvallis. Peck is the vocal music instructor for LBCC. Beginning and intermediate composers are invited to bring their musical ideas or works in progress to explore the process of composing music.

### Valentine Flowers on sale in Tadena Hall

Orders being taken at a table in Tadena Hall through Feb. 13 for carnations to be delivered on campus on Valentines Day. Flowers will be delivered from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and cost \$2 each or six for \$10. Orders may also be placed in the Student Life and Leadership Office.

### Campus Open House planned Feb. 21

LBCC will host an informational open house on Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Commons cafeteria. Learn about many aspects of attending LBCC, including how to earn college credit while still in high school. To register call 917-4490 or go online at [www.linnbenton.edu/openhouse](http://www.linnbenton.edu/openhouse).

### Mediterranean slide show presented Thursday

Beth Camp is presenting a slideshow highlighting the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean this Thursday from 12-12:50 p.m. in F-113.

# OSU DEGREES ONLINE



### Start at LBCC and get your OSU degree.

Get a head start on your bachelor's degree online from Oregon State University's Extended Campus. Or if you are planning to transfer to OSU, get a jump-start now. You'll reach your goals much more quickly.

- 300 online courses a year
- Upper division courses in over 40 subjects
- Majors in Liberal Studies, Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources and General Agriculture
- Take courses at LBCC and OSU concurrently
- Student services including online tutoring available

Check out our courses online: [ecampus.oregonstate.edu](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu)

email: [ecampus@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ecampus@oregonstate.edu) or call 1.800.667.1465

**REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER CLASSES!**

Classes Start Jan. 9th

**Oregon State**  
UNIVERSITY



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Check It Out

### Open Mic Night

Feb. 8  
 9 p.m.  
 Iovino's Ristorante  
 126 S.W. First St.  
 Corvallis

### "Antigone"

Feb. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Withycombe Main Stage Theatre  
 Oregon State University Campus  
 Corvallis  
 Adults \$9, Seniors over 55 \$6  
 Students \$5  
 541-737-2784

### Lee Ann Womack

Feb. 10 & 11  
 8 p.m.  
 Chinook Winds Casino  
 Lincoln City  
 \$20 - \$45  
 Tickets 1-888-MAINACT

### Family Karaoke

Feb. 9  
 6-9 p.m.  
 Pizza King  
 231 Lyon St.  
 Albany  
 Family Fun  
 No charge for customers

### The Kindreds

Feb. 10  
 8 p.m.  
 Boccherini's  
 208 First Avenue S.W.  
 Albany  
 Free

### Salsa Dancing

Feb. 10  
 10 p.m.  
 Platinum  
 126 S.W. Fourth St.  
 Corvallis  
 \$4 at the door

### Dead Meadow

with Entrance and StopSignGo  
 February 11  
 8:30 p.m.  
 WOW Hall  
 University of Oregon Campus  
 Corner of 8th and Lincoln  
 Eugene  
 \$8 in advance  
 \$10 at the door  
 Ages 6-11 half-price at the door  
 5 and under free  
 www.ticketweb.com



contributed photo

J.P. Burns and the Afterburners, a blues band made up of LBCC staff, will perform at the Benton Center Friday. The band includes Tom Chase, Mark Weiss, Ron Sharman and Janeen Creighton.

## Staff members team up to sing the blues at Acoustic Showcase

Elizabeth Uriarte  
 The Commuter

The Benton Center's Acoustic Showcase continues this Friday, Feb. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. in the student lounge with a free live performance by blues band J.P. Burns and the Afterburners, a group made up of present and former LBCC faculty members.

Janeen Creighton (a.k.a. J.P. Burns), LB's career and employment specialist, is the lead singer; Mark Weiss, a counselor, plays the acoustic guitar; Tom Chase, a retired English instructor, also plays the acoustic guitar; and Ron Sharman, an environmental technology instructor, plays the bass.

Creighton, who also plays the acoustic guitar, says she gets a lot of mileage out of just 10 chords, preferring to stick with basic blues styles. After 30 years of singing in the shower, Creighton moved up to performing live on stage for a number of local venues, including The Peacock and Terry's Town Tavern, where she performed with blues musician Ramblin' Rex.

J.P. Burns and the Afterburners is the first group Creighton has performed in. She said they formed last summer when LB's Courtyard Music Series was seeking artists, and the band had such a good time that they decided to get together again for last year's Artists Against AIDS event.

Weiss also plays the mandolin and bass with local bluegrass groups. A long-time bluegrass

musician, Weiss was about 14 when inspired to play bluegrass by flat-pick guitarist Doc Watson. He finds playing the blues new and enjoyable.

Chase has been involved in music since high school, playing the saxophone in the marching band and later playing the guitar in a rock-and-roll band. He is now a resident musician for OSU's Bates Hall Children's Choir Education Program.

