

Christmas Cheer

Spectacular light displays are among the many highlights of this year's holiday experience.

Page 12

Swish!

LB roundballers tip off with high expectations for an exciting season.

Page 7



THE COMMUTER

Wednesday,
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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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photos by Dan Wise

Roxie Putnam, admissions specialist, coordinates the packing of 84 boxes of donated food for needy members of the LBCC family. A dozen volunteers joined her on the Saturday before Thanksgiving preparing the boxes for distribution the next day.

Thanksgiving Food Drive gives sustenance to local families

Dan Wise
The Commuter

On the Saturday before the nation gave thanks for its good fortune, a dozen students, staff and other volunteers transformed a mountain of generosity in the form of donated food into a Thanksgiving meal for 84 needy families and individuals from the LBCC community. The boxes of food were distributed the next day helping 324 people to have a cheerier holiday according to Roxie Putnam, admissions specialist and organizer of the LBCC 17th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

"Last year 104 boxes were distributed," said Putnam. "This year we were able to make our gifts more generous. We gave a \$15 gift certificate instead of last year's \$10." The certificates could be used at a local grocery store to buy a turkey while the food boxes included everything for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner from cranberry sauce to potatoes to the makings for a pie and much more.

Putnam is not sure why requests for boxes are down this year but hopes it is a sign the economy in the area is getting better.

▶ Turn to "Food" on Pg. 4



Complete Thanksgiving dinners were combined with a gift certificate for each recipient.

Fall enrollment slips 4 percent

Melissa Chaney
The Commuter

Do classes seem less crowded this year? Was it any easier to get the classes you need or want? If so, this change in course availability might be due to a decrease in enrollment at LBCC, according to Director of Admissions Bruce Clemetsen.

What exactly is admissions and how does it affect students? Admissions or enrollment can be calculated a few different ways, says Clemetsen. The most basic way to find overall enrollment is a headcount, which includes all of the students who are full time, part time, taking non-credit, GED, ESOL and training courses. Another alternative is to find the full time equivalency (FTE). FTE's are all of the full-time and

non-credit students totaled by the number of hours they put in combined and divided by 510. Five hundred and ten is the average number of hours taken by a full-time student, according to the state.

How can a decrease in admissions affect students? According to Clemetsen, in the short run, it may be easier to get classes and they might not be as full. However, a long-term effect of a decrease in enrollment is "fewer credits, which means less tuition revenue," he said. In addition to the loss of revenue, Clemetsen says that fewer FTE's means less reimbursement by the state.

The number of students enrolled this fall is approximately 10,421, 4 percent less than LB enrolled in the '04-'05 school year. ▶ Turn to "Enrollment" on Pg. 4

Children invited to take part in Winter Festival

Maria Gonzalez
The Commuter

Another term is about to end, but not before one last big event. The 35th annual Children's Winter Festival will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the College Center.

As always the event is free. Children under 12 from Linn and Benton counties are invited to attend and must be accompanied by an adult. Parents are asked to donate one or two cans of food, which will go to Linn-Benton Food Share.

The Student Programming Board and Student Life & Leadership are responsible for planning and budgeting, led by Naomi Anderson, event coordinator of the Multicultural Center.

Every year during the festival an average of 500 children participate and this time coordinators hope to see even more because there are more activities prepared for this year's event.

Some big attractions will be the Diwali Room, which will celebrate the Hindu festival of light; Kwanzaa activities (featuring arts and crafts from Africa); and Gamelan Sari Pandhawa, which is a puppet show from India. Cookie decorating and face painting will also be among the activities offered to children. A free gift (donated by local dentists) will also be given to every child, and pictures with Santa Claus can be taken for \$1.

Anderson said volunteers are needed for the event. Interested students can contact her at the SL&L Office, 541-917-4457.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

Index

High-43 Mostly Cloudy Low-33 Wednesday	High-44 Rain Low-37 Thursday	High-42 Rain/Showers Low-33 Friday	High-41 Rain/Showers Low-34 Saturday	High-45 Showers Low-35 Sunday
---	---------------------------------------	---	---	--

Opinion.....	2
Campus News.....	3-5
Sports.....	6-7
Local News.....	9
Arts & Entertainment.....	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.

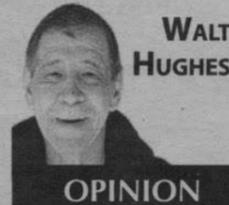


Bush popularity limps to bottom

Walt Hughes
 The Commuter

As the fifth year of the new millennium draws to a close George W. Bush seems to have more trouble than ever as his ratings continue to slide downward in the polls at an ever faster rate. They have reached a point that is not far from bottom.

One interesting item of note—anyone who has watched him over a period of time observed the fact that he could not seem to be able to say more than five words without stopping to collect his thoughts. Lately that seems to have changed.



WALT
 HUGHES

OPINION

As he becomes frustrated with the fact the rest of the world does not seem to agree with him and his points of view, at times his rhetoric becomes harsher and the sentences become longer. An editorial recently published in the Toronto Star says, "Anyone wondering whether the almost endless setbacks and embarrassments the White House has suffered over the last year would cause Bush to fix his style of governing should realize that the answer is: No. As a political candidate, Bush had an extremely useful ability to repeat the same few simple themes over and over. As president, he has been cramped by the same habit. The solution to almost every problem seems to be either to rely on a close personal associate or to pander to his right wing."

Abraham Lincoln is said to have stated that, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time." Perhaps Mr. Lincoln's words are finally proving to be uncomfortably true for Bush & Co.

Free speech doesn't have to be accepted speech

Harrison White
 The Commuter

Ernst Zundel spoke for what he believed. What he believed, the facts he gathered backed up. But now, for those beliefs, he is a political prisoner. The man is an avowed Holocaust Diminisher, claiming that some holocaust must have happened during the World War II, but not to the large scale that America took against the Natives when pursuing Manifest Destiny.

He even goes so far as to disbelieve the stories of torture in Auschwitz. He believes, as many of the holocaust diminishers (called deniers in impolite society), that Auschwitz was a hospital for the sick. One of the commonly called into play proofs is a letter, in Hitler's handwriting, allegedly asking why so many Jews were dying, and for the administrators to fix it.

But that's not the issue here. I can take or leave Holocaust Denial. The issue here is free speech. Mr. Zundel published in the United States, after being exiled from Germany under the laws that prohibit questioning the official Nazi holocaust story. He was extradited to Canada, and put through a large show trial, before Germany whisked him away to a holding cell.

And now, the worst insult, he is not allowed to choose his own defense. The courts, biased against him (having thrown out the lawyers that would argue the facts of the Holocaust as part of the defense against the denial charges), get to appoint his defense attorney.

And Germany is supposed to be reformed. But what can any country do when they begin to exercise justice against thought-criminals? "1984" has arrived, with the doctrine of not questioning history. We know that is dangerous: when something isn't questioned, it grows too powerful, like the infamous Sen. McCarthy.

Sure, Zundel isn't the greatest, and Ward Churchill of the "little Eichman" controversy has a response to him. But, if Zundel isn't allowed free, with his dissenting opinion, and facts to back it up, then there is no room for discourse over history. Without room to argue, freely, then there is no true freedom.

Set Ernst Zundel Free.

