

THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

COMMUTER.LINNBENTON.EDU

Albany Floods



Ari Nunez

Staff Photographer

Much to the delight of school children – and let’s face it, college students – everywhere, snow fell in varying amounts over the local areas beginning Saturday night, January 14. Unfortunately, the snow flurries that lasted until the following Monday, brought ice with them and ended up causing accidents along I-5, as well as along the major highways. Local police have stated that no major injuries were sustained, just shaken nerves.

The rainfall that started Tuesday, January 17 is what really threw a wrench into the forecast, causing counties in western Oregon to declare states of emergency due to flooding. By the time of publication, 7.2 inches of rain had fallen in the Albany/Corvallis area, the most rainfall in a consecutive period, since the flood of 1996; Wednesday alone saw 3.11 inches of rain, according to Weather.com. Although the current flooding is not as widespread as it was in 1996, it is still taking its toll on the cities’ residents.

Waters Rise: continued on Pg. 8



Men’s BBall
pg. 4



Foreign Policy
pg. 10



Duct Tape Fashion
pg. 16



THE COMMUTER
 @LBCOMMUTER
 LBCC COMMUTER

CONTACT US AT: COMMUTER@LINNBENTON.EDU

Wednesday(1/25)



Wetness
54°/41°

Thursday(1/26)



Soaking Wet
50°/29°

Friday(1/27)



Partly Sunnish
44°/23°

Saturday(1/28)



Some Sun
48°/30°

Sunday(1/29)



Clouds
52°/38°

Monday(1/30)



More Clouds
51°/36°

Tuesday(1/31)



Still Cloudy
50°/38°



WEATHER
Source: accuweather.com

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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.

Editor-in-Chief:
Jill Mahler

News Editor:
Justeen Elliott

Sports Editor:
Kyle Holland

Opinion Editor:
Jennifer M. Hartssock

A&L Editor:
Carli Gibson

Webmaster:
Marci Sischo

Page Designer:
Ashley Christie

Advertising Manager:
Natalia Bueno

Advertising Assistant:
Dorine Timmons

Cartoonists:
Mason Britton, Lizzy Mehringer

Photo Editor:
Kody Kinsella

Staff Photographers:
Ari Nunez, Marcea Palmer

Adviser:
Rob Prieue

Copy Editors:
Justin Bolger, Gary Brittsan,
Amanda Hayden

Staff Writers:
Sean Bassinger, Ian Butcher

**Newspaper Distribution
Facilitator:**
Mason Britton

Cover Photo by:
Kody Kinsella

Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@linnbenton.edu



The Commuter

@lbcommuter



LBCC Commuter

Web Address:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Phone:
541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321

Dance Club Shines Bright

Alex Porter
Contributing Writer

Each year the LBCC dance club hosts dance auditions for their spring dance showcase. This year, auditions were Saturday, Jan. 21. They were conducted by the club's advisers Katherine Sanders and Liz Pearce, along with choreographers, who are also a part of the club.

The auditions were split into two parts. The first half of auditions were for dancers interested in modern/lyrical/contemporary styles, and the second half for Hip-Hop dancers. Auditions are free and open to the general public.

This year's auditions were held in the Activities Center in the dance studio to provide an appropriate dance environment. This is where most of the dance department is located on campus.

The dance studio floor had dancers of every style of dance, from hip-hop to ballet, stretching, asking questions and excited to join the club.

Alyssa Blythe, a local resident of Albany, is a new member of the dance club at LBCC. Blythe is 20 years old



Alyssa Archer

Dancers at the 2011 Dance Club auditions.

and has been dancing for roughly seven years. She started dancing when she was 13.

"I like that even though everyone dances with different purpose and style," said Blythe, "everyone's gifts and talents were welcomed and everyone

rocked it in their own way."

Once the auditions finished, the dancers departed and the choreographers congregated to evaluate the dancers and their placement. It takes awhile to complete this process.

