



Birds, Birds, Birds!

A wide variety of birds and wildlife make their home in the Willamette Valley's wildlife refuges, and those that don't stop by for seasonal visits.

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Opening Soon

Nearly completed North Santiam Hall will be open for business winter term with 10 new classrooms.

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THE COMMUTER

Wednesday,
November 16, 2005

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume 37 No. 7

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Students urged to fight high textbook prices

Steven Farrens
The Commuter

Peg Mangan had a lot to say about the rising textbook prices at the Student Life & Leadership forum on Wednesday. After all, her history as a student at Linn-Benton includes the same frustration most students feel every term. Over a two-year span, Mangan took Math 95 three different times, and was forced to buy a brand new, updated book each term.

"How can you update a math class three times in two years?" she asked. "Algebra doesn't change."

Similar remarks came from the 20 others in the audience, including students, faculty and staff. While nearly everyone was participating and exchanging opinions

"How can you update a math class three times in two years? Algebra doesn't change."

Peg Mangan

with the forum's panel, the turnout for the discussion was lower than expected, both from students and state legislators from the area.

Matthew Hamel, the Student Programming Board's political activities specialist, coordinated the event. Though he was happy with the responses from those who were in

attendance, the presence of few students and no political representatives from the area was frustrating.

"It went well. I was very happy to see students and higher management connect. But of the nine representatives I contacted from Linn, Benton and other counties in the area, only one responded—and he cancelled last week."

▶ Turn to "Textbook" on Pg. 4



photo by Dan Wise

Representatives from LB explained the realities of textbook prices to about 20 students last Wednesday. Organizers were perplexed by the turnout considering students' vocal objections to high prices.



Coming Together

A young girl watches an honor guard pass by in last Friday's Veterans Day Parade in Albany. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden poses with WWII veteran Julian Van Buren (right) after presenting him with the medals he never collected after the war. Albany's parade is considered the biggest west of the Mississippi.



photos by Erik Swanson

Minimum wage increase on horizon for Oregon

Bryan Edwards
The Commuter

As of Jan. 1, 2006, the minimum wage in Oregon will be raised from \$7.25 to \$7.50, in keeping with a measure passed by voters two years ago that pegs the minimum wage to the cost of living. This is a 5-cent higher raise than last year's, which went from \$7.05 to \$7.25.

Among the beneficiaries of the increase will be students who work in the college's federal Work Study program on campus.

Minimum wage is the minimum amount of money per hour an employer must pay their employees for a 40-hour week. When working after the 40 hours, the employee must be paid more money per hour at a premium rate.

The minimum wage is calculated by each state as the lowest cost needed in order to live at the lowest standards. Living on this wage is considered by most to be living a lifestyle that is bordering on poverty. The federal mini-

imum wage is currently \$5.15.

President Franklin Roosevelt set the first minimum wage in 1935. It was a bleak 25 cents per hour. This amount has inflated since then with the American lifestyle.

Jobs that pay minimum wage require little or no education. Most jobs that pay the minimum are fast food joints, convenience stores and some small retail establishments.

Working at minimum wage can be a good thing. Having a job while in school can instill a good work ethic in students, which they carry with them for the rest of their lives.

"I think if the cost of living is getting pricier, then the minimum wage should be higher," Chris Garner at LBCC said when questioned on his view of the subject.

Small business owners like restaurants have long contended that a raise in minimum wage will hurt their businesses, but attempts to make exceptions to the law in the state Legislature have been unsuccessful.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

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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.



Battery bites the dust right 'off' schedule

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

It's a brisk November afternoon. Colorful leaves decorate the pavement and dull gray clouds drift through the sky—just another Oregon day. I'm walking out to my boat of a car (that I got for a steal) right on schedule for my drive from Lebanon to an appointment in Albany.



MELISSA CHANEY

OPINION

My jangling keys unlock the door and I unload my bags onto the passenger side seat. I insert the key into the ignition and turn... nothing happens. "Okay, don't panic," I think to myself, "just try it again." I turn the key again and it's no good. "Come on," I plead, "I'll never wait until you're running on 'E' again to fill up. I'll check the oil and tire pressure regularly. You'll get premium gas all the time. Don't leave me!"

However, my cry for deliverance is ignored, and my car rests quietly while dollar signs flash before my eyes. Why is it that your car never dies when you're on some unimportant chore? How is it that the cosmos or whatever knows exactly when you really don't need something to happen? It seems that you always wake up and look at the clock to see that, wow, you would be right on time if you were actually in class and not just jumping out of bed. Then you have to debate whether to show up late, or to just give up and resign yourself to a long night of studying alone.

I love my car. It may be an old granny mobile, a 1988 Buick Park Avenue with a few dents and scratches, but it's mine and it's my very first car. Although I certainly wasn't in any rush to get my license in high school, once I did I was thrilled with the independence it gave me, and the whole experience of driving; I still am.

In my situation, I can at least be thankful that my car didn't stall in the middle of an intersection and require a tow-truck. And at least it wasn't my transmission, in which case I might as well buy another car as get it fixed. My dad, who has a lot of experience fixing family cars, is always ready to lend a hand, so when I discovered my problem was only a dead battery, I let out a sigh of relief—and rescheduled my appointment.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hard facts needed to back up assertions

To the Editor:

Mr. Hughes' opinion article this week contains the statement, "Pat Robertson and a few other religious fanatics are trying to push their personal beliefs down your throat." I find this to be not only inaccurate, but also quite a contrast from what I see most religious activists in the United States doing. I've seen a lot of television evangelists, such as Pat Robertson, telling people what they believe. I have yet to see how any of them are threatening people's personal rights. Even if some do, the vast majority, in my experience, is interested in bringing people into their belief systems, expanding their bank accounts, or a combination of the two.

Why then, would you make such broad claims like those that imply that these people are purposed to take away our religious freedom? Why would you say things like, "If they had their way you may just have to attend the religious class of their choice in order to graduate at some point in the future," and "They might even offer extra credits for joining the new millennium crusade to the Middle East"?

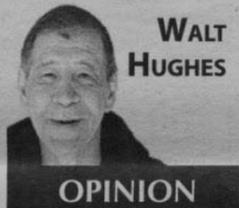
Although I agree with you that many religious leaders are corrupt, I can't help but wonder why you would write a story placing all religions together in a plot to take away American freedom. If you are going to make such radical claims, it would be beneficial to the reader if you would state some clear facts to back up your arguments. It would also interest this reader if subsequent articles contained not only bold opinion, but facts or at least sources to back it up.

Joel Devyldere

'Big Religion' threatens freedoms

Walt Hughes
 The Commuter

You are a student at Linn-Benton Community College. You pay your tuition. You study hard. You do your best to be a good student. You look forward to living a long, peaceful and happy life earning a living in your chosen career field. You may even attend church every Sunday and practice high standards of ethics and morality. Sounds good so far, but take a hard look around you.



WALT HUGHES

OPINION

Unlike the majority of civilized countries, you've grown up in a world where the practice of religion is a personal choice with no one dictating which church you should attend, what day you should go there or how you should practice your beliefs.

But that may be coming to an end. While almost everyone is focused on the daily bombings and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we constantly have the danger of terrorist attacks drummed into our heads, there are other dangers lurking right here at home.

A few years ago Jerry Falwell and his moral majority were trying to dictate policy and tell people how to live. Now it is Pat Robertson and his "700 Club," and he is so far overboard that he advocates the assassination of the president of Venezuela and has the audacity to tell the people of a Pennsylvania town that God will ignore them because they voted against something he did not agree with. In the past 15 or 20 years religion and politics have become big business. The moral majority, the Christian Coalition, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and about every other outfit

you can think of have started pressing their beliefs on any and everyone who will stand still for it. At the same time they stand in the pulpit and wave the Bible on Sunday, the Catholics are in hot water over tons of child molestation charges, the Rev. Herbert Armstrong Jr. was found to be flying around in a fancy executive jet filled with a whole complement of whores, Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker were riding the money train with sexual concubines and air-conditioned dog houses, the Rev. Jesse Jackson was found to be out playing around with his concubine, and so on. If we missed a few here, it's only because there isn't enough space to list them all.

But in the cold light of day it's really nothing new. When it comes to religion, the Puritans burnt men, women and children at the stake, the Catholics murdered thousands during the Inquisition, the Mormons massacred people who didn't believe their way in the 1800s, the Baptists argue with the Methodists, the Lutherans don't care much for the Episcopalians, and the Jehovah's Witnesses think all the rest of us are going straight to Hell without passing go. An interesting point of note is that neither God nor Jesus Christ ever placed a brand name on religion.

While Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda and a bunch of Islamic zealots run around wreaking havoc on the Eurasian continents, an almost greater danger lies in the fact that people like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and a few other religious fanatics are attempting to push their personal beliefs down your throat. If they have their way you may just have to attend the religious class of their choice in order to graduate at some point in the future. They might even offer extra credits for joining the new millennium crusade to the Middle East. Just food for thought and something to ponder as you go about your day.

The Commuter

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STAFF

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Updated technology provides LB with brighter light for less money

Holly Chiron
The Commuter

LBCC is now saving \$36,000 annually, thanks to a program that began in April 2004. The reason is just above our heads.

Kevin Nicholson, director of facilities, explained the college has done a "lighting retrofit, from fluorescent T12 lamps to fluorescent T8s."

He added that the campus had used the T12 style lamps, which used about 40 watts per hour, since the 70s, but with the completion of the lighting retrofit project the entire campus now uses the T8s, which use 32 watts. Nicholson said the old T12 lamps have oil-filled ballasts, which has been replaced by "solid state" electronic ballasts. The new ballasts, combined with the T8 lamps "use less electricity to operate and produce more light, so we updated our light fixtures, and saved money." He explained that it resulted in a reduction of the number of fixtures needed per room, which saves even more energy.

The total number of lamps changed in the retrofit project is 5,330, which Maintenance Supervisor Duane Jensen said "adds up to about a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption." The total three-year project cost is \$242,000, but with pass through tax credits from the Department of Energy, the final project cost is about \$84,000. Nicholson said there is still a year and a half left to pay off the project, but with the \$36,000 annual savings, the program will pay for itself.

"In the early 70s, energy was so cheap that commercial buildings would turn on the switch and just let the energy run," said Nicholson. "We need to operate our buildings more efficiently. A lighting retrofit project back in those days would have meant removing the lights. There just weren't any other technologies available, and so if you had five light fixtures in a room, you would take two or three of them out, but people complained because their light levels dropped so low."

He added that with newer technologies like the T8, lighting levels increase and energy consumption and cost decrease.

Missing Consonants

Vandals have stolen two letters from the sign at the northeast entry to the campus. Replacements must be custom-made and will cost the college between \$400 and \$500 to re-install. The brick, concrete and metal signs were originally installed in 2002.

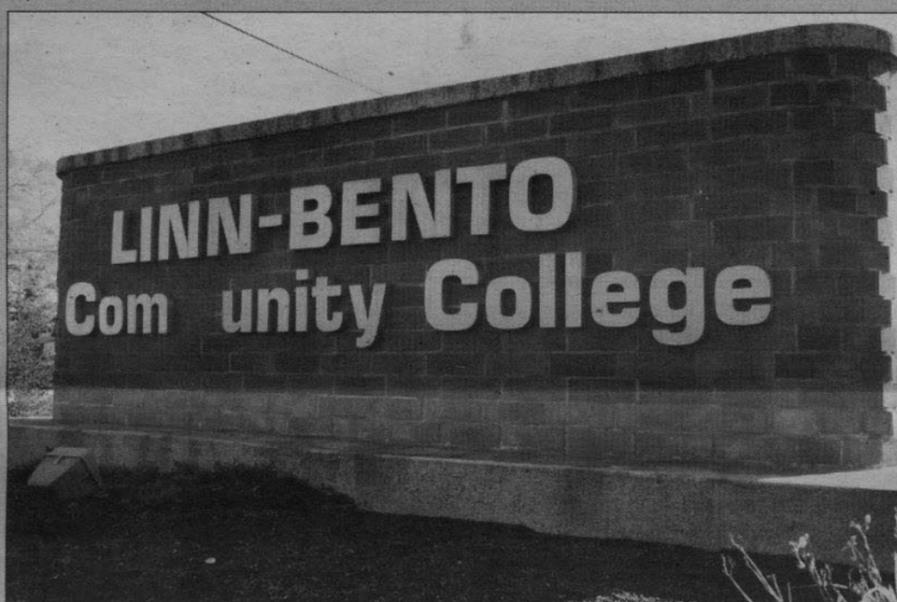


photo by Dan Wise

Career Center promotes Career Month

Joel DeVylde
The Commuter

It's Career Month on campus and there are several activities coming up to help students prepare for their future occupations. The Career Center, best known for not being known by most students, is emphasizing a different topic each week in its display near the entrance to Takena Hall. The first week's emphasis was career planning. In the Career Center, the focus was on personal assessment, researching occupations, choosing a major, and finding the appropriate school to study at.

Last week, they focused on career choices, covering topics such as how to find your dream job. Marci Johnston, a career and employment specialist at the Career Center says that choices week is for "learning about individual careers or why it's important to find a job that you like and enjoy."

This week is the main topic, "Career Week." The focus is on Career Development. Wednesday is Career Day when, according to Johnston, there will be "an interactive tour of one of our computer software programs, which is our primary career planning and career development tool. It has a skill search program, assessment and financial aid information, college information, and there's also job search information, so it's a huge tool. We'll have interactive displays where people can use the software and see what's involved, and we'll have some quizzes and questions and some fun activities in the main lobby. We'll have it staffed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on campus on the 16th."

Next week is "Employment Assistance:" seven days of job search tips and student employment opportunities. The month finishes with "Career Services Week."



photo by Kyla Hoyt

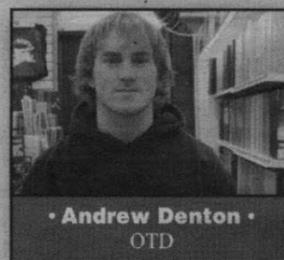
Marci Johnston helps future LBCC student Brooke Belcastro navigate the Career Information System (CIS).

Its purpose is to reveal to students all of the services that the Career Center has to offer. "We're just trying to get the word out about how important career planning is and what we can do for everybody, because most people don't know that there's a lot of free services available to help people figure out what they want to do," says Johnston. This is the first year that our school is participating in Career Month, so find out how your future can benefit from the free services available here.

Finally, according to Johnston, the best thing students here can do to prepare for the workforce is to take the time to research and understand that the college has the research tools here to help them, because they have in-depth knowledge of what the outlook is like for jobs of interest, and what people actually do in those jobs. If you have any questions, you can contact the Career Center at 917-4872.

PERSPECTIVES

"What are you doing for Thanksgiving?"



• Andrew Denton •
OTD

"We usually go somewhere, but my parents are coming up this year so we don't have to drive home."

"Going down to my grandparents and hardly eating anything because I have food allergies."



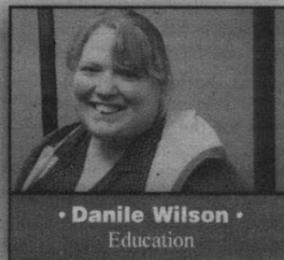
• Lisa Judson •
Chemical Engineering



• Jennifer Boucher •
Medical Office

"We usually do two days of Thanksgiving. We usually go up to my husband's parents' house one day then they will come down on the second day."

"My aunt and grandpa are coming down from Washington and I am learning about my family's colonial history."



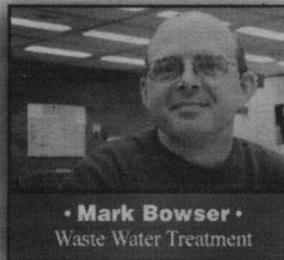
• Danile Wilson •
Education



• Mark Morgan •
Biological Science

"I'm actually going to be up in Montana to see my grandparents and try to get as fat as I can and try to put on a little winter weight."

"I don't celebrate Thanksgiving because it is not harmonious with my religious beliefs."



• Mark Bowser •
Waste Water Treatment

Compiled By Elizabeth Beckham
Pictures By Kyla Hoyt

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Printing Services offers low-cost services to students

Nancey West
 The Commuter

Christmas cards, calendars, invitations, announcements and mouse-pads are some of the items that can be personalized at the Printing Services Department.

It also provides a full array of copying, printing and binding, along with supplies. It is located in the Luckiamute Building.

"We're here to help students, to save them money from outside costs," said Leta Brown, who is in charge of pre-press and Webmaster services. "We are all about customer service."