Democracy needs Christian values

Joel DeVylde
 The Commuter

In his opinion article two weeks ago, Walt Hughes, the opinion editor, told us that religious people are on a campaign to tear away our freedom. I believe that he is mistaken in his belief that all Christians are working against American freedom by "trying to push their personal beliefs down your throat."

Far from being in danger of losing our rights, it seems to me that Christians promote freedom when it is lacking and create it when it is absent. A quick look at the history of the United States will show you just how true this is. America itself was founded by religious fanatics who were fed up with state-sponsored church. Because they were not free to worship God how they believed He should be worshipped, the pilgrims came here.

The problem with England at that time was not the Christianity itself, it was the fact that the religious leaders had become corrupt and had been given so much power that the settlers felt that it was difficult to worship God in the way that they had chosen. The Mayflower Compact describes the reasons that the pilgrims came here quite clearly. "Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith... a voyage to plant the first colony in these northern parts..."

As a consequence, when the United States was formed, the founders did not intend for a national religion to rule our government and eclipse free worship (and eventually free thought). The founders themselves, however, were mainly protestant Christians who tried to base the country on the idea that governments succeed when the people that they preside over demonstrate Christian morals.

Take a look at the Declaration of Independence for example: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitles them...we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."

These references give us a taste of the reverence and dependence that our founders had toward God. I believe that many of them considered commitment towards Jesus Christ to be the most important thing about them, touching all aspects of their lives, including the foundation of the country they were founding.

Benjamin Franklin said, "We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the buildings of Babel." In addition, many of the signers of the Constitution and Declaration were presidents of numerous bible societies and some also served as chaplains in the army. I fail to see how people of the same religion and mind set of those who created this country and composed the Declaration and the Constitution, are taking this freedom, the freedom that their predecessors created, away from Americans. Instead, I find that where people are following the teachings of the bible, freedom abounds.

Thomas Jefferson agrees, "[The] liberty to worship our Creator in the way we think most agreeable to His will [is] a liberty deemed in other countries incompatible with good government and yet proved by our experience to be its best support."

The Commuter

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STAFF

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Dual Enrollment changes name

Nancey West
 The Commuter

The success of LBCC's Dual Enrollment agreement with OSU is in the numbers.

- 19 percent-the number of dual enrolled students who earn an OSU degree, compared to only 9 percent of regular transfer students.

- 3.15-the GPA of dual enrolled OSU grads, compared to 3.07 for regular transfer OSU grads.

- 89-the number of more expensive OSU courses that grads had to take, compared to 108 for non-dual enrolled students.

- 5,000-the approximate number of LB students who have joined the Dual Enrollment Program since 1998, when the program started.

That first year, about 3.5 percent of LBCC students applied for the program; last year, that percentage had climbed to over 20 percent.

The program has been so successful, in fact, that officials have had to change its name to the Degree Partnership Program. Other colleges around Oregon have adopted its format, and a student may now enroll in several different schools concurrently and still maintain one set of transcripts.

Armed with these success statistics, Gary Ruppert, dean of Arts & Communications, and Patsy Chester of the Partnership Program, recently traveled to Chicago to speak to an organization of university registrar officials at their Strategic Enrollment Management Conference. Four officials from OSU also accompanied them.

The Partnership Program is better than the Transfer Program because the student has full benefits at both schools, Ruppert said. "The financial package between both is a big bonus."

Credits from each school for Financial Aid are combined and data shared. The same is true of scholarship eligibility, making less paperwork for the student.

OSU accumulative tuition for the class of 2005 is \$17,331, while those in the dual program is \$13,353.

A student may apply online at www.linnbenton.edu/duelenrollment/. Enrollment for winter 2006 is due by Dec. 16, 2005. Information and a list of advisors from both schools are listed on the Web site. Co-advising is offered where advisors from both schools know each program.

The program began due to the large number of students who were co-enrolled. The goal was to make it easier for the students to access both schools. The trial run in 1998 had only three college programs in it—Engineering, Business and Agricultural Science. Today, any major in the Associate of Science degree program is eligible for the Degree Partnership. Goals of the institution-to-institution agreement are to provide students with expanded options for classes and services, and to improve their efficiency in meeting their educational needs.

Admission requirements for the program must meet OSU requirements. Tuition and fees rates adhere to the institution that offers the class being taken. A combination of 12 credits at both schools will qualify a student full use of the library, computer labs, childcare, bus transportation, learning center/tutoring, study abroad, theater, music and student government and clubs and organizations of both schools.

Students taking a class or two at OSU may find it easier when they join the larger campus full time. "The adjustment of shifting to OSU a little at a time is one of the advantages," Ruppert said of the Degree Partnership Program.

New President

On Nov. 17, Mary Ann Lammers, business technology department chair, inducted Judy Allen, right, as president of the LBCC student chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. The IAAP is the world's largest association for administrative support.



photo by Dan Wise

LB Foundation supports cultural exchange

Maria Gonzalez
 The Commuter

Multicultural Center Coordinator Jason Miller has launched an International Student Speaker's Bureau so that students here can share their culture with others.

International students as well as domestic students whose country of birth is not the United States can sign up to be speakers. There are over 100 at LBCC from Germany, Japan, Bulgaria, England, Indonesia, Africa, Afghanistan, India, China, South America, Chile, Russia and the Czech Republic.

Students who are interested in this program must:

- Have a minimum of 2.5 GPA.
- Fill out an application form.
- Write a maximum two-page biographical essay.
- Submit two letters of recommendation from people who know the applicant well, but are not related.
- Write an essay that lists the topics they are prepared to address: their country, cultural background and the materials they have to illustrate their talk, like slides or tapes. Also list what they can teach or demonstrate that reflects the culture of their country like artwork, dance,

music or cooking.

The LBCC Foundation sponsors the International Student Speaker's Bureau. Their grant of \$3,000, as well as \$50 gift card from the bookstore, will provide enough money to train the speakers. Some of these students are allowed to work on campus, so that extra money will help them to cover some expenses.

Miller said that they have received 20 applications and those students are from Eastern Europe, Korea, China, Japan, Uzbekistan, Argentina, Italy, Mexico and Scotland.

There are also some schools interested in having speakers, he added. For example, two elementary schools and Calapooia Middle School from Albany have two international speakers working on their speeches already.

Also Miller said that they are working on their Web page adding that information and with an application form to speakers as well as a catalogue with the names and nations of these speakers and what they want to talk about.

Miller is thanking the LBCC foundation. This project would never have succeeded without their grant.

PERSPECTIVES

"What other classes would you like to see offered at LBCC?"



• Selena Culley •
 Nutrition/Food management

"I'd like to see more health and nutrition classes and more core classes."

"It would be great if more advanced biology classes were offered."



• Luke Ketter •
 Biology



• Kayla Jones •
 Theater Arts

"They should have more journalism classes and offer film and television courses, too."

"Some classes are offered once a year. When you're trying to complete required classes you have to wait a year for it, and it's hard if it conflicts with another class."



• Cindy Rettler •
 Nursing



• Josh Ellingson •
 Undecided

"We need more martial arts classes like Jiu-jitsu, Aikido and Muaythai—kick boxing."

"There aren't enough general, basic core classes."