Club members always hope for

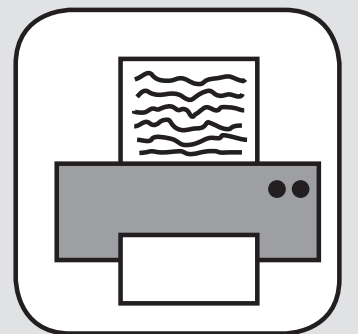
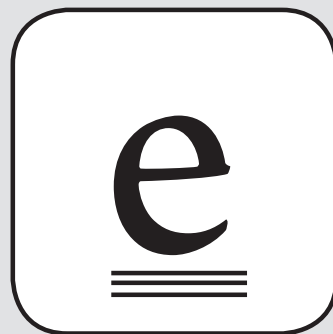
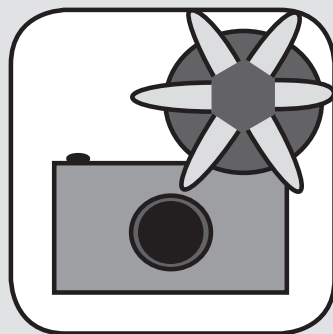
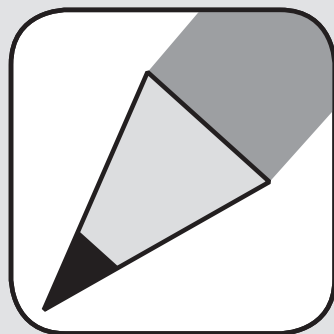
If you would like to get involved with the LBCC dance club, make donations or even help organize contact:

Katherine Sanders
Downtown Dance Studio
541.829.0070

a big turn out of people who want to try-out. The greater number of people auditioning means a bigger showcase in the spring. Unfortunately, this year the turn out for auditions was a little bit of a disappointment.

"Normally we have about 40 people auditioning. This year we had about half of that," said Sanders. The tryouts had a count of about 24 people. "It's possible, if needed, that we might have a second round of auditions, but it's still up in the air."

First rehearsals take place this coming Saturday. The Spring Dance Showcase takes place during the spring term on Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Center.



Write. Snap. Edit. Print.

The Commuter is constantly looking for new additions to our staff.

Here are some of the positions we have open:

Features/News Writers: Those interested in reporting a wide variety of topics, covering campus, local, national and world news. Some experience with journalism preferred, but not necessary.

Photographers: Has an eye for capturing photojournalism. Basic knowledge of cameras, equipment and design programs, such as Flickr and Photoshop preferred.

Sports Writers: Those interested in reporting and covering a variety of LBCC and OSU sports.

Design Assistant: Interest in graphic design and page layout. Assist with the production of the weekly paper.

Photography Assistant: Work with photographers and videographers to take photos for an assignment. Knowledge of cameras, equipment and design programs, such as Flickr and Photoshop required.

Production Assistant: Delivering issues of The Commuter to areas of Lebanon, Albany and Corvallis. Access to mode of transportation necessary.

Videographers: Working with photographers to record videos for The Commuter website. Knowledge of cameras, equipment and editing programs required.

Editorial Assistant: Assisting the Editor-in-Chief with production tasks.

Applications available in The Commuter office (F-222).
Call (541) 917-4451 for more info.

RoadRunners Welcome Dale Stowell

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

If you've walked down campus hallways and seen colorful posters advertising LBCC events, or student productions, there's a good chance the department of Institutional Advancement created it.

But community flyers are just the beginning of what they do. The department also handles course catalogs, press releases and online outreach via social media outlets.

Dale Stowell, LBCC's new executive director of Institutional Advancement, began his work in the department this week. Stowell succeeded Marlene Propst, who acquired the position herself in 2003.

As an alumnus and former Commuter editor, Stowell is naturally excited about his new responsibilities.

"I'm constantly reminded of how much this feels like home," he said, while shuffling through the 1978-79 Commuter archives in his administrative office.

Stowell's personal experiences with the college make him an ideal choice for LBCC's chief information officer. He says the department of Institutional Advancement is about meeting and connecting with people while reaching out to students, improving relationships, and strengthening the overall community at LBCC.