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is able to complete most work while you wait. Large orders or binding may take longer, Brown said. Material may be submitted on a disc or e-mailed to the department. Black-and-white projects may be sent via Internet, but color projects must be delivered to the office. To find the Printing Services online go to www.linnbenton.edu/printingservices.

The department can produce color and black-and-white copies or transparencies. Laminating can be done up to 17 1/2 inches, which is just right for making placemats for the holidays, Brown said. Paper may be purchased by the sheet or the pallet. A stack of paper three inches thick and up to 30 inches wide can be cut to size.

Plastic comb binding is also available. Some students cut the spines off their books and apply the binding to them so that the books will lie flat when open, Brown said. Most printer cartridges are available. If they don't have what you need in stock, they can have it in 24 hours.

According to Brown, prices are comparable or

lower than outside services. Purchases at Printing Services can be billed directly to Veterans Affairs and Financial Aid for qualifying students. "We encourage students to come to us. It helps assure we are a viable part of LBCC," Brown said.

There are five employees in the department, including manager Larry Cox. The office has moved several times around campus before it settled into the Luckiamute Building in November 2004.

The printing department has a partnership with the Graphic Design program for one Cooperative Work Experience student each term. Other Graphic Design students use Printing Services for many of their projects. The Internet services work well for staff members, who do not have to leave their workstations to order printing, said Brown. The finished copies are then delivered to them in their departments.

The copiers on campus are owned and maintained by the printing service. If a student needs a lot of copying done, it would be cheaper to have it done at the printing office, Brown said. However, there are several coin-operated copiers on campus: in the library, the Student Life and Leadership office, the Willamette Hall Math Lab, the Graphic Design department and the Learning Center. Other copiers, for staff use, have meters on them and a code must be used to activate them. Each department has its own code and is billed monthly. In an average month, the copiers may generate \$15,000, she said.

The Printing Services Department is a non-profit organization. The service revenues pay for its operations, and any income beyond that goes back into the college budget. The Philomath, Lebanon and Greater Albany school districts have contracts for services, along with some churches.

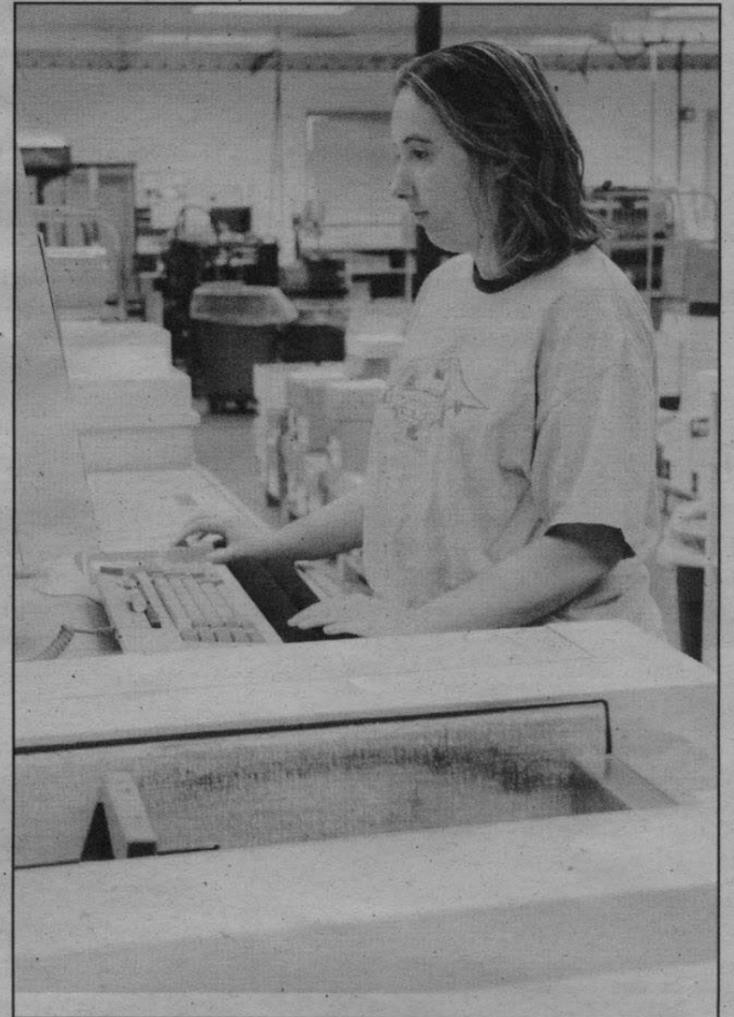


photo by Erik Swanson

Leta Brown oversees the pre-press process at LBCC's Printing Services. The center provides for most of the printing needs of the college.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

Maintenance/Construction Helper (#3828, Albany) If you have some construction experience or are willing to learn skills, this is a part-time job with flexible hours for a student! Pay is \$9-10/hr DOE.

Student Worker (Clerical) (#3826, Salem) This part-time, flexible job works for the Dept. of Justice and would be great experience for a student who lives closer to Salem. You must be enrolled in school at least half time to apply.

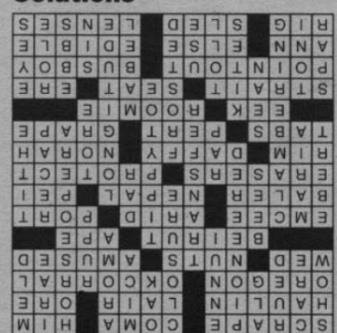
Seasonal Jobs in the Mall (#3821) Another store in the mall is looking for seasonal workers to stock merchandise. Part-time, various hours. Also, be sure to apply at all the stores in our area as they are all looking for seasonal people NOW!

Management Trainee (#3823, Corvallis) Do you have an associates degree in finance or related field and are looking for a bank to provide training and a career path? You might be required to re-locate as you advance through your training endeavors.

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Solutions



Textbook: Annual price increases criticized

◀ From Pg. 1

The three-person panel included Mark Weiss, a member of the Sub-Academic Affairs Committee, who brought the textbook issue up last year; Brenda Pace, the LBCC Bookstore manager; and Jorry Rolfe, the department chair of the LBCC Library.

About half of the hour-long forum was dedicated to the panel's comments on the issue, while the remaining time was open for exchanges with the audience.

"Publishers are doing things to undercut the used book industry as well," Weiss said. "Today, a used book is of little or no value to a student."

Weiss repeatedly referred to students as a "captive audience" to textbook publishers. Most classes don't take advantage of CD-ROMs included in the text, and the small revisions, according to Weiss, are usually not just cause for a complete update; yet, the most recently updated text is always the one required.

Without a loud voice, students may never see a change in the 6 percent annual increase in textbook prices, and their used textbooks will continue to be worthless.

"There has not been a lot of student input. The one thing the students, and especially the student government can do is to continue voicing their opinions to our state government," Weiss said.

After Weiss finished the back-

story of the rising textbook cost issue, Pace jumped in to talk about the LBCC Bookstore's point of view.

Pace, who has managed the bookstore for the past 15 years, said the store's 20 percent textbook price margin is lower than the national average. A representative of a textbook publishing firm in attendance agreed. "You guys don't know how good you got it. The textbook margin in California is 45 percent," she said.

Also, textbook buyback at the end of the term, and offering more used books for classes will benefit students looking to keep some money in their wallet.

Rolfe said the library is fighting the rising prices by using a grant this year to buy textbooks and keep them in the library for students who can't afford them. Rolfe also mentioned that digital textbooks, or e-books, could one day be available within the library's computers.

This idea spawned many different opinions from the audience about the electronic age and other solutions to the textbook issue.

One proposal was to restrict publishers from updating their books until there was a given amount of change to the text. This idea is based on the new California regulation that does exactly that, and is the first of any state to do so.

This plan would make used books more valuable for buy-

backs, and increase the security of investing up to \$500 a term on texts.

Another idea was simply to make new textbooks voluntary. Communication between the faculty and students before the class started, such as early outlines of required texts and possible alternative texts, could allow students to purchase older editions of books to save money.

On top of this issue, the panel and some of those in attendance believe a bigger forum—one that would include representatives and students from all of the state community colleges—would have a much greater effect on the issue at hand.

In addition, it was thought that a larger forum may draw the attention of the state legislators who were unable to attend Wednesday's forum.



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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Students invited to study in London spring term

For The Commuter

If you've ever dreamed of studying abroad, you might consider attending an upcoming information session that explains how students can spend next spring taking their classes in London, England.