• Exona Quinn •
 AAOT

Compiled By Elizabeth Beckham
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

HELPWANT

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101). Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/careerservices. You need your Student ID # (X00....) and an email address. You will have access to lots of jobs and you will also receive emails about jobs.

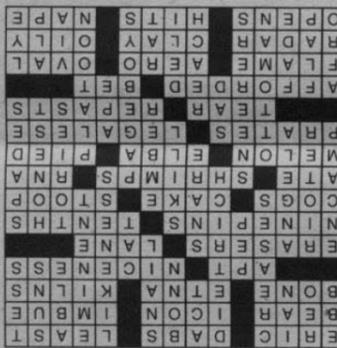
Teller I or II and Teller II or III (#3839 & 3838, Corvallis) If you have good credit and enjoy working with the public, these would be wonderful jobs for someone wanting to work full-time.

Accounts Receivable/Collections (#3836, Albany) This part-time, flexible job wants 6 months previous experience or an accounting degree. Inquire now before this opportunity closes.

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 associate's 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.

Solutions



Enrollment: Making spaces

◀ From Pg.1

year. Last year LB had 1,792 FTE's and have only 1,756 FTE's this year.

Students who drop classes can also affect enrollment. LB had 2,900 full-time students at one point this term; however, there are now only 2,600. "Ninety percent dropped a class or two and became part time," said Clemetsen. "Ten percent completely drop out."

Clemetsen feels that the huge graduating classes LB has had in the last couple of years had something to do with the decrease. He also feels that people who are interested in only taking a class or two had trouble in the past. They do not know that it is easier now, albeit more expensive, as students know from the recent tuition increase. By the time these would-be students could sign up, students with priority registration had filled classes to the max. He wants to let people know that LB has added classes and made some sections more available.

"We've made space for you," said Clemetsen.

He thinks that enrollment will continue to go down a little this year. However, it also depends on the economy—if it goes up they'll come back.

If enrollment continues to go down LB may have to consider cutting back expenses and generating more revenue, said Clemetsen. "This does not necessitate an increase in tuition but it does affect the decision process."



photo by Dan Wise

Wrong-way parking has become a problem in the LBCC lots, creating a safety hazard, according to Security Manager Bruce Thompson. Offenders may soon find themselves ticketed and fined.

Fines may follow parking faux pas

Stacey Dean
 The Commuter

Linn-Benton Security Manager Bruce Thompson is serious about safety in the parking lot. Parking backward in the parking lot can be dangerous, according to Thompson. It makes people go against the flow of traffic when they pull out of the lot, and when you couple that with changing radio stations, using cellular phones and the fog and rain in the Willamette Valley, parking lot conditions are very dangerous.

Parking backward is when your vehicle is parked in a manner that will place it into oncoming traffic when you depart. According to Thompson, a large number of students are either hit or nearly hit every year because drivers pull out of parking

spots blind, because they are parked backward and cannot see around the neighboring car, according to a copy of a pink slip.

Linn-Benton has 2,500 parking spaces in the parking lots, and most of them are filled during the day, making obeying traffic rules especially important, and pulling into the lanes blindly especially dangerous, according to Thompson.

Security officers may begin ticketing people at any time, although warnings will be handed out to individuals who choose to break the rules, Thompson said. "It's not about pressure from above, it's just a matter of history. The key is awareness."

After the first offense (all first offenses will come with a pink slip), students may be fined \$20, although an appeal is possible.

Food: Drive prospers with donations of food, cash and time

◀ From Pg.1

"It's very heartwarming to know people are so generous," said Jackie Lowell, an admissions staff member, as she hustled back and forth distributing the cans and packages, trying to make sure each box had some of everything.

"This is the most fun to do. It's awesome," said Jan Modine, a staff member helping for a second year. "Sometimes it brings tears to my eyes. Some people are so appreciative. Some of the kids brought us pictures last

year," she continued.

The drive only goes on for the month of November, according to Putnam. Anyone can submit names for a gift and the intent is to help people connected with LBCC. "We get a lot of referrals from instructors," she said.

Jesse Thompson, a first year drafting major thought he should try volunteering. "I heard about it when an instructor wrote about it on the board," he said. "It's kind of fun."

A number of people were involved in planning and organiz-

ing the food drive according to Putnam, who has taken the lead for six years. Not only did people bring in food to the several donation boxes spread around

campus, but also individuals and organizations donated cash, allowing for the purchase of additional goods.

The American Association

of Women in Community Colleges and The Independent Association of LBCC Classified Employees sponsors the food drive.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Graduation moves to Linn Expo Center

Frank Hoaglin
The Commuter

Like most colleges, LBCC has always held its commencement ceremonies on campus, but beginning in 2006, graduates will be receiving their diplomas at the Linn County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

"The size [of the location] is the overriding factor, and as a consequence, we are out of compliance with fire codes in the Student Activities Center," said Linda Newell. "We're talking about something that will hold at least 3,000 people, and that limits us a lot."

Every year since Linn-Benton's inaugural year, commencement ceremonies have been held in the Student Activities Center, but because of the fire code standards, many safety and health issues have risen.

"If we had someone within the gymnasium that had a medical emergency, it would be impossible to get to them," Newell explained. "We don't really have any other large facilities, and trying to do it outdoors is really tricky, because you always have to have a plan B if the weather is terrible."

After last year's commencement, faculty members began discussing the possibility of moving the ceremony.

"Every year we hold a post-commencement meeting to talk about the good, the bad and the ugly, and after this year's commencement, President Rita Cavin was already talking about whether or not there was an off-campus facility," Newell said.

The problem, however, was not where the event would occur, but finding a facility that would hold 3,000 people or more.

"There weren't any facilities we could think of that were any better than what we have here on campus," explained Newell. "Rita visually knew what the problems were here, and she wanted the options explored."

"Because of the large crowd, visibility for people seeing their family members graduate is terrible, the audio is terrible; its just not a quality experience," she continued.

When the Expo Center was chosen to hold the ceremony, LB was able to hold both ceremonies for certificates and degrees and for students graduating with a G.E.D. because of the size of the facility.

Newell added, "There is a lot of preparation that needs to be done now. We have a master plan for commencement that will have to be re-written to incorporate changes that we are making."



Musical Moment

Business major Hanna Skipper and EMT major Michael Avery entertain students in the Courtyard on a cool fall afternoon before the Thanksgiving break. Ad hoc music is a common sight in the Courtyard throughout the year, though it is becoming increasingly less frequent as the cold winter weather blows in.

photo by Steve Dulin

Livestock team ends fall with two firsts

Nancey West
The Commuter

Long days and a lot of silently standing around hardly sound like a team sport. They do, however, describe LBCC's Livestock Judging Team during a competition.

Despite the appearance, "livestock judging is a physically and mentally challenging event," said coach Clay Weber. Judging begins at 7 a.m. and often lasts until 4 p.m. During that time the team members walk around and study a lot of animals and do not talk to anyone. Lunch is often handed to them and they may eat while studying their notes and preparing their oral reasons speech.

"It is a solitary event," Weber said. "The only socializing is after it's all over."

This year's team has participated in three contests, earning first team honors in two competitions and second in one. Sarah North, sophomore, won first for overall individual, placing at the Chico, Calif. and Central Point, Ore. shows.