In other words, the department reaches out to current students, future students and college friends by distributing information for anyone seeking it. By doing this, both students and staff are more likely to accomplish their goals.

"We find ways to make this a better community. Creating opportunities is really what we do."

As for future goals, Stowell hopes to transform our currently exceptional web services into a "world class" system for both prospective and current students preparing for success at LBCC.

"We have a solid suite of web services now, but I'd like to see it go up a notch," said Stowell. "We have the people that can make it happen."

Joe Sherlock, manager of LBCC's publications (online and offline), is one of these individuals. Sherlock is constantly striving to enhance community experiences in our college.

"Our job is to help promote college programs and activities," he said. "We want to have a consistent image that identifies the college."

Sherlock says the department of Institutional Advancement



Kody Kinsella

Dale Stowell, the new executive director of Institutional Advancement

also works closely with admissions, which allows LBCC to efficiently distribute recruitment materials to high schools throughout the area.

"We work with them to develop materials they take with them."

There are currently two video features under construction, including a behind the scenes video of an LBCC play and information, regarding a sleep tech program here at the college.

But the department of Institutional Advancement doesn't just promote the college's general image and activities; they also help promote student achievements.

Lori Fluge-Brunker, the publications assistant, says the

department keeps track of student accomplishments, which include a variety of student success stories and tales of individuals overcoming adversity.

"It's a great way to talk about students and their success."

Fluge-Brunker says the department regularly keeps contact with local newspapers in order to promote the college's community and get more individuals involved.

Under Stowell's fresh leadership, the department of Institutional Advancement has a bright future. Stowell agrees that there's always room for improvement.

"It makes sense to strive for the best," said Stowell. "When you're looking to be the best, you'll stretch out further."

Saddle Up with the LBCC Equestrian Team

Alyse Armstrong

Contributing Writer

Jenny Strooband has been the Equestrian Team coach at Linn-Benton Community College, for the last ten years. For the last six of those ten, she has coached students all the way to the national competition. This year's Equestrian Team captain is Levi Comerford.

LBCC's Equestrian team competes through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). IHSA is comprised of several different regions, hosting shows for other teams in their region to attend. Linn-Benton is the only community college in the region, so they mostly compete against universities.

The teams in their region are from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. LBCC hosted a contest on November 21, 2011, also as the team's fundraiser. Most of the shows are formatted exactly the same. Strooband said each show they attend is a lot of fun.

There are two kinds of equestrian teams; the first is Hunt Seat Equitation, which has eight



Michaela Wasson

The 2011 LBCC Equestrian Team

levels based on experience. The most basic level is beginner, for riders with little experience, and the most advanced level is open hunt seat.

LBCC has a smaller Hunt Seat Equitation Team this year, with a total of six members. They have competed in a few shows and are looking

forward to their two remaining competitions.

The second team is Western Horsemanship, with six levels. The beginning level is walk/jog and the most advanced is open reining. The Western Horsemanship Team competes in the fall, and is already done for the year. They were

awarded third place out of the nine teams in the region.

Being a member of the LBCC Equestrian Team is advantageous to students in several ways. First of all, it is a co-curricular team that encourages sportsmanship and teamwork. Team members also get a good amount of free riding time, professional instruction, and access to well trained horses, which is difficult for many college students due to lack of funds.

Strooband said that while being on the Equestrian Team is an amazing opportunity, it can also be difficult at times. Most shows are held on back to back weekends, which generally means a sixteen-hour day for contestants. Not only can this be very tiring, but it also gives students little time to complete homework.

For those who are interested in getting involved with Linn-Benton's Equestrian Team, try outs for the next competitive year will be during the second week of classes for fall term 2012. Anyone is welcome to try out regardless of experience.



Kelly Christenson holds his own on defense.



Joseph Vance battles through the lane for a hoop.



Joseph Vance makes a jump shot.

Men's Team Flying High

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

Thanks to some hard work and great team-play the Linn-Benton men's basketball team is off to a fast start in league play. The team is clicking on all cylinders right now and pushing toward a division title.