The session will be held Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center.

The LBCC Study Abroad Program is currently recruiting students interested in taking college transfer courses in London during the upcoming spring term.

The opportunity is open to all students

who have earned at least 12 college credits.

LBCC is part of a consortium of eight Oregon community colleges that participate in the Study Abroad Program, which sends students overseas along with instructors who teach courses that meet the Associate of Arts Degree requirements. Instructors on the London trip will be LBCC journalism and photography instructor Rich Bergeman and Chemeketa Community College history instructor Michael Balyo.

Students will also study with British guest lecturers and have access to the University of London Union, sports fa-

cilities and clubs. They will also receive reduced cost tickets to theaters and historic sites.

The goal of the program is to broaden the world views of Oregon students and, in the long run, improve international cooperation. According to a national report just released Monday, giving more American college students international education is a key strategy in improving diplomatic relations between the United States and the rest of the world.

In its report, the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program linked international study programs with U.S. economic competitiveness and

national security.

"This is a critical component of the country's future," commission Chairman Peter McPherson said in asking Congress to provide more money to support these programs.

Currently, the report said, about 190,000 students study abroad each year, mostly in European countries. It cited a need to broaden the diversity of study abroad programs to include more Asian and Latin American countries.

More information on LBCC's London Study Abroad Program this spring is available at the Multicultural Center and the Student Life and Leadership Office.



photos by Dan Wise

LB English instructor awarded for innovation

LBCC News Service

Lucette Wood, part-time English writing instructor, has received the 2005 Lisa S. Ede Outstanding Adjunct Teacher award from the Two-Year College English Association Executive Committee, Pacific Northwest region.

The award is given to two-year college teachers in the region, one full-time and one adjunct, who exemplify innovation and creativity in the teaching of English, who demonstrate outstanding teaching strategies, and/or who have made a contribution to the field of English instruction at the community college level.



Lucette Wood

Beth Camp nominated Wood, on behalf of the English faculty at LBCC. "What an honor it is to

be nominated by the colleagues I so greatly admire and awarded for a job I already enjoy," said Wood. "To applaud one instructor at LBCC speaks for the strength of the whole."

Wood was recognized at an awards presentation on Oct. 22, where she received a certificate of recognition and a \$500 award. Wood resides with her family in Eugene.



Spreading Out

Beginning winter term, 10 new classrooms will be open to LB students in the \$2.8 million North Santiam Building, located between the Service Center and the former AHSS Building (newly renamed as South Santiam Hall). Funded as part of a voter-approved bond, the construction is on schedule and within budget, according to Facilities Manager Kevin Nicholson. The new building, which is connected to South Santiam Hall by skybridges, is expected to alleviate the college's chronic shortage of classroom space.



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SPORTS

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

Physical limitations shouldn't change rules

For the handicapped people of America, the fight for an equal opportunity to participate in athletics has been one equaled only by women and minorities. As eligibility requirements have justly changed and new leagues have been formed for the sake of all, some are taking advantage of our overly politically correct society.

With the recent unofficial retirement of Casey Martin, 33, a controversial debate has been renewed

in the world of golf. As an aspiring professional in 1998, the Eugene native, who suffers from a circulatory disease known as Parkes-Weber Syndrome, sued the PGA for the right to use a golf cart on the Tour.

Although usage was banned for all competitors as stated in the official rulebook, Martin took his case to the Supreme Court and his case was eventually upheld in 2001 with the help of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This enraged many other professional golfers who know that walking is as much a part of the professional game as putting. Not walking the required 10-20 physically draining miles over a tournament weekend event

gives Martin a clear advantage if anything.

While the case opened the eyes of many concerning the disabled in the sports community, it also cracked the door open for double-standard rules and allowed the U.S. government to further stick its nose in places where it doesn't belong.

If a young Major League Baseball prospect were to be allergic to wood (yes, it exists), would the U.S. government step in and unfairly allow him to use a metal bat?

The governing body of a professional sport creates the rules for the game and that usually comes with some type of physical or athletic standard. I'm sorry that everybody wasn't born with the perfect physical attributes to participate in any desired occupation, but that's life and rules are rules.

While nobody can better determine their ability to play more than the disabled themselves, Martin just plain lacks an ability tested by the game on the professional level, so he should have had to choose a different level of play or an alternative line of work seven years ago.

The ADA, Civil Rights Act and Title IX have been wonderful things meant to change rules regarding equality and eligibility, not the rules of how the games are played, for the purity of each sport lies within the respect for the given rules.

FACE OFF

Handicapped should be accommodated

Should golf carts be allowed on the PGA tour in the case of a disability? Absolutely. If a golfer has the ability to play at the highest

level of golf he should have the opportunity, without question.

The exhaustion that results from walking is intended to be part of the physical demands of the game. But, in the situation of a golfer who has a physical disability hampering walking ability, the rules should be tweaked for that individual.

The most famous example of a physically impaired golfer using a golf cart is Casey Martin, who suffers from, Parkes-Weber syndrome, a degenerative circulatory disorder that prevents him from walking a golf course. If he were to comply with the PGA's mandatory walking rule, he would not have the strength to finish even nine holes of a 72-hole competition.

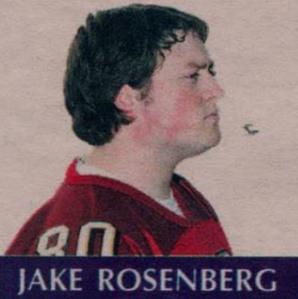
Initially, the PGA tour refused to issue Martin a golf cart for the qualification tournament that would place him onto a tour of professionally-sponsored competitions. Martin filed a suit under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which requires "public accommodations to make 'reasonable modifications' in its policies when necessary, to afford such accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such

modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such accommodations."

The court came to the conclusion that the purpose of the PGA's walking rule was to generate fatigue into the ability of making shots. An agreement was made in the court that Martin suffered considerable fatigue due to his disability, even with the use of a cart. The Court of Appeals came to the conclusion that golf courses are places of public accommodation during professional tournaments and that allowing Martin to use a cart would not essentially change the temperament of the tournaments.

Obviously, Martin was granted the usage of a cart for competition and has since been able to go onto a successful golfing career. Martin has amassed \$458,111 in career earnings. It would be disheartening to see someone who has been given the gift to compete with the best in his field be denied due to a disability.

There is no doubt that golf carts should be issued to players who have physical disabilities that impede walking. No one should be denied the game that they love due to simple stipulations.



JAKE ROSENBERG



CALEB HAWLEY

Runners stumble on way to playoffs

Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Lady Runners finished the regular season on a sour note in Salem. Chemeketa Community College smothered LB's hopes of sharing the NWAACC conference title by defeating the Runners handily Wednesday night.

From start to finish, LB looked nothing like their tournament form from just a half a week ago. CCC only needed three games to defeat the Runners 30-15, 30-25, 30-25. "We were pretty flat all three games—we couldn't string along several offensive plays. We would get some really nice offensive attacks and then we would miss a serve. It wasn't just

physically that we couldn't get past them, but we weren't doing some things that we normally do—it was really flat," said Coach Jayme Frazier.

After Wednesday's loss LB will assume the three seed in the NWAACC playoffs. LB will be facing second seed Lower Columbia CC Nov. 17 in Bellevue, Wash.

ROADRUNNER SCOREBOARD

Southern Division Final Standings

Team	League	Overall
Mt. Hood	8-4	27-14
SW Oregon	8-4	28-8
Linn-Benton	7-5	29-11
Chemeketa	5-7	25-18
Clackamas	2-10	27-20

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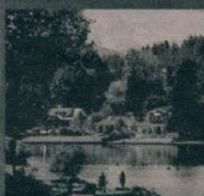
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SPORTS

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

Falk hoping new look results in return to playoffs

Robert Wong
 The Commuter

"I think we're gonna surprise a lot of people."

Coach Randy Falk

The Roadrunners look to return to the postseason this year after a one-year absence from the school's first NWAACC tournament appearance in team history.

"I think we're gonna surprise a lot of people," said Head Coach Randy Falk, despite the team losing many key players, including NWAACC All-Star Honorable Mention Michael Braziel, star post Tommy Bain and two other starters.

Falk and the Roadrunners hope to reload with four freshmen in the starting lineup. Falk sees good things in the future for starting freshman point guard Kyle Masten, who will dish the ball down low to the posts, freshman Ryon Pool and returning player Derek Grinnell. The wings will consist of two more freshmen, Kyle Johnson and Alex Stockner, whom Grinnell reported as having won the starting job in a position battle with Tony Carver.