"We have a young team. But most important we have good people that are academically strong and love to compete," Weber said. "All team members get the opportunity to compete during the West Coast competitions," Weber said. The traveling

team, which goes to the National qualifying events, is made up of six members. Those students must earn a spot on the traveling team. The team may be made up of different students at the different competitions.

There are 30 community colleges and junior colleges that compete at the national eligibility shows. National competitions take place during a larger livestock show and rodeo. Each team member is able to compete at those shows for one year. This year's team will begin national eligibility in February in San Antonio, Texas. Other shows they plan to attend are in Houston, Texas; Kansas City, Mo.; Louisville, Ky.; Denver, Colo. and Phoenix, Ariz.

A judging class is made up of four animals, all of the same sex and breed. Most classes are cattle, the rest being swine and sheep. The judges place the animals first through fourth, according to which ones they believe have the best quality. Team members are scored on how their placing agrees with the official's placing.

There are generally 12 classes at each show, of which at least half must have oral reasons given in a one to two-minute speech. When placing a class, each judge takes notes and prepares their oral reasons. Following judging classes, they present their oral reasons to an official. "This is an opportunity to

verbally defend their placing," Weber said.

All of this takes practice. The team has a credited class that meets twice a week. Part of that class is spent in the classroom; the rest is at local farms practicing their skills. "There are some weekend practices and students filter into my office to practice oral reasons speeches," said Weber. "They put a lot of time into practicing their speech skills."

The team helps with the State FAA livestock judging, held during the State Fair in August, and with the State 4-H livestock judging held earlier in the summer. Both events provide an opportunity to recruit for future LBCC team participants.

A judging clinic in July is the main fundraiser to help support their travels and it gives them the chance to work with youths to improve their skills, Weber said.

Cattle, swine and sheep are the typical animals judged but occasionally a class of horses is added. Weber said that the team spends a little time practicing judging horses for those occasions. The future will also see market goats added to the list of judging. Both Texas contests will have them this year, Weber said. Goats have become a viable commodity due to their ability to thrive in arid countries with scarce food and there has been an increase in demand for goat meat by some ethnic groups, he explained.

Science project gets grant

LBCC News Service

OSU Federal has donated \$25,000 to the LBCC Foundation for the Science and Health Project. The donation will go towards sponsorship of a classroom as part of the college's \$4 million science and health renovation.

"Renovation of our 33-year-old science and health labs is the No. 1 priority for facility update at LBCC," said college President Rita Cavin.

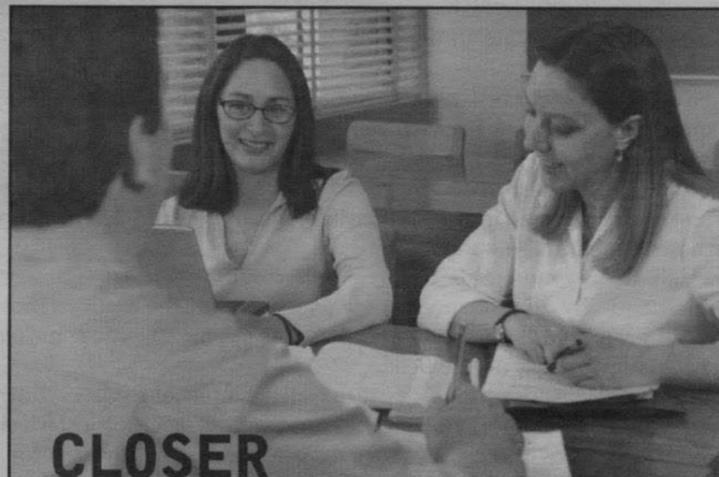
LBCC science and health labs are approximately 33 years old and have never been refurbished. They are in constant use due to a steep increase in the number of health career and engineering preparation students. About 5,000 students enroll in science classes each year, with classes often filling within the first few minutes of registration.

Rick Hein, CEO of OSU Federal, stated that, "LBCC, just

like OSU Federal, is community focused. LBCC helps students realize their dreams and the Science and Health Project is critical to their success. We are very excited to be able to help LBCC take another step toward accomplishing their goal."

The Science and Health Project will improve lab space for physics, general science, computer, chemistry and biology and provide additional classroom and support areas. Current classrooms and labs have little space for new technology or computers.

The total capital project will cost approximately \$4 million. LBCC has currently invested \$1 million towards the project and is seeking a federal appropriation of \$2 million. The LBCC Foundation is working to raise \$1 million privately for the project along with an additional \$1 million for student scholarships.



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SPORTS

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

Interception stats sully Favre's legacy

Directly behind the center stands the most important player on the football field, maybe even the most crucial player in all of sports.

The quarterback is the one person who can make or break a team with one decision and a single execution. So the age-old question is asked:

Who do you want behind the center in the big game?



JAKE ROSENBERG

Joe Montana, John Elway and Johnny Unitas have always been among the consensus of greatest to ever play the position for good reason. They are among the leaders in every meaningful regular and post-season statistical category and have each accumulated multiple championship titles over more than a decade of consistent play. As

Brett Favre's career is coming to a close, his name is being mentioned in this list more than ever because of his credentials of a single Super Bowl victory and some gaudy regular season numbers.

Sadly, one of those gaudy numbers is his interception total: 245 times in a mere 14 seasons, a Green Bay opponent has been the recipient of one of Favre's "rocket balls" that he forced into triple coverage, or a heaved prayer thrown off his back foot to a receiver that has to adjust.

There is no doubt that Favre always has the strongest arm on the field, but he seems to have the notion that he can throw through defenders instead around them with a precise and catchable ball.

This gambling-gunslinger mentality has somehow placed him in the spotlight as America's golden boy and NFL poster-child—a true blue-collar athlete who plays and throws hard on every down, every day and who approaches the game he loves with a confident grin in the face of adversity.

What they fail to mention in this tough-guy jargon is his admitted alcohol abuse and painkiller addiction following his MVP campaign of 1995. After acknowledging his mistakes in a tear-jerking press conference, he responded with his two most successful years as a pro. Oh how quickly did the media embrace the remorseful and passionate warrior, only to forget about the Vicodin-junky within while enduring a tainted 200-consecutive starts streak.

If critics want Barry Bonds to have an asterisk next to his name amongst the all-time Home Run leaders because of a steroid controversy, then why is Favre compared to Cal Ripken and regarded as his respective sport's iron-man?

Although this streak seems to have nearly reached the end as the disheartened Favre contemplates retirement, he will not be blamed for his team's nine defeats in 11 contests. Instead the depleted offensive line or lackluster receivers will take the heat. It's always a Favre win or a Packer loss.

It's funny because his three current starters at wide receiver and tight end are the same as he had in 2003, despite the loss of Javon Walker. He continues to commit turnovers in the same fashion as he did when he had one of the NFL's elite offensive lines over the past 10 years, as 2005 will be Favre's fifth 20-plus interception season.