A 4-1 start to league play has the RoadRunners one game behind Mt. Hood in the Southern division of the NWAAC, setting up a big showdown

this Saturday, when the team travels to Mt. Hood to face their division foe.

After last Saturday's big win against I-5 rival Chemeketa, the team is riding high and looking like a team that is gelling at the right time.

"We are understanding ourselves better as a team and are more confident in the way we play," Head Coach Randy Falk said of his team's recent performances.

The team has been playing at a

high level on defense, only giving up an average of 74.8 points per game, while scoring at an average of 86.4 points per game. Sophomore Joe Vance currently leads the team in scoring with 18.3 points a game, also the 11th best in the Southern division.

"We know we can win. We should be in the top of our league. We feel we can compete and beat the guys at the top," Sophomore Josh Garlington said about his team.

photos by Marcea Palmer



Dorian Perkey plans her next move.

Lady RoadRunners Play Ball



Haley Dixon lines up her shot.



Josh Garlington on defense, where he is known for his stingy defense.

Marcea Palmer

Garlington Keeps RoadRunners Running

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

The Linn-Benton men's basketball team is now 4-1 in league play and playing their best basketball of the season. A big part of the team's success stems from sophomore and second year player Josh Garlington.

Garlington is an all-around star athlete, who has found new life after coming to LB before last year's season. His aggressive play and hard work ethic has now put him into the starting lineup for the RoadRunners.

Before coming to LB, Garlington was on a scholarship to Portland State University to play football. Garlington was a three sport athlete at Century High School in Hillsboro, playing Basketball, football, and track; excelling in all three.

As a star wide receiver and safety Garlington was invited to play in the Les Schwab Bowl, which pits the best graduating high school seniors in Oregon up against each other in an all-out all-star game. Following the game Garlington decided to take his football skills to the next level and accept a football scholarship to Portland State.

After one year though, he knew where his heart and passion was. Garlington tried to fill his void with pick-up games, but it just wasn't enough.

"I missed basketball too much, I needed to get back into it" Garlington said.

Garlington called his high school basketball coach to help out with his situation and after a few phone calls and practices later, he would be back on the court in a RoadRunner uniform.

He is very athletic and very versatile, I knew we could play him on the inside or the outside," Head Coach Randy Falk said about Garlington after seeing him play for the first time.

Garlington athletic success has given him many opportunities in his life, but for him the credit lies with his mom and dad.

"My mom had a rule that once I started something I couldn't quit," Garlington said and noted he never did break the rule even if it meant sticking it out for an entire season of a sport he didn't want to play.

"My dad played basketball and always wanted me to be better than him, he always said that you should strive to make those younger than you better than you," Garlington said.

Garlington uses his dad's advice every day on the court seeing himself more as a "general" than a stats leader for the team.

"He never has a bad attitude and always wants what's best for everyone on the team," teammate Kelly Christensen said about Garlington.

Focusing on school and basketball has been Garlington's top priorities,

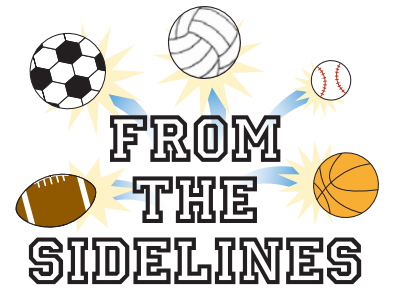


Josh Garlington spots up for a 3-pointer.

Marcea Palmer

but when he is letting loose it's usually with his Xbox 360 or his music. Sports games are on the top of his list including Madden and NBA 2K12. When he's unwinding from a tough practice or long day Garlington turns to his music to get his mind right. Currently, Garlington most popular artist he is listening includes Bob Marley and Drake.

Garlington's leadership, along with a team that is starting to click at the right time, has the RoadRunners off to a great start in league play and seemingly on their way to another chance at a NWAAC title.