Sharman says he is a garage band bass player who plays bass because it is his Karma, according to Lauri Lehman, the band's publicist.

Nerves don't seem to be a problem for Creighton or Weiss while performing before a live audience. Weiss has performed at the Benton Center before and only gets nervous with a new venue.

Weiss remarked, "It doesn't even enter my mind to be nervous," while Creighton said, "I absolutely love being up there performing. The time goes by way too quickly for me."

The music they play reflects the influences of Janis Joplin, Bonnie Raitt and Jonny Lang. Though the songs performed are covers, Creighton writes her own music as well and hopes to begin performing some of her original pieces soon.

Weiss described Creighton's brand of music as a "uniquely down-home blues style."

Though the group is still somewhat informal, they plan to continue playing together for some time to come.

"I couldn't ask for a nicer group of guys. They're sweethearts," said Creighton of her bandmates.

## 'Naked Pictures' displays Stewart's wit

Harrison White  
 The Commuter

### REVIEW

Jon Stewart is intelligent, Jewish and hosting the Oscars. He also wrote a book called "Naked Pictures of Famous People."

The book is one of the funniest I've ever read, a collection of articles ranging from an example of how to run a Jonestown-like cult to Larry King's interview with Adolph Hitler.

As a comment on the back of the book claims, and I'm paraphrasing, Stewart proves "you have to be smart to be a smart-ass." The book is a testament to this. Speaking of which, it includes a great article criticizing Christianity, and especially the tendency to find more supposed gospels, in tongue-in-cheek manner.

But the scathing humor and sarcastic wit doesn't pick and choose: another article is the proposition of an embodiment of the Jewish God named "Uncle Pete."

Everyone should read this book. I think that if perhaps more paid attention to the underlying humor in the "Daily Show" host's base beliefs, which are evident in stories such as "Martha Stewart's Vagina" and "The Devil and William Gates," proper analysis of events might make a grand comeback.

The writing is fluent, understandable and most importantly, reflects the subject. A Macedonian scroll called "A Recipe" is revealed to be an entertainment show format, while the tran-

scripts of the Gerald Ford tapes show us the nature of that brief presidency: mainly, tripping.

"Naked Pictures of Famous People" is a masterpiece of comedy. It belongs in the ranks of such satiric and sarcastic wit as George Carlin's "Napalm and Silly Putty." Some of it is even written with the kind of irony only a few, such as Joseph Heller, have brought to life on the page.

It proves that comedy should require more than just the Larry the Cable Guy redneck speech, as an open letter David Cross wrote points out.

And Stewart delivers. His comedy writing is essentially the best out there today. But as Levar Burton might say, "Don't take my word for it..."

Ask "Uncle Pete."



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# DISCOVERY

Community festivals, trips, treks  
 and tours that readers might enjoy  
 in their free time.

## BRIDGES of Linn County

Colleen Franzoia  
 The Commuter

If you're tired of the relentless rain, suffering from post-Super Bowl trauma or just want to get out and enjoy the sunshine, a tour of the covered bridges in the Willamette Valley is a pleasant diversion. The country adventure takes you back in time to when the pace of life was slower and people traveled the back roads to visit family, friends or go in town. The velvet-green hills are dotted with fluffy, white sheep, horses and old barns, that give a hint of what life might have been like a few decades ago.

Oregon has the most covered bridges of any state west of the Mississippi River. In its heyday, from 1905 to the 1930s, there were over 450 covered bridges in the state. Today approximately 50 still remain with 13 in Linn and Benton counties. The Albany Chamber of Commerce has a brochure with information about the bridges in this area, which includes a map.

Wooden bridges were covered to protect them from the elements—uncovered a bridge might last 10 years—covered they can last three times that long. The protection also gave couples a place to steal a kiss or two away from prying eyes. The spans became known as 'kissing bridges.'

Following the map in the chamber brochure, drive east out of Albany on Highway 20 to the Crabtree exit, Highway 226. The tour route is marked with signs along the way. The tour in central Linn County takes a little over two hours, depend-

ing how long you linger at each spot. For those who got digital cameras as a holiday gift, this would be a perfect time to try them out. Be careful on and around the bridges. Even though you may encounter little traffic, many of the bridges are only one lane wide and the people who regularly travel those roads don't slow down. In addition, the creeks and rivers are high and the banks are slippery, so be cautious when trying to get the perfect angle on a shot.

Lee Hoffman built the Hoffman Bridge, which spans Crabtree Creek, in 1936. Constructed primarily with hand tools, it is 90 feet long and is based on State Highway Department specifications. The bridge sports Gothic-style windows instead of the open-truss design seen on many bridges in the area.

Most of the bridges are based on the truss model developed by William Howe of Massachusetts—and aptly named the Truss-Howe design. Howe patented his plan in 1840 and later made improvements to the design in 1842.