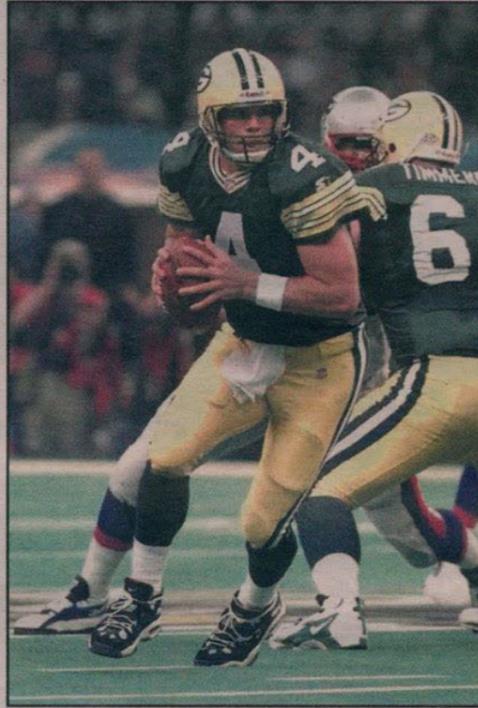
Favre will forever be remembered as a gritty clutch leader who guided his team to more than 30 comeback victories. He has the third most regular season wins in league history.

But if the NFL had an equivalent to baseball's blown saves category, Favre would be just as close to the top as he is in interceptions because defeat is directly correlated with turnovers in the game of football.

I will always remember the true Brett Favre as a great signal-caller who could single-handedly win a game as well as lose it, but the media's monotonous, exaggerated praise of his character and play has led me to expose his overrated professional achievements on the field.

Brett Favre is undoubtedly a future Hall of Fame quarterback, but not near consideration for the greatest of all-time. Give me a smart, accurate quarterback who rarely commits mistakes and consistently moves the chains. Give me Joe Montana.

FACE OFF



KRT photo

Brett Favre has seen many highs and lows since his Super Bowl XXXI victory over New England during the 1996 season. Favre's Packers are 2-9 so far this season.

Favre's career no less than legendary

To say the least, I was frustrated when two members of The Commuter staff ripped apart Brett Favre after the Packers suffered another loss last week. Yes, the Green Bay Packers are horrible this year, but it's most certainly not Favre's fault. There are quicker offensive lines at your local high school, better hands at the local prison and a thousand times more energy at my grandmother's elderly home. So why pick Favre as the fall guy?

After all, during his 14 years in the NFL, Favre has thrown for over 50,000 passing yards, holds the fourth highest winning percentage in the NFL since the leagues merged in 1970 and is the NFL's only three-time MVP. Only two quarterbacks have ever won more games in a career than Favre, and he's still not finished. Also, Favre played through 36 games in three seasons before enduring a battle without a touchdown pass, a record only topped by the legend Johnny Unitas.

But statistics don't tell the whole Favre story. No matter how many records he has broken, there is one attribute of the quarterback that will always be the most famous. He's durable, withstanding an NFL record 215 straight games as a starter in one of the coldest stadiums in the country. He's so resilient, in fact, that no player in any of the four major sports has started every game for the same team since September 27, 1992.

A streak of that length will have its ups and downs. One of the few downs in Favre's career came in 1996, when he admitted to a substance abuse problem for his addiction to pain medication. But as much as you can ride a player for becoming addicted to pain medication, let's keep this in perspective—Brett Favre became hooked on pain medication

because he wanted to play the game he loved, to fight through his injuries and work his hardest to win every challenge. Most athletes in a substance abuse program today are 'fighting' their problems with crack, heroin and cocaine.

When watching a professional football game, one can usually tell who plays for the money and who plays for the love of the sport. Favre has been at the helm of the Green Bay Packers for over a decade now, and his thoughts after both wins and losses continue to be the same. If the green-and-gold wins, Favre gives the credit to an outstanding performance by other players, but usually the team as a whole. And if the Packers fall apart and suffer a loss—which has happened far too many times this year—Favre is always taking the blame, acknowledging bad passes and lackluster leadership as the critical issue in their defeat.

Honestly, with a better offensive line, Favre's bad decisions don't occur. Over his career, he has completed 61 percent of his passes, a statistic better than quarterback greats Dan Marino, Warren Moon and John Elway. He has a career passing rating of 87.4, which is also high in its respective category. The skill is visible on the playing field, and throughout the NFL record books. To consider Favre an overrated quarterback would be like cheering for American Olympic athletes to break every bone in their body—it's just not right.

Finally, Favre is known as a comeback quarterback. Before this year, Favre has led his team to 34 game-winning comebacks. It is this attribute that will bring the Packers franchise back to its feet in his remaining years. This year, the Packers have only won two games, and another may never arrive. But it's simple to see why the team can't win—if an onlooker is blaming Favre, they just don't understand the game.

You can be the greatest quarterback in the world, but there has to be an entire team to working as one to attain a Super Bowl victory. The Packers are so short-changed this year that injured athletes still remain on the game day roster to keep the depth charts legal.

As you can see, it's the team as a whole that has brought this season to its demise. Perhaps next year, after the draft and the rebuilding of the offensive line, Favre will have his last opportunity to show the world, and The Commuter staff, that he's not overrated.



STEVE FARRENS

Beavers' Hass honored among college football's elite

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

It's going to Hass!

Whether coaches, teammates, opponents or announcers utter that phrase, it won't be a surprise if those exact words are said on Dec. 8 during the ESPN College

Football Awards Show.

Oregon State senior wide out Mike Hass was named as one of three finalists last week for the 11th annual Fred Bilet-nikoff Award, given to college football's most outstanding receiver. The Jesuit High School alum was a walk-on in 2002 and



is the now the Beavers all-time leading receiver after a third

straight 1,000-yard season, leading the nation with 139.3 yards per game.

Following the awards show and an idle Bowl Season for OSU, the three-year lettermen and two-year starter is likely to play in the East-West Shrine Game and the Senior Bowl contests in

late January for one final chance to impress NFL scouts.

Hass has also been named to several All-American teams and joins Notre Dame's Jeff Samardzija and fellow PAC-10 pass-catcher Dwayne Jarrett of Southern California as nominees for the award.

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
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 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Lady Runners finish in All-Star fashion

Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

The season reached its final match for the Linn-Benton Lady Roadrunners at the NWAACC tournament in Bellevue, Wash. that took place Nov. 17-18. LB was eliminated on the second day of the tournament with a pair of losses.



Monica Samsa

LB got out to a good start in the tournament with a convincing victory over a tough Lower Columbia team on Thursday with scores of 30-24, 30-23 and 30-20. Kathy Gellatly led the Runners in kills with 13, Monica Samsa led with 42 assists and Jennifer Basset fronted the dig department with 20.

Next up was the always-dangerous No. 1 seed Walla Walla on Friday. The Runners gave Walla Walla all they wanted and then some, taking them into five games of the match. LB ended up on the losing end of an up and down match with scores of 16-30, 30-28, 25-30, 30-27 and 11-5. Chelsea Hartman led the kills department with 25, Darci Williamson dug up a team high 25 digs and Samsa handily led the assists again with 55.

After the loss to Walla Walla, LB faced an elimination match against Green River just over an hour later, and their gas tank was running on "E." A rested Green River team trampled the Runners 21-30, 21-30, finishing their season.

Walla Walla and Mt. Hood CC were the survivors of the tourna-

ment, reaching the championship match. Walla Walla defeated MHCC by the score 27-30, 30-20, 30-25, 30-28 for their first ever NWAACC championship.