LBCC
Men's Basketball
Jan. 18

85 | 77

LBCC | Umpqua

The RoadRunners pulled out the overtime thriller behind Brady Brent's 24 points and Colton Evans 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Jan. 21

113 | 90

LBCC | Chemeketa

Big team victory as the five RoadRunners scored in double figures, including Joseph Vance, Brady Brent, Josh Garlington, Chase Bansemer, and Adam Hastings.

The men are now 4-1 in league play and are looking forward to next Saturdays showdown with first place Mt. Hood

Next: Jan. 25 vs. Oregon at 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 at Mt. Hood

Women's Basketball
Jan. 18

88 | 93

LBCC | Umpqua

Alicia Loves 46 points were not enough as the Lady RoadRunners dropped a hard fought battle.

Jan. 21

45 | 37

LBCC | Chemeketa

The Lady RoadRunners pulled out the low scoring game behind Shelby Hammer's 15 points.

The team is still floating around the .500 mark at 2-3 in league play.

Next: Jan. 25 vs. Oregon at 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 at Mt. Hood

OSU
Men's Basketball
Jan. 19

87 | 84

OSU | UCLA

Jan. 21

78 | 59

OSU | USC

A nice sweep of the Southern California teams has the Beavers at 3-5 in PAC-12 play and 13-7 overall.

Next: Jan. 29 at Oregon

Women's Basketball
Jan. 19

60 | 69

OSU | UCLA

Jan. 21

65 | 61

OSU | USC

A split down in L.A. has the Lady Beavers at 3-4 in PAC-12 play and 12-7 overall.

Next: Jan. 28 vs. Oregon at 4 p.m.



SafeHaven Opens Boutique for Pets and Humans Alike

Jill Mahler

Editor-in-Chief

Above, Krystina Fredrickson holds a kitten named Polly. Polly is a new addition to the SafeHaven Humane Society. Polly (left) is a unique kitten with extra toes on her feet (thankfully, they do not cause her pain).

Fredrickson and Polly are inside the newly opened Downtown Pet Boutique & Home Decor, located at 225 Second Ave. S.W. On Jan. 21, was the grand opening, where all products were 10 percent off. The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors participated in the ribbon cutting at the store at 10 a.m. Jan. 20. Items for sale include pet beds, toys, leashes, collars, books and clothing. The store sells a "variety of furniture and home décor, including dressers, lamps, candles, art and books." SafeHaven Downtown also is where they campaign to raise their goal of \$4.8 million to renovate the building the humane society now owns at 32220 Old Highway 34 in Tangent.

Once renovated, the 33,000-square-foot structure will be the home of SafeHaven's pet adoption and education center. The humane society currently operates out of a 4,500-square-foot facility in Albany. "The new site will enhance SafeHaven's humane education and training programs, expand the number of animals SafeHaven is able to serve and provide more space for veterinary care. The new center will also have a retail store and offer pet boarding to the general public."

The SafeHaven Humane Shelter is located 33071 Highway 34 SE, Albany, OR. Safe Haven does not euthanize for space. Here, they work to provide a warm temporary home for cats and dogs. There are several ways to volunteer at SafeHaven, including morning cleaning assistant, dog socialization, cat socialization, photographer, community outreach, fundraising/special events and foster care provider. For more volunteer information, follow this link at www.safehavenhumane.com or give them a call at 541-928-2789.

Photos by Ari Nunez



Hogeland Named New Executive VP

The Commuter

Editorial

Beth Hogeland has been selected as the next Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development. LBCC President Greg Hamann announced the decision in this email on Tuesday, Jan. 24:

Dear LBCC Campus Community:

I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Beth Hogeland has been offered and has accepted the position of Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development here at LBCC. While Carol Schaafsma will not be vacating this position until June 30, Beth will begin to transition into her new role starting Apr. 1, working with Carol and me to provide for a smooth transfer of leadership in this critical role and to begin the process of filling a number of Instructional management positions, including the Divisional Dean position being vacated by Beth herself.