Grinnell averaged 4.5 points and 2.2 rebounds a game last year in limited action while shooting over 50 percent on his field goals.

With a starter's minutes, his

numbers are estimated to be around 14 points with six or seven rebounds a contest.

The Roadrunners are coming off of a 10-17 record, 4-10 Southern Division last year as they finished the 2004-2005 season in fifth place, a game out of the playoffs.

The toughest three teams in the division will likely be Chemeketa, Mt. Hood and Clackamas, Falk said.

He added that the Roadrunners have been preparing for the upcoming season by running a three-week conditioning program since school started in September and they have been practicing every week since the fourth week of the school term.

Team defense for the Roadrunners looks to improve after the signing of assistant coach Jim Boutin, who coached for Idaho State, Western Oregon and Lane before coming to LBCC.

Grinnell described Boutin as a coach who pushes his players hard while promoting more communication, talking and hustle within the team's defensive sets.



contributed photo

The men's basketball team consists of many new faces this year, including Assistant Coach Jim Boutin (top left). Standing next to him (from left) are Kyle Johnson, Andre Paschal, Alex Stockner, Ryon Pool, Dustin Vaughn, Cory Hull, Derek Grinnell and Head Coach Randy Falk. Kneeling from left are Tim Matuszak, Austin Growden, Ryan Dodi, Nathaniel Epps, Behdad Sami, Kyle Masten and Tony Gatto. Not pictured is Brad Hendrix.

Falk wants to have LBCC's offense be post-oriented with a lot of sharing of the ball.

The Roadrunners will play their first game in a four-team tournament held at Umpqua

Community College in Roseburg on Saturday, with game times to be announced.

A preseason game will be played against the Linfield JV at home in the Activities Center

on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The first division game for the Roadrunners will also be at home, where they go against SWOCC on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Quickness will be Lady Runners' key to success

Robert Wong
 The Commuter

assists and steals) along with two other starters, Head Coach AJ Dionne sees a playoff berth in this team's future. "With the quickness we have this year, I feel very confident," Dionne said.

The Lady Roadrunners finished last season with a 13-16 overall record (5-9 Southern Division), missing the playoffs by one game in fifth place like LBCC's men's basketball team.

"With the quickness we have this year, I feel very confident."

Coach AJ Dionne

Dionne sees Umpqua, Lane and Clackamas as three of the tougher teams in the division to deal with as LBCC fights to get a top four finish in the division and a trip to the postseason.

Coach Dionne wants her Lady Roadrunners to control the tempo on the game on both ends of the court. She also wants an offensive game plan to attack the hoop with LBCC's quick, small guards, hoping to create trips to the foul line and dishes to open teammates.

On defense, Dionne is instituting full-court pressure tactics that will keep opponents uncomfortable and make them more likely to turn the ball over. Dionne thinks she has the talent to do this with her top seven or eight players for 40 minutes, which would create havoc with opposing team's game plans. This should create fast break opportunities for easy buckets.

Dionne wants to use the preseason to create team chemistry as the coaches and players are getting to know each other, so a starting lineup hasn't been solidified yet.

Two returning players that Dionne believes will contribute on a nightly basis are Simrin Cummins and Sarah Long. Long averaged 12 points and six rebounds a game last year. Dionne sees freshmen Whitney Bryant (Winlock, Wash.) and Becky Welch (Tillamook HS) as key first-year players that will help the team over the course of the season.

Home-court advantage is a key aspect to any basketball game and Coach Dionne wants to extend an invitation out to any fan that wants to come out for a game and get excited. The Roadrunners will play two preseason games in Washington before coming home to play a game against Blue Mountain CC in the Activities Center on Friday, Dec. 2, with the game time to be announced. Their first division game will be at home against SWOCC on Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m.



contributed photo

Head Coach AJ Dionne is stressing aggressiveness with her lightning-quick squad this year. The team consists of Dionne (top left), Whitney Bryant, Molly Fillion, Rebekah Welch, Sarah Long, Whitney Hubbard, Simrin Cummins and Assistant Coach Chuck Gibeau. Kneeling from left are Jenny Fillion, Keri Kordatzky, Lacy Ocupe, Cassie Lloyd and Emily Wood.

NOVEMBER HOOP SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Men			
Nov. 18-19	TBA	Umpqua Tournament	Roseburg
Nov. 22	7:30p	Linfield JV	LBCC
Nov. 30	7:30p	Willamette JV	LBCC
Women			
Nov. 23	6:00p	Lower Columbia CC	Longview
Nov. 26	6:00p	Centralia CC	Centralia

Managing

Editor: Jennifer Overholser
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Erik Swanson

Novak's Hungarian Restaurant moved to its new location in Albany last year but still continues its 20-year tradition of offering a free Thanksgiving meal to anyone in need or just looking for a warm, family environment.

Novak's thanks community with free Thanksgiving dinner

Stacey Dean
The Commuter

Giving back to the community has been a tradition for almost 20 years for "Papa" Joe and "Mama" Matilda Novak, owners of Novak's Hungarian Restaurant in Albany.

Every year since the early 80s the restaurant has hosted a free Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who can't afford one or who just wants to share a meal. This year the meal will once again be traditional, with turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and will be topped off with pumpkin cheesecake.

"The reason we do this is for our gratefulness to live in a free country, and this is our way of saying thanks to both God and the community," said Novak.

The Novaks have been in Albany since 1970 and opened their restaurant in 1984. He attended Linn-Benton Community College at its beginnings back in the early 1970s, taking classes in metallurgy and also teaching some classes. He has been an active figure in Linn-Benton politics for around 25 years and also serves on the Linn-Benton Foundation Board.

The Novaks chose Thanksgiving to offer their free meal because it is a more family-oriented holiday according to Matilda Novak.

Last year, the restaurant served over 240 people and they expect over 200 this year. Because of overcrowding problems, reservations are required. They also do take-out orders for shut-ins like seniors who can't leave their homes. For reservations call 967-9488.

Governor candidate explains platform in Corvallis visit

Harrison White
The Commuter

Pete Sorenson, a Democratic candidate for governor in the 2006 election, met with a small group of Corvallis citizens on Nov. 7 at the Sunnyside Up Café. They discussed his ideals and stances on political issues like the war in Iraq, the environment, and universal health care.

Sorenson began by discussing his involvement with the peace community. To affect a change toward peace, he claimed he would find ways to remove academic institutions and businesses from bolstering a war economy.

He said that communities must build values into their economic models, and went on to criticize the "forced draft" of the poor into the military. Many people of low income join the military, according to Sorenson, for the health care coverage they would otherwise not receive.

But the point he pushed home was Oregon's tax problems. The people of Oregon pay 95 percent of the taxes, while businesses pay on 5 percent, which Sorenson made a point of repeating throughout the discussion.

Oregon's business tax is ranked as the lowest in the nation, according to a study compiled by the accounting firm Ernst & Young for the Council on State Taxation, an association of corporations that work to influence policies in single states.

Sorenson went on to say that because he has a background in agricultural issues, and has served as Lane County Commissioner, he believes he could address the needs of both rural and urban areas in Oregon.

During the Carter administration, Sorenson served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, and has since stayed active in environmental issues. His law firm brought more lawsuits against the Reagan and Bush administrations than any other in the country. With this

background knowledge, he has developed a plan to bring Oregon more revenue with money from energy.

"Oregon has more light than the state of Florida," he said, explaining that light is more abundant in Oregon, while it is hotter and there is more sun in Florida. He suggested using solar panels to greatly increase the state's power supply. "We should be a net energy producing state."

Sorenson also discussed his stance on other issues. He is against parental notification of abortion, because usually the process is difficult enough and familial abuse is also a large factor. He also believes in the right to medical privacy, the right to AIDS information and care, and the right to needed medication.

Sorenson is running against incumbent governor Ted Kulongoski because, as he told The Associated Press on Jan. 7, 2005, "The governor is a disappoint-

ment. He is a disappointment because he won't lead. We need a leader. I am that leader."

When he announced his run, he challenged Kulongoski to a

debate. Kulongoski has yet to respond.

Candidates expected to run in the 2006 governor race include four Democrats: Ted Kulongoski,

Pete Sorenson, Vicki Walker and Jim Hill; three Republicans: Jason Atkinson, Kevin Mannix, and Ron Saxton; and independent Ben Westlund.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts...