"We had high expectations the whole season. We ended up with a solid 30-11 record. It was a successful season. A few points here and there for us would have made things a lot different. But it was great to see my team play up to their potential against Walla Walla," said Head Coach Jayme Frazier. "We are going to miss some sophomore leadership, but we have a solid freshman core coming back next year that are really talented. Our goal is to continue the trend of stepping up from past seasons. We went deeper in the NWAACC tournament and we had one more all-star this year than last. So we are looking to continue that trend next year."

Samsa and Erika Nay have received All-Regional First Team honors. Gellatly also received second team honors. The NWAACC all-star game will be held Dec. 3 at Clark CC.

Gellatly and Nay have also been selected to the NWAACC Academic all-star team. Team MVP and the Cornerstone Award will be presented Dec. 7 at the team's award banquet.

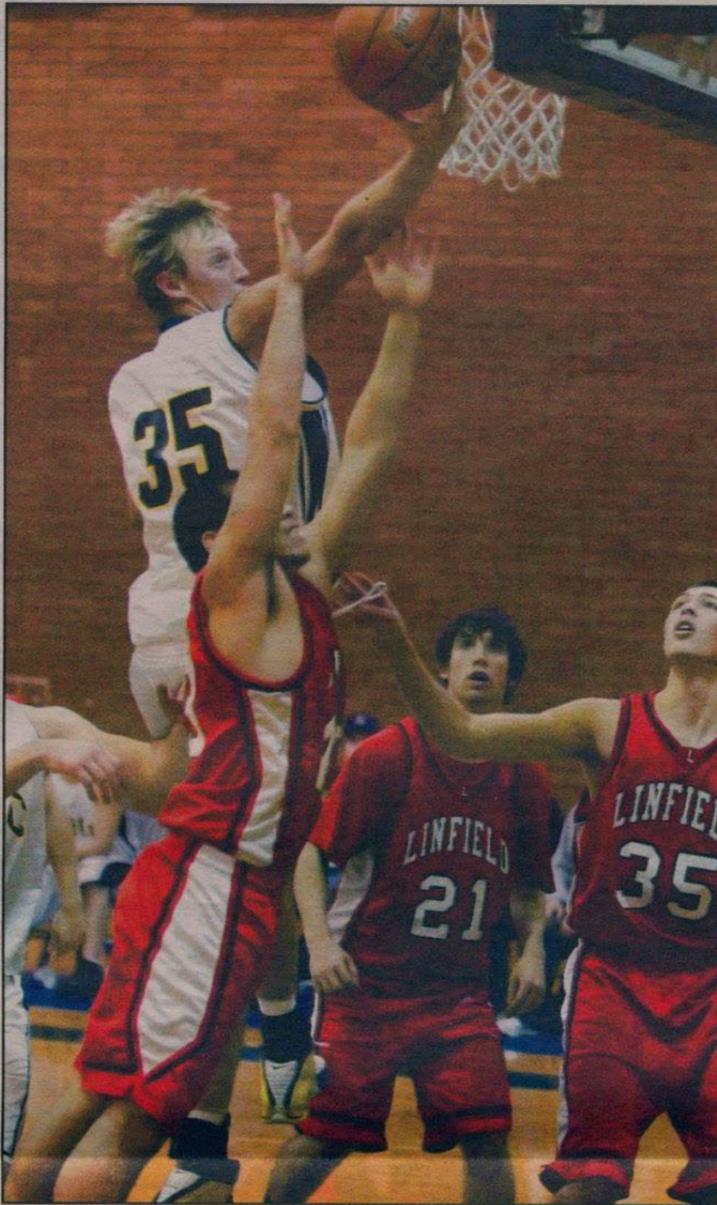


Kathy Gellatly



Erika Nay

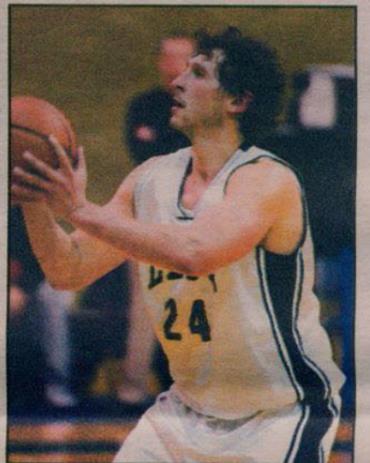
Men, women tip off hoop season



The hoops season is under way as the Runners went on the road to play some non-league contests.

The men opened two weeks ago in the Umpqua Tournament with a 72-63 loss to Lane but bounced back the next day with a 62-51 win over Umpqua. The Runners home opener the following Tuesday was a success as Center Ryon Pool's 29 points led LB to an 81-76 victory over the Linfield. LB will try for a third consecutive win when they host the Willamette JV squad tonight in the Activities Center.

The women had a rough start with losses at Lower Columbia and Centralia last week but will look to even their record at 2-2 with home games against Blue Mountain and Northwest Christian on Friday and Saturday.



photos by Erik Swanson

Linfield defenders can only watch as center Dustin Vaughn grabs one of his 8 rebounds during the Runners' home opener in the Activities Center Nov. 22. LB won 81-76 thanks in large part to Ryon Pool's 29 points.

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Wednesday
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Friday
Albany Campus



LBCC Bookstore

LOCAL NEWS

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

Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

Boarding through Oregon offers prime turf, parks

Bryan Edwards
 The Commuter

Skateboarding is an often overlooked Oregon pastime, but there are more concrete skate parks in Oregon than most states. With two local skate parks, along with relatively flat streets, Corvallis and Albany offer prime turf for sidewalk surfing.

There are many different types of skateboards; the most popular are the long board and the trick board. Long boards are made for flying down smooth streets. Trick boards are used for rail slides, grinds, going vertical, flip tricks, etc.

Long boarders can skate from upper to lower Monroe Street in Corvallis, winding in-between the bike lane and amongst the moving cars. Trick skaters usually resort to the city-built or donation-built concrete parks in Albany and in Corvallis.

The Corvallis park is located under the bridge at Highway Junctions 34, 99, and 20. It was finished in October of 2000, on a \$291,000 budget, and is a spacious 14,600 square feet. The obstacles it offers include a concrete box, a pyramid with a ledge, a small bowl, and an assortment of flat ledge ramps. It was designed by Mater Design of Corvallis, which consulted Buzzy Morales. The extras of this skate spot include public toilets and a drinking fountain.

The Albany park is located at 1375 SE Sixth St. The birth of this well-respected park came in November of 1999. It offers large eight and seven foot bowls, as well as pyramids with rails, hips and an infamous adjustable rail.

Built with \$275,000 and measuring 15,000 square feet, this park has a plethora of fun to be had. Some extras are a restroom, picnic tables and a drinking fountain.



photo by Dise Wise

Skateboarders are not the only ones utilizing the Corvallis Skate Park. Dallen Maguire of Albany spends a sunny Sunday afternoon honing his inline skating skills. Bicyclists also often share the site, showing off their acrobatic flips and turns for bystanders.

Campus Shorts...

Christmas Portraits

On Dec. 2 The Visual Arts Club will hold a Christmas fundraiser in the Fireside Room from 10 a.m. to the evening. The club will be taking family portraits with two separate backgrounds—one traditional and one more playful for the children. Appointments are encouraged but drop-ins are welcome. For scheduling or questions call Elizabeth Hernandez at 760-5412, Elizabeth Beckham 753-4025 or Terry Thayer at ext. 4480.