Beth is known to most of us already, so it should be no surprise to you when I say how excited I am to be able to work with her in this new role, and how confident I am in her ability and her commitment to helping all of us move forward in a manner that both embraces positive change and shows the utmost respect for our history of making a real difference in the lives of our students and our



provided by LBCC
Beth Hogeland, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development

communities.

Thank you to all who completed candidate feedback forms. Your input was of immeasurable value to me and to the Search Committee and as we evaluated and compared the qualities and qualifications of three very competent finalists. And a very special THANKS to the members of the Search Committee, who were instrumental not just in recommending Beth, but in helping me to know that we can

place our trust and confidence in her.

On Friday at 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room, I will be hosting an informal reception for Beth, and I ask that you join me there in congratulating – and “welcoming” – Beth Hogeland as our new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development.

In The Community

Wednesday 1/25

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Diversity Achievement Center
Come celebrate the Chinese New Year honoring the year of the dragon!

Friday 1/27

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts.
We Have Guns, Gusher, Hyding Jekyll, and This Patch of Sky perform! Tickets \$5 in advance; \$7 at door, or \$5 and three cans of food.

8 p.m. Calapooia Brewing Company
The Exit Electric perform! There will also be free C.D.'s and “other schwag” handed out!

5:30 p.m. OSU KBVR Studio A
Come check out the all girl band: She's Not Dead!

9 p.m. Bogey's Bar and Grill

Mr. Wizard comes to Albany

Saturday 1/28

6:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts.
The Bandest of the Bands, presented by Ethos Magazine! Tickets are \$5 with student I.D. and \$7 to the public.

8 p.m. Bombs Away Cafe
After two years, Brother's Gow comes back to Corvallis! Along with the local reggae band, Synriva!

Sunday 1/29

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Doomtree comes to perform hip-hop! Tickets \$12 in advance; \$14 at door.

4 p.m. Cloud 9

Banner Pilot comes to perform alternative/rock! Along with The Hashbrown Dept., Fools Rush, Abolitionist, and Tiger Island.

Tuesday 1/31

8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Hieroglyphics, Animal Farm, and Sleep Rockers perform!
Tickets \$15 in advance; \$18 at door.

Thursday 2/2

7 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts.
Wood Brothers with Sarah & Christian Dugas perform Jazz Folk!
Tickets \$15 in advance; \$17 at door.

If you have a Community Event, please e-mail them to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

Classifieds

Deadline: Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals: Ads placed in the “Personals” category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste: The Commuter won't knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs.
*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena First Stop Center).

Spring & Summer Interpretation positions (#9452)
Work at the Oregon Dunes and Cape Perpetua areas from April-Sept and June-Sept. Great student (STEP) jobs with the Forest Service.

Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) (#9454 & 9453) Summer jobs at the Dunes and Cape

Perpetua providing information on recreational opportunities. Provide interpretative programs indoor and outdoor settings. (\$11.95-\$13.41/hr)

Education/Outreach Intern (Student Conservation Assn-SCA) (#9457) Develop and present environmental programs to grades K-12 in classroom visits & lead on-site educational hikes at the Oregon Dunes and Cape Perpetua area. Must have an interest in youth, environmental education and community outreach.

Marketing Coordinator (#9455, Albany) Oversee and implement day-to-day marketing and sales strategies. Develops relationships with potential residents for retirement community. \$43,500-47,000/year DOE with benefits.

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232.

Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation service. Trained, IRS-certified counselors will prepare and e-file your Oregon and federal tax returns. This is a free service. AARP membership is not required, and there are no age restrictions. To have your tax returns prepared, call one of the numbers below to make an appointment:

Albany	(541) 917-7760
Corvallis or Philomath	(541) 766-6704
Lebanon	(541) 258-4919
Sweet Home	(541) 367-5007
General information	(541) 602-5829

Tell a friend about this free service.