Food Drive

The LBCC Thanksgiving Food Drive continues until Nov. 17. Donation boxes are placed throughout campus and cash donations for perishable items such as turkeys may be given to Renee Windsor-White in the college president's office. Non-perishable items for the donation boxes include canned milk, cake mixes, stuffing mixes, canned vegetables and canned fruit.

Dim Sum Buffet

The Santiam Restaurant will host a special Dim Sum lunch buffet on Wednesday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person and reservations are required at 917-4392. This is the last day the Santiam Restaurant will be open this term.

Nursing Course

LBCC Health Occupations/ Services Education Center will offer a Perioperative Nursing Course starting winter term 2006. This classroom/ practice lab will present the fundamentals of nursing practice in the operating room. The course begins Jan. 9, and will meet on Mondays from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. with Wednesday labs from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Monday lectures will be held in the Science & Technology Building, Room 130 on the Albany LBCC Campus. Labs will be arranged with your instructor. The 120-hour clinical experience may run concurrently or in spring term. For more information, visit the LBCC Web site at www.linnbenton.edu.

Annual Turkey Trot

Walk, saunter, jog or dash your way to a prize at the LB Annual Turkey Trot, on Nov. 22 at noon in the main campus courtyard. Five laps around the quad will earn you five raffle tickets good for a chance to win a turkey, a pie or flowers. The event, sponsored by the IACE and Wellness, is open to students.

Free Movie, Free Lunch

Today from noon to 2 p.m. "Iron Jawed Angels," starring Hillary Swank, Anjelica Huston, Frances O'Connor and Julia Ormond will be showing in the Multicultural Center. It tells the true story of how a small group of brave and brilliant activists broke from the mainstream women's rights movement and created a more radical wing, putting their lives at risk to force passage of the amendment giving American women the right to vote. Free Lunch!

MC salutes Native Americans at dinner

Laura Thibault
 The Commuter

This Friday, Nov. 18, the Multicultural Center will host a Native American Heritage Night in celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month.

The event takes place in the Commons from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. While there is no cost, the asking donation price is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children and students. Reservations are not needed, but are recommended.

The center hosts an event honoring Native Americans every November. Last year it was a pow-wow and the previous year it was a salmon dinner.

The events planned for this year's celebration include a

dinner of chicken fry-bread, native flute playing, and a puppet theatre.

The show will be put on by the Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, and is entitled "Coyote Tales." Much as the name may suggest, the performance includes plays about coyotes from Native American folklore. The two plays being performed are an Okanogan tribe tale called, "How Coyote Kept His Name," and a Clatsop/Chinook tale called "Coyote and the Cedar Tree."

The night is dedicated to all Native American tribes, but focuses on those of Northwestern descent. Along with the heritage night will be a display going up in Takena Hall.



contributed photo

The Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre will present "Coyote Tales" at Friday's Native American Heritage Night dinner in the Commons. The event is hosted by the Multicultural Center.

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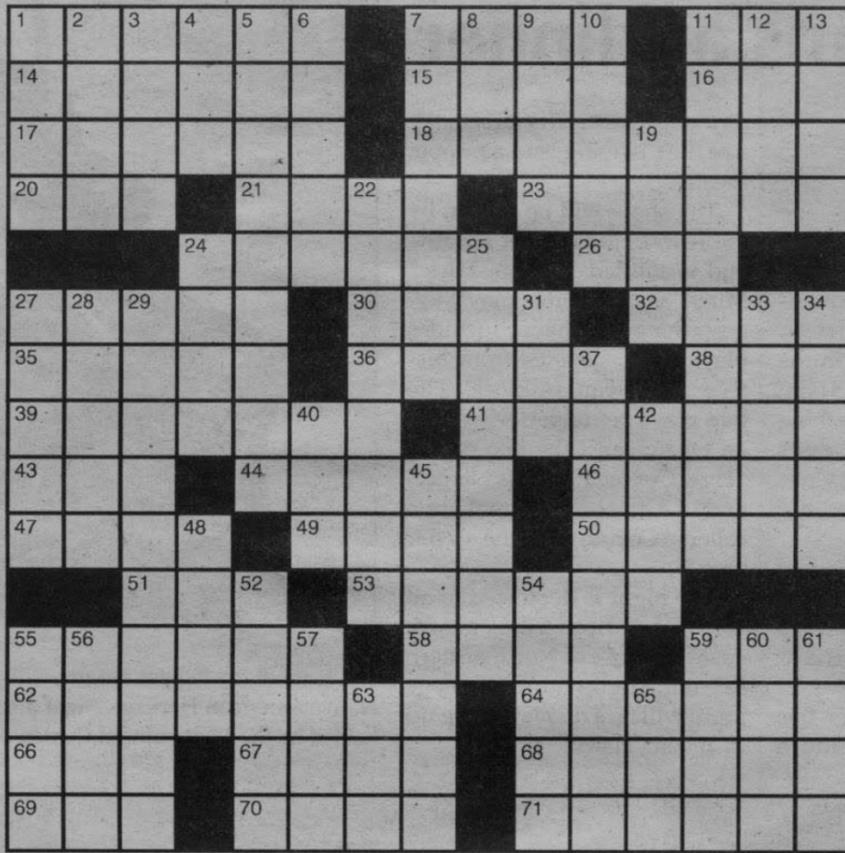
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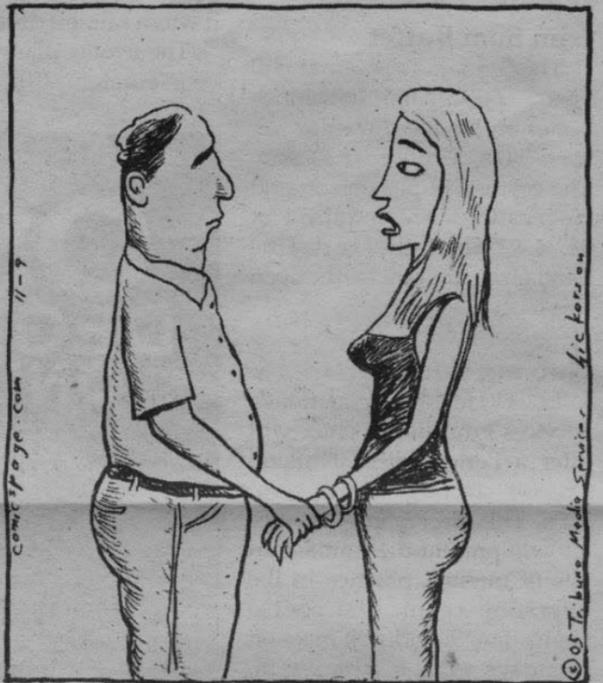
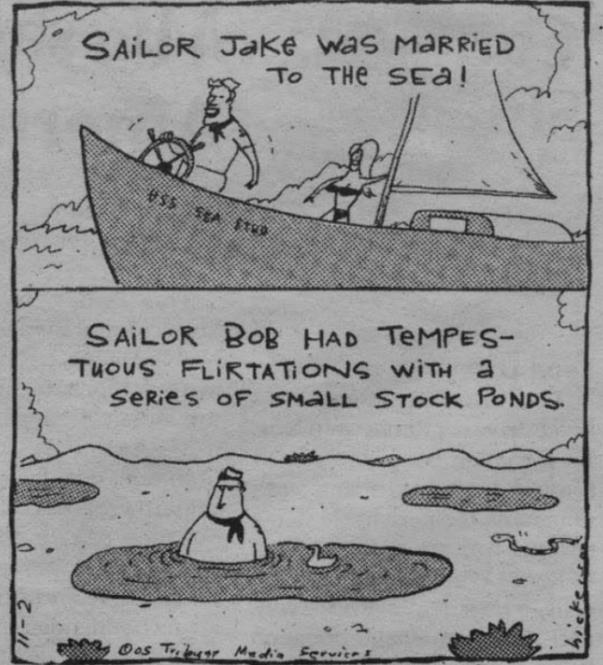
Crossword, cartoons, LBCC Commons menu and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Abrasion
 - 7 Cook novel
 - 11 That guy
 - 14 Transport by Black Maria
 - 15 Lion's den
 - 16 Pay dirt
 - 17 Western state
 - 18 Gunfight locale
 - 20 Marry
 - 21 Bonkers
 - 23 Entertained
 - 24 Capital on the Mediterranean
 - 26 LummoX
 - 27 Awards honcho
 - 30 Dry
 - 32 Left aboard
 - 35 Harvest machine
 - 36 Neighbor of Tibet
 - 38 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame designer
 - 39 Whiteboard wipers
 - 41 Guard
 - 43 Periphery
 - 44 Cartoon duck
 - 46 Singer Jones
 - 47 Folder flaps
 - 49 Bouncy
 - 50 Wine source
 - 51 Comic strip cry
 - 53 Co-renter
 - 55 Water channel
 - 58 Pants part
 - 59 Afore
 - 62 Indicate
 - 64 Table setter
 - 66 Actress Jillian
 - 67 Otherwise
 - 68 Good to consume
 - 69 Put in the fix
 - 70 Husky pull
 - 71 Optometric concerns
- DOWN**
- 1 Third place
 - 2 Feel concern
 - 3 Felt sorry about
 - 4 Math subj.
 - 5 Led the way
 - 6 Boredom
 - 7 Termination
 - 8 Adult acorn
 - 9 Flaky mineral
 - 10 Bakery bouquet
 - 11 Grade-B Western
 - 12 "Dies ___"
 - 13 Pinochle display
 - 19 Debra Jo of "That '70s Show"
 - 22 Hand over
 - 24 Nectar collectors
 - 25 Straining upward, informally
 - 27 Critic Roger
 - 28 Soprano Callas
 - 29 Ascending with difficulty
 - 31 ___ es Salaam
 - 33 Story so far
 - 34 Church offering
 - 37 Distance from Greenwich
 - 40 Grammy category
 - 42 Barreled along
 - 45 Iced
 - 48 Actor Connery
 - 52 Wind-blown boxes?
 - 54 Normand of silent comedies
 - 55 Make like a boxer
 - 56 Writer Morrison
 - 57 Turnpike payment
 - 59 Recedes
 - 60 Play part
 - 61 Hurricanes' centers
 - 63 Function
 - 65 Transgression