Word Power

The Multicultural Center will be presenting a three part workshop called "Power of Words: Stereotypes, Assumptions and Bias." It is a series of activities for groups to learn how powerful words are in language and how much emphasis is put on those words. The first in the series is "Stereotypes, Assumptions and Bias" which will explain how people make the assumptions they do about things such as racism discrimination and prejudice. The event will be held today from 12-1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center.

Auction Treasures

As part of the Linn-Benton United Way fundraising drive, there will be an online art auction Dec. 6, 7 and 8. Art by students and staff are among the items to be auctioned for charity. There will also be Civil War basketball tickets offered. So far the drive has gathered \$12,436. Look for details sent through campus mail and on posters on campus.

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Crossword

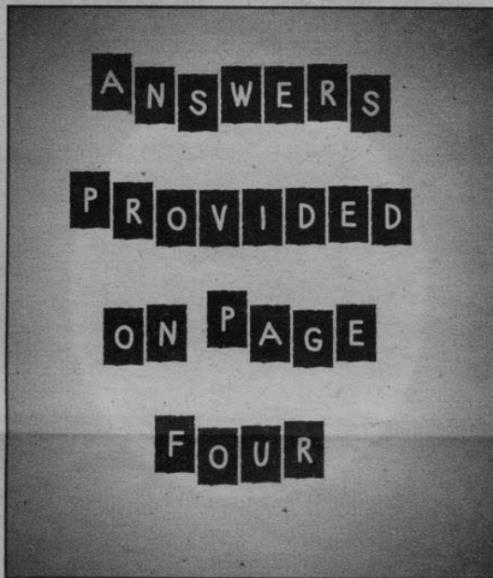
- ACROSS**
- 1 Writer Ambler
 - 5 Light touches
 - 9 Smallest amount
 - 14 Tolerate
 - 15 PC symbol
 - 16 Permeate
 - 17 Skeleton piece
 - 18 Sicilian spouter
 - 19 Brick ovens
 - 20 Fitting
 - 22 Pleasant quality
 - 24 Graphite removers
 - 28 Kent's girlfriend
 - 29 Rip van Winkle game
 - 31 Tithe amounts
 - 35 Gear teeth
 - 36 Dessert choice
 - 38 Small porch
 - 39 Had a meal
 - 40 Pip-squeaks
 - 42 Genetic material, briefly
 - 43 Casaba or honeydew
 - 45 Napoleon's 1814 address
 - 46 Like the piper of Hamelin
 - 47 Babbles
 - 49 Attorneys' jargon
 - 51 Shred
 - 53 Meals
 - 54 Provided
 - 58 Wager
 - 59 Burn brightly
 - 60 Dynamic leader?
 - 62 Track shape
 - 66 Speed checker
 - 67 Moist, sticky earth
 - 68 Excessively suave
 - 69 Removes wrapping
 - 70 Chart-toppers
 - 71 Scruff

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11/29/05

- 6 Perform
- 7 Beethoven's birthplace
- 8 Slow moving mollusk
- 9 Resemblance
- 10 Distinguished
- 11 Competent
- 12 Catches some rays
- 13 Hardy heroine
- 21 Vigor
- 23 Hipster
- 24 Pitch one's tent
- 25 Possible looter
- 26 Actress Lansbury
- 27 Trap
- 30 Deftness
- 32 British Conservatives
- 33 Truthful
- 34 Black suit
- 37 Campfire remnant
- 40 Lip curlers
- 41 Curled-under hairstyles



- 44 Cushioned footstool
- 46 Military unit
- 48 Blue
- 50 Mimic
- 52 Arrive at
- 54 Big hairdo
- 55 Flutter
- 56 Lose brightness
- 57 Sub seller
- 61 Squeal
- 63 By way of
- 64 Lofty peak
- 65 Potash

...Fun Facts...

- Coca Cola was originally green.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter was "Tom Sawyer."
- A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one really knows why.

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From all of us at The Commuter

Term Calendar

Last day of Fall Term	December 9
Winter Term classes begin	January 9
Next Commuter Paper	January 11

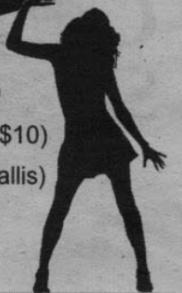
Salsa WORKSHOPS

>>> Dec. 5: NY Salsa (6 - 8 p.m. • \$10)

>>> Dec. 6: Cuban Salsa (6 - 8 p.m. • \$10)

Platinum Club (126 SW 4th Street in Corvallis)

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• 6 - 8 p.m. • \$35 • four-week class

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More info and how to register are available online at

www.rumbanana.org

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CHILDREN'S WINTER FESTIVAL

Saturday * December 3 * 1-4 P.M. * LBCC College Center, 2nd Floor

- Kwanzaa Activities
- Diwali Room
- Face Painting
- Cookie Decorating
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- Gamelan Sari Pandhawa (Puppet Plays)
- Crafts
- Photo with Santa or Father Claus—\$1

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Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789 or TTD 917-4703. Please submit your request four to six weeks before the event, where possible.

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 It Out

Linn-Benton Concert Choir
"Songs for a Winter Night"
 Conducted by **Susan Peck**

Dec. 1
 7:30 p.m.
 The Russell Tripp Performance Center
 Main Campus
 Non-reserved seating \$5 at the door and at Gracewinds Music and Sid Stevens Jewelers

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"
 Directed by **Paul Watts**

Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 15-17
 8 p.m.
 Dec. 4 (m)
 2:30 p.m.
 Albany Civic Theater
 111 First Ave. W.
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 \$9 Adults
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 Students half price on Thursdays
www.albanycivic.org

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Tom Houser Vintage Blues & Swing, guitar and harmonica

Dec. 3
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 Book Bin
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 Corvallis
 Free

Corvallis Community Theatre's "Bullshot Crummond"
 Directed by **Robert J. Olin**

Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 1*, 4, 5**
 6, 7, 8*
 8 p.m.
 \$10 Adults/\$8 Seniors and students
 * Matinee 2:30 p.m.
 **Bargain Thursday, all seats \$8
 Majestic Theatre
 115 SW Second St.
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 541-738-SHOW

Fourth installment leaves Harry Potter fans burning for more

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is the fourth installment in the seven-book/movie series, and the first to be given the rating of PG-13, due to violence, a couple of death scenes, some other scary situations and "of course" a heavy helping of teenage drama. It's also the first to be adapted from a 734-page book, a fact that was obvious even to those who had never read the books.

"It felt very rushed, and there were a lot of loose-ends," stated Jenny Lira, 24, after attending the opening showing of the film at midnight at Carmike Cinemas in Corvallis. She had not read any of the books, but had watched the previous three movies, and seemed to enjoy them more than the newest one.

In his fourth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter (played by Daniel Radcliffe) is disturbed by nightmares of his nemesis Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes). Harry attends the Quidditch World Cup with friends Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), Ron Weasley and the Weasley family, where some of Voldemort's minions, known as Death Eaters, invade the camp and wreak havoc on the campers. All of this happens within the first 10 minutes of the film, while in the book it spans over one hundred and fifty pages.