A Special Corvallis-OSU Piano International Event!
(Not included in regular Steinway Piano Series season ticket package)

From England

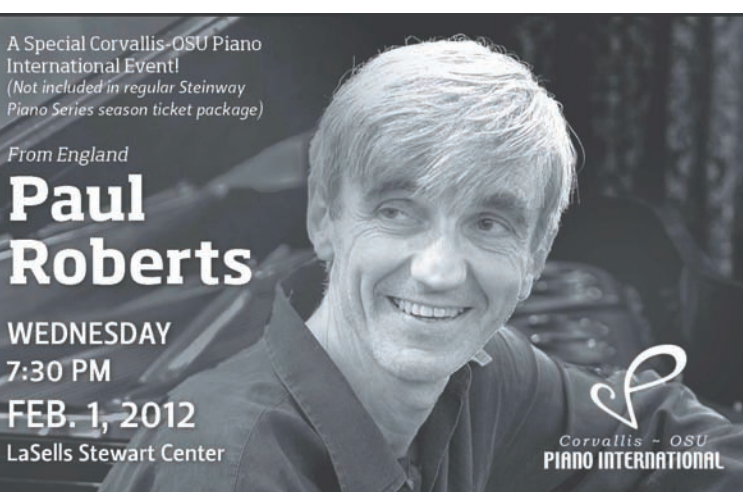
Paul Roberts

WEDNESDAY

7:30 PM

FEB. 1, 2012

LaSells Stewart Center



Corvallis - OSU
PIANO INTERNATIONAL

Lecture and Concert ~ 1862 to 2012: Debussy 150 Years On

TICKETS

\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
General admission seating
Students 8-18 and college students with ID free

Available at: ticketsoregon.com,
Gracewinds Music, Grass Roots Books & Music,
Rice's Pharmacy and WineStyles

For more information visit:
corvallispliano.org

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

THE COMMONS FARE

MENU FOR
THE WEEK OF:
1/25-1/31

Wednesday: Roasted Beer-Brined Chicken w/ Pan Gravy, *Fish en Papillote, Sweet and Sour Tempeh w/ Rice. Soups: Won Ton Soup and *Navy Bean

Thursday: French Dip, *Poached Salmon over Mushroom Rice Pilaf w/ Bearnaise, Gnocchi. Soups: Chili Mac, *Creamy Tomato

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Hazelnut and Herb Stuffed Pork Chops, *Rogan Josh over Couscous, Portabella Sandwich. Soups: *Shrimp Bisque and Cream of Broccoli.

Tuesday: Ryebein Sandwich w/ Coleslaw, *Glazed Ham, Thai Vegetarian Stir Fry. Soups: Creamy Chicken and Mushroom, *Tomato and Rice

Items denoted with a * are gluten free.

The Commuter is EVERYWHERE!

Keep up to date on all the latest news.

The Commuter @lbcommuter LBCC Commuter



Waters Rise in Linn and Benton Counties

Alan Boone



Alan Boone

Flooding on the east side of the LBCC campus.

Water washed across the entrance to the east parking lot Thurs. Jan. 19.

continued from **Cover**

As rain continued to fall throughout the week, roads, bridges, schools, and parks were closed throughout the Corvallis area. The neighborhood around Cheldelin Middle School was evacuated as water poured into the area, rising so high that cars were half-submerged. As the weather worsened toward the middle of the week, schools across the city were closed. To add to the mayhem, high concentrations of water in the soil atop Vineyard Mountain caused landslides just north of Crescent Valley High School. Displaced homeowners were relocated to the high school, where the local American Cross saw to their needs. No casualties were reported in the Corvallis area.

The Willamette River served as a key source of consternation, as it rose from normal levels to its crest at 28.95 feet Friday, within a foot of flood stage (up from the "action" stage). Up and down its banks, businesses, roads, and fields were

flooded, reminiscent of the last major flood in the area. In February 1996, the river rose to 32.70 feet, almost three feet above the flood stage. The highest the Willamette has ever raised in recorded history was in 1861, when it rose to 42.40 feet, according to National Weather Service.