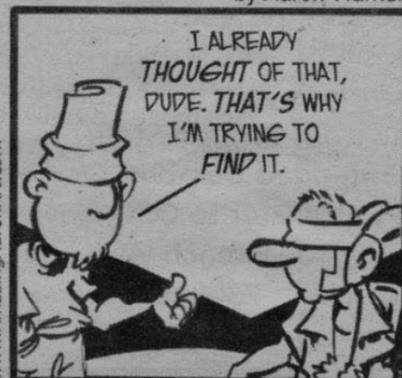
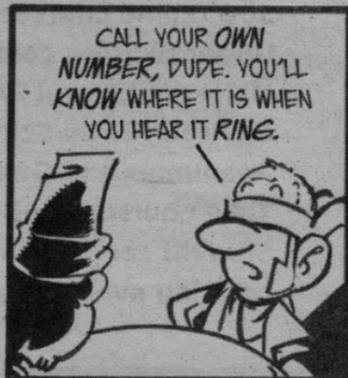


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P **R** **O** **V** **I** **D** **E** **D**
O **N** **P** **A** **G** **E**
F **O** **U** **R**

Two Dudes



by Aaron Warner

...Fun Facts...

- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.
- The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- When opossums are playing "possum," they are not "playing." They actually pass out from sheer terror.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
Commons
Nov. 16 - Nov. 22

Wednesday:
ENTREES: Baked Stuffed Snapper; Braised Lamb; Rommali Roti (flat bread) w/Curried Vegetables
SIDES: Steamed New Potatoes w/Fine Herbs; Glazed Carrots & Turnip
SOUPS: Gazpacho; Cream of Broccoli

Thursday:
ENTREES: Lemon Chicken w/Steamed Rice; Pork Lyonnaise - Stuffed pork chop on a bed of caramelized onions; Huevos Rancheros
SIDES: Mashed Potatoes; Cauliflower w/Cheddar Cheese Sauce
SOUPS: Grilled Vegetable Beef; Beer Cheese

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:
ENTREES: Chicken Kiev; Phad Thai; Portabella Mushrooms topped w/Spinach, a Poached Egg & Bernaise Sauce w/Rice
SIDES: Rice Pilaf; Jardiniere of Vegetables
SOUPS: Cream of Broccoli; Italian Sausage

Tuesday:
ENTREES: Hungarian Chicken; Vietnamese Steak Wraps; Vegetable Lasagna
SIDES: Roasted Red Potatoes; Batonet of Root Vegetables
SOUPS: Paysanne Marmite; Vegetarian Tomato

Weekly Menu

A&E Editor: Colleen Franzoia
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



Check Out

"A Mind Like Yours" with "Changer" and Lunaractive"
 Nov. 18
 10 p.m.
 Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth St.
 \$3 At the door
 Corvallis

"Elixer"
 Nov. 18
 9 p.m.
 Merlin's Bar and Grill
 25 W. Sherman St.
 Lebanon
 \$3 At the door

Winterlight Holiday and Gift Show
 Through Dec. 24
 Corvallis Arts Center
 700 S.W. Madison Ave.
 Corvallis

"Oregon Shakespeare Festival on Tour" Excerpts by OSF actors
 Nov. 23
 7:30 p.m.
 Majestic Theatre
 115 S.W. Second St.
 Corvallis
 \$12 Adults
 \$10 Under 18 and Seniors
 www.majestic.org

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"
 Nov. 25-26, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17
 8 p.m.
 Dec. 4 and Nov. 11 (m)
 2:30 p.m.
 Albany Civic Theater
 111 First Ave. W.
 Albany
 \$9 Adults
 \$6 Students and Seniors
 Students half price on Thursdays
 www.albanycivic.org

Songs for a Winter Night-LBCC Concert Choir conducted by Susan Peck
 Dec. 1
 7:30 p.m.
 \$5
 The Russell Tripp Performance Center
 LBCC Main Campus

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu

LB's Ruppert joins two Oregon pianists for three days of jazz

LBCC News Service

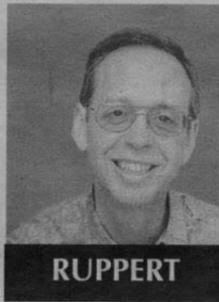
Several great performers of jazz will converge on campus this weekend for a "Tribute to Jazz Piano" Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall.

Jazz pianist Gary Ruppert will perform on Friday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m., with special guests bassist Joel Garfunkel, vocalist Karen Ruppert, literary readings with Robin Havenick and an art commentary by Gary Westford.

Ruppert is the author of the Oregon Music Teacher's Association Jazz Syllabus. He has been a guest soloist with the Corvallis/OSU symphony and presents jazz and classical piano performances and workshops on jazz piano throughout Oregon.

Ruppert is the dean of the LBCC Arts & Communication Division. Havenick is an LBCC instructor of English and Westford teaches art and art history.

Jazz pianist and composer Toby Koenigsberg and his trio will perform on Saturday, Nov. 19 at



RUPPERT



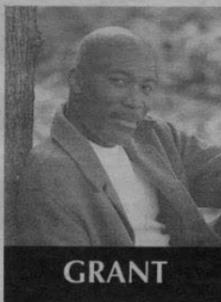
KOENIGSBERG

8 p.m. Koenigsberg has performed with jazz musicians Marian McPartland, Rich Perry, Ben Monder and Bill Holman. He tours regularly with the Toby Koenigsberg Trio, performing at the Rochester International Jazz Festival, Jazz Festival Calgary, the Tony Williams Jazz Festival.

Koenigsberg is assistant professor of jazz piano and associate director of jazz studies at the University of Oregon.

Jazz pianist and composer Darrell Grant will perform Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3 p.m. Grant performs extensively as a bandleader and solo artist throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. He has been a featured guest on the BET On Jazz "Jazz Central" program, and has performed on Marian McPartland's "Piano Jazz" on NPR. Grant is a tenured jazz faculty member at PSU.

Tickets are \$10 for each performance or \$25 for all three, and are available at LBCC's Russell Tripp Performance Center box office. To reserve your tickets or for more information contact the box office at 541-917-4531.



GRANT

Visitors find sanctuary

◀ From Pg. 12

Bruce Road when the geese are in residence. The county road runs through a portion of the refuge known as McFadden Marsh and the geese there are acclimated to traffic.

"You can drive through as slow as you like and just watch all the geese," Jimenez says.