Once back at Hogwarts, Harry and his friends learn of the Triwizard Tournament, a competition between the three different wizarding schools. Somehow Harry Potter ends up being chosen as the fourth competitor, and is forced to compete against three older students in three different life-threatening tasks. The first involves retrieving a golden egg from the nest of a dragon. In the second task, Harry must rescue his friends from mermaids at the bottom of a lake. For the third and final task, he must find his way through an enormous and dangerous hedge maze to the Triwizard Cup in the center.

With all of this going on, there is hardly time

for schoolwork, as almost every scene involving the young witches and wizards in the classroom seems to be cut from the film. In place are tedious displays of adolescent awkwardness and drama.

Probably the most intense scene of the movie is the moment when Harry and fellow Hogwarts Champion, Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson), both touch the Triwizard Cup, which transports them miles away to a cemetery, where they meet Wormtail (Timothy Spall), a henchman of Lord Voldemort's. Wormtail murders Cedric with the same killing curse that was used to kill Harry's parents. Then, through a ritual involving bloodletting, Voldemort is resurrected. Harry is forced to duel with Voldemort, and through some unforeseen magic manages to escape certain death

once again and return (with Cedric's body) back to school, where he informs the headmaster, Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), that Lord Voldemort has returned.

I took my 6-year-old daughter, Milla, to the opening show. I was hesitant, being that it's a PG-13 movie, but the only part that frightened her at all was Voldemort's becoming. Her overall thoughts on the movie were, "It's funny. I liked the part where Hermione was in the beautiful pink dress."

Long-time-fan, Sam Foster, 13, had her worries prior to seeing the film. "How can a 700-page book be turned into a two and a half hour film without tons of it being cut out?"

Although the latest film does not capture the spirit of the Harry Potter world quite as nicely as the previous three, it is still worth seeing. It has intense action scenes, and some nice special effects, which help make up for the lacking story line.

"I thought the dragon part was really amazing," said "Hobbit," another fan willing to stay up until 2:40 a.m. watching "The Goblet of Fire." "The effects get better as each film progresses, though it was definitely missing a lot of story."

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is now playing at Regal Albany 7 Cinemas and also in Corvallis at the Carmike 12 theater.

REVIEW



Holiday: Festive events ease stress

◀ From Pg. 12

mas trees of many varieties and sizes, most still attached to the ground—Donovan explains that many families find enjoyment in selecting and cutting their own trees. However, Donovan's also offers a large variety of pre-cut trees from the farm.

Donovan's is busy from Thanksgiving to Christmas. "We stay open until the fat man comes," he says and laughs, "you would be surprised at how many people get their trees on Christmas Eve, and since we live right on the property we stay open because it isn't an inconvenience." They offer free hot cocoa inside the pottery studio (Donovan is a potter by trade and has a studio on site that displays and sells his work) and on weekends Donovan gives hayrides on a decorated wagon pulled by his antique John Deere tractor. Families roam about

freely and many bring their dogs on leashes—you may be able to meet Picasso the pug and Louis the standard poodle, Donovan's canine residents.

There are many activities in Corvallis during the holiday season that offer a break from the world of jingles and advertisements. Many of Corvallis's churches offer Christmas concerts and benefits that welcome the public. For example on Dec. 3 the First United Methodist Church of Corvallis, on Monroe Avenue, is hosting an Advent Tea at 2 p.m. where everyone is welcome and all are encouraged to bring donations of blankets, quilts and afghans for the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV).

On Dec. 9 and 10, Corvallis's Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, on Circle Boulevard, will celebrate the season with its "Noel!" GALA Chorus concert

at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students, but no one will be turned away if they cannot afford admission, and on Dec. 17, they will host "Jubilate!" a Yule concert, also at 7:30 p.m.

On Dec. 10 the Chamber Ballet of Corvallis and the Regional School of Ballet will host its annual production of "The Nutcracker" at the Corvallis High School Theater, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at the Albright & Raw Drug Store on Madison Avenue. There will be a special Mouse King Tea Party for young children at noon the same day, and tickets for this event are \$8.

There are, of course, many more holiday events in Corvallis and the surrounding area that are waiting to be discovered and turned into traditions of their own. Find them, enjoy them and enjoy your holiday season.

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DISCOVERY

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

Dazzling displays light up holidays

Davis Rogers
The Commuter

The Corvallis Thanksgiving parade has ended and the shopping sales have just begun. The holiday season is here and with it commercials and their jingles invade our televisions, and Christmas carols—classic and revisited—with numerous new tunes, flood our radios and convenience stores.

Within this annual rush of commercialism, it is easy to overlook the genuine generosity and congenial warmth that has forever surrounded the holiday season and continues to be the driving factor behind every Christmas purchase. Fortunately, there are many opportunities throughout Corvallis and the surrounding area for you and your loved ones to escape the endless advertisements and enjoy the holidays on a more personal level.

For example, this marks the 23rd year that the Mario Pastega family of Pepsi-Cola of Corvallis, is hosting their Christmas light display, which opened to the public on Nov. 25 and can be viewed anytime between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. nightly on 2636 N.E. Bellevue Street. Ken Pastega explains that his father was originally inspired to create the display after numerous visits to Mount Shasta, Calif., the childhood home of his wife, Alma. Every holiday season the Pastegas visited the community's light display while they stayed for the holidays, and seeing how much it delighted his family, Mario Pastega decided to create his own version in Corvallis. In 1982 with the help of Ole Brensdaal, a Pepsi-Cola employee, the very first light display opened to the public.

The light display has opened

and remains free to the public every year since and has become the community tradition that Mario Pastega had originally envisioned. The majority of the display is made of handcrafted and hand-painted wooden facades that are adorned with lights and small motors animate many of the models. The models range from simple, lighted candy canes that line the entrance of the display, to an enormously intricate Ferris wheel, which sports lights, music and Snow White with all seven dwarves.

Brensdaal designed and built most of the models used in the display and the Pastegas and their employees have all been involved in the tradition throughout its existence; for example, Alma Pastega did a lot of the painting on the wooden models. Although Brensdaal has recently passed away, the tradition of creating and maintaining the display has passed to another Pepsi-Cola employee, Kevin Murphy, and Ken Pastega adds that everyone at Pepsi-Cola is just as committed to the display this year as any other. "It took us three weeks to set it up this year," he says, "and we expect it to take another two weeks to take it down after the holidays are over."

Across town from the Pepsi-Cola light display and its most visible feature, a giant tree made entirely of strands of lights, stands another Christmas tree, or rather hundreds of trees. All 18 acres of Donovan's tree farm rests at the end of Donovan Place, about a quarter of a mile off of 53rd Street in west Corvallis. Dale Donovan has lived on the farm for over fifty years and has been selling Christmas trees for the last 32 years. The majority of the farm is covered with Christ-

▶ Turn to "Holiday" on Pg. 11



The Corvallis Arts Center, lower right, and the Benton County Courthouse both display bright holiday lights, while the towering "light tree" at the Pepsi bottling plant dominates its traditional exhibit in Corvallis. Blair Gamble helps his children Chase and Mahayla bring a freshly cut tree to their car at Donovan's Tree farm.



photos by Dan Wise and Erik Swanson