The Gilkey Bridge west of Scio, a Howe-Truss design, was built in 1939 but has had a couple of renovations over the years. Spanning Thomas Creek, it has become a popular spot for swimmers who enjoy the hot summer's days by swinging off a rope tied to the bridge.

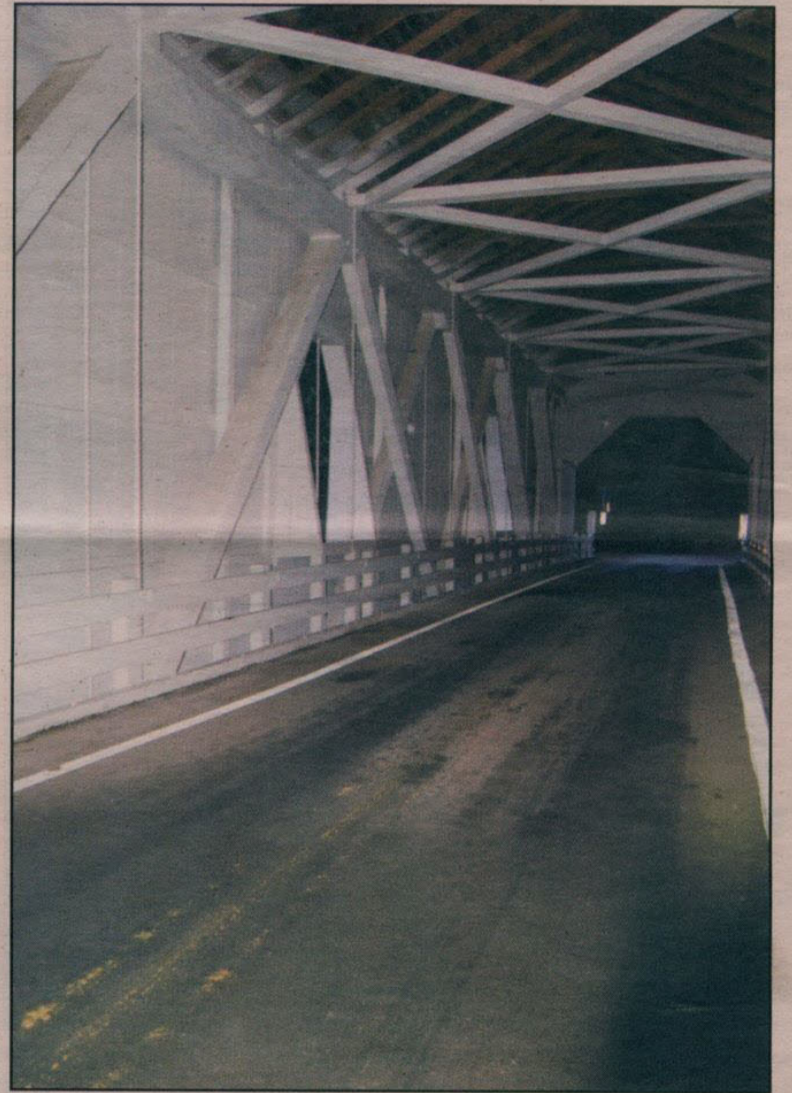
East of Scio, also crossing Thomas Creek is Shimanek Bridge. At 130 feet, it is the longest and the only bridge painted red in Linn County. The first



bridge built on this site dates back to 1861, while the first covered bridge was built in 1891 at a cost of \$1,150. Due to the wet weather, water and storm damage, many bridges have replaced the original span. The current structure—the fifth—was completed in 1966.

Another structure crossing Thomas Creek, east of the Shimanek Bridge, is the Hannah Bridge built in 1936, which is 105 feet long. The original, built in 1912 near the site of the current Hannah Bridge, was dismantled. The material was used to build a shed and a sheep barn on the property settled by John J. Hannah, who came to the area in a covered wagon in 1851. Swimmers can also be seen here during the summer jumping from the span to the deep water below.

Another bridge built near Scio to cross Thomas Creek is the Weddle Bridge, which was moved to Sweet Home's Sankey Park in 1989. Exclusively a foot bridge over Ames Creek, it rests in a lush park setting which has picnic tables, a playground and hiking trails. If you pack a lunch or pick up a meal along the way, this might be the perfect spot to end your visit back in time.



Above right: Gilkey Bridge crosses Thomas Creek east of Scio. Built in 1939, it had to be closed due to damage and re-opened in 1998.

Above: The Truss-Howe design, of the Hoffman Bridge north of Crabtree on Hungry Hill Drive, is evident in this 90-foot span constructed in 1936.

Below: Shimanek Bridge is the widest and longest bridge in Linn County. It is the only one in the area painted red.

Below Left: The open truss design of the bridges allowed plenty of light to filter in between the support beams and gave couples a few moments to enjoy the setting sun over the coast range.