The Finley Refuge also keeps about half of its 12 miles of established trails open year round, including the previously mentioned Woodpecker Loop Trail. As she leads the way along the trail through a mixed deciduous forest, where the trees have lost their leaves and are covered with pale lichens, thick mosses and the brown tendrils of Poison Oak, Jimenez explains that because National Wildlife Refuges are owned by the public, they try to encourage as many people as possible to enjoy the rare chance to view a native Oregon habitat.

"One of our missions is to allow the people access to as many forms of recreation as we can," she adds. This includes the chance to view the large variety of flora and fauna as well as interact with it. The refuge has a hunting season for Oregon blacktail deer to compliment its numerous interpretive trails, and although the refuge has restricted access for half the year, Jimenez estimates that still half of the roughly 100,000 yearly visitors access the park during the winter months.

"We are basically just as busy



photo by Dan Wise

during the winter as we are during the summer," she explains, "It is just a different crowd."

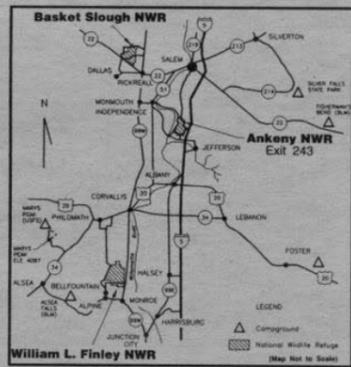
As Jimenez drives the government issued SUV away from the Woodpecker Loop trail, she stops the vehicle a moment to point out a large hawk crouched at the edge of the field, too far away to identify.

"We have annual winter raptor surveys, and although we have no nests on the refuge yet, we have always had a few bald eagles pass through every year. They have access to ample food supplies here." She resumes the slow drive and the SUV crests a low hill overlooking one of the farmer-maintained fields.

"Wow!" Jimenez says quietly, "We are in luck." She stares in silence at the grazing herd of elk that are scattered across the fenceless field in front of us like cattle. "We have an elk herd

of about 80 head," she says, and the SUV slowly rolls forward, "But they can be hard to find." Luck, it seems, works well with patience and a keen eye on the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

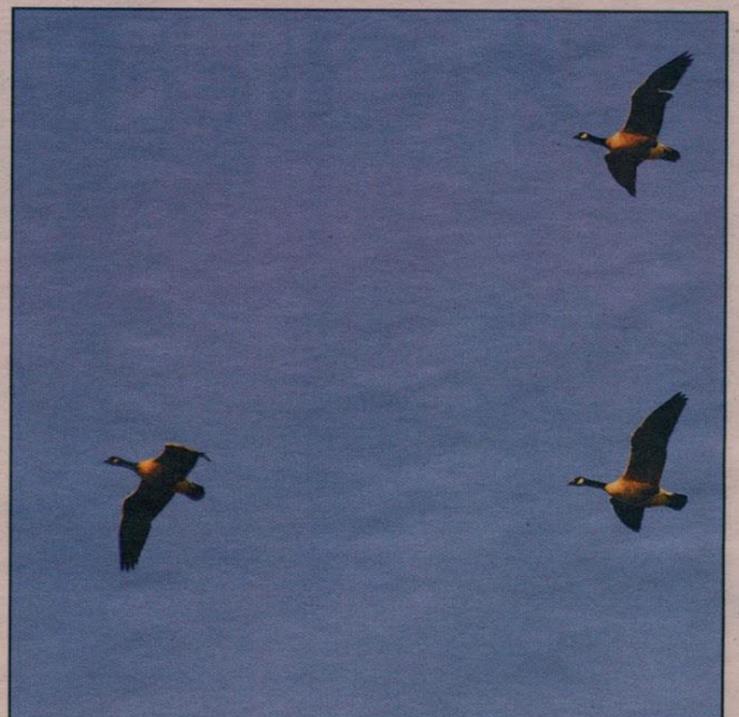
Hawks and other wildlife abound at the three National Wildlife Refuges in the Willamette Valley. Finley, Ankeny and Basket Slough are open year-round.



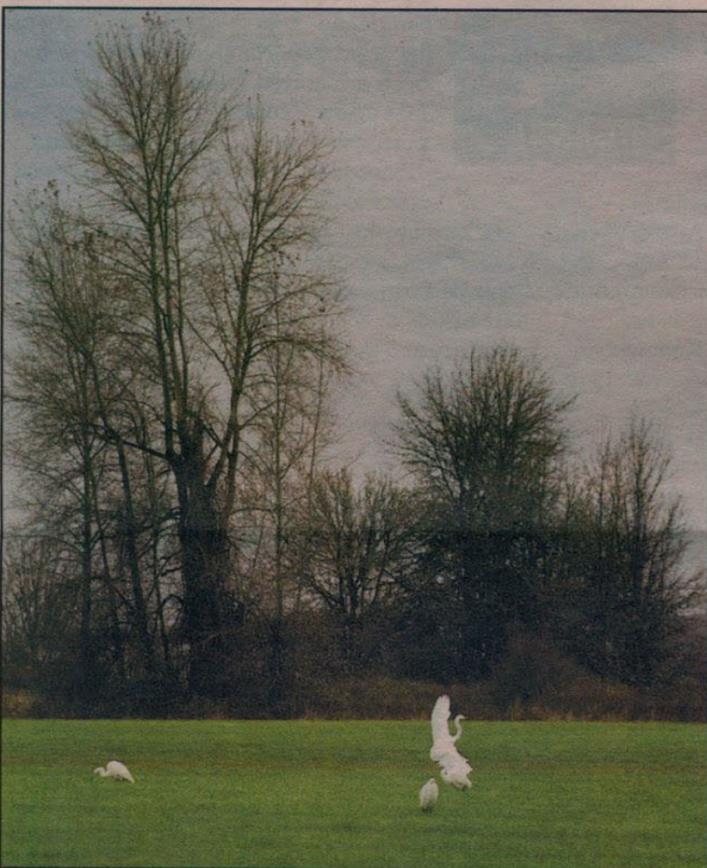
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DISCOVERY

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



photos by Erik Swanson



photos by Dan Wise

Canada geese, great blue herons and egrets are among the most visible wildlife at Finley and Basket Slough Wildlife Refuges. Willamette Valley refuges are home to a wide variety of animal life including elk, fox and beaver.

Finding Refuge

Davis Rogers
 The Commuter

"Look!" Chantel Jimenez stops abruptly and points down, "A rough skinned newt." She stands for a moment as the newt sluggishly pushes its way through the wet leaves on the forest floor. "Look how its skin is the same color as the leaves." She smiles, moments before she had explained that sometimes seeing wildlife on the trail requires patience and a keen eye. Now she steps around the burrowing newt and moves on.

There are only three National Recreation Trails in the state of Oregon, and only one of those trails is on a National Wildlife Refuge. The Woodpecker Loop Trail winds its one mile length through the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge and stretches through a variety of woodland types, including the rare native oak savannah that used to cover most of the foothills of the Coastal mountain

range before being replaced by Douglas fir groves. There are also Oregon ash swales, patches of Douglas fir, mixed deciduous forests and marshes. The Woodpecker Loop is home to five species of woodpecker, which are the sources of its name, and a large variety of Oregon woodland species.

The William L. Finley Refuge, located about ten miles south of Corvallis on Highway 99W, was established in 1965 for the express purpose of preserving and restoring the vanishing native habitats of many species, as well as providing the public with many natural recreation options. Today, the primary goal of the refuge is to provide a home for the thousands of migrating dusky Canada geese during the winter. Because of their limited migration range, the dusky Canada geese winter almost exclusively in the Willamette Valley, but because of the urbanization and agricultural development of the valley,

most of the native marsh and wetlands that the geese winter on have disappeared. The Finley Refuge provides geese with their needed winter sanctuary.

Jimenez, Finley's Outdoor Recreation Planner, explains, "By providing the geese with an undisturbed refuge, we are also ensuring that they are not wintering on the fields of all the local farmers and destroying their crops." She adds that many local farmers are in a cooperative with the refuge and that they plant and tend the refuge fields to ensure that the geese have all the nutritious grasses they need and will have no reason to stray off the refuge.

Because of the need to protect the geese, the winter waterfowl habitat is closed to the public from November 1 to April 1. However, Jimenez is quick to point out that this should in no way prevent people from visiting the refuge. For one, visitors are encouraged to drive along

► Turn to "Visitors" on Pg. 11