While Albany was not hit as hard by the rain as Corvallis was, the city had its fair share of puddles and closed streets. LBCC, in particular, developed its personal pond in the back parking lot, and the rising water cut off apartments in the vicinity of the school, leaving students unable to leave for classes. LBCC freshman Michelle Lee stated she ended up having to leave her apartment Friday, but it didn't bother her compared to what was happening to others in the city.

She stated, "When I was reading the news, I felt bad because people were only caring about missing school and not caring about the people, who were actually affected by the rain, like the family that died." It saddened her that people could be so selfish.

Tragedy at Periwinkle Creek

Nora Palmtag

Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Catherine Sue, 18, and Aiden Jaxon McLaughlin, a 20-month-old baby, died when the car they were riding in was swept into Periwinkle Creek, next to Mega Foods at 2000 SE Queen Ave., Albany, OR.

Around 7 p.m., Chris Wilgus, 24, of Albany, was driving into the parking lot. He later told his father he had hit a large bump and lost control of the car. It was swept away before he was able to get everyone out. His son, Maliki, 5, who was able to get out, is still in critical condition at OHSU.

Family and friends held a candlelight vigil on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 5 p.m., attended by hundreds.

"I miss my sister so much," Jessica McLaughlin told Fox 12 News. "She was my only sister, and it is way too soon for her to go. My nephew was just the smartest little boy."

Aiden, a 20-month-old little bundle of joy, always had a smile on his face. He was quiet when you first met him, but when he got to know you, he was such a friendly, happy little man. He would have been 2 on April 1 of this year.

Cathy Sue was a latent flower child, who loved rainbows and was the kindest, least violent person you could meet. She was found about 500 feet from, where her son was found in the water by her family, who stayed on after rescuers had left.

No family is prepared for a double tragedy like this, and friends and family have set up a series of events and places to contribute for the double service.

On Jan. 25 at 8 p.m., there will be a benefit concert for Cathy Sue and Aiden at Riley's Bar and Grill (124 SW Broadalbin St., Albany).

There will also be a benefit concert on Friday, Jan. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Riverside Grange (85283 Riverside Drive, Albany).

Everyone is invited with a \$5 fee. All proceeds will go to the McLaughlin family. Performing at the Benefit will be Tragedy 503, Knothead, and NorthWest Noize.

For those unable to come to these benefits, a donation fund has been set up at Umpqua Bank, where you may contribute to the fund under Catherine McLaughlin's name.

How to Stay Informed

Marcene Olson

Manager of Safety and Loss Prevention

If you would like to know about emerging or current emergency or public safety situations that may impact you, your family members, and/or friends, I highly encourage you to sign up for the Linn and Benton County Sheriffs' Department's emergency notification system – Linn-Benton ALERT. Any resident can sign up to receive emergency notifications on multiple devices – phone, text message, or email. It is a robust system that can send thousands of messages in seconds. So, even though a large, local area may be experiencing the emergency, you will still get your message in a timely manner.

You can go to <http://bit.ly/b9QtLd> to sign up for an account and set up your profile with the devices to receive the messages. Please take a few minutes to be ALERT. This system is designed for emergencies and not for school closure announcements due to weather. Please continue reading below for resources to know whether the weather is impacting college open hours.

Procedures In The Event Of Inclement Weather

A decision to close the college, or delay its opening, shall affect all college facilities in the college district.

Individual center directors (Benton Center, East Linn Center, Sweet Home Center) may make independent decisions to close a center early, or cancel evening classes, for inclement weather that arrives after the start of the school day.

If the college has been closed and special activities are



Kody Kinsella

Flooding in east parking lot at LBCC.

in progress, or have been scheduled, the decision to cancel them shall rest with the coordinating manager of the activity. The appropriate vice president should be consulted on these decisions; the ultimate decision should be immediately communicated to the executive director of institutional advancement so that media outlets can be notified.

In addition to the Linn-Benton Alert system, you are encouraged to subscribe to the Flash Alert system, which is what will be used to notify LBCC staff & students of weather closure information – www.flashalert.net.

Emergency information will be available on the college Web site, through the main switchboard (541-917-4999), and the following media outlets:

Albany Radio Stations	AM Frequency	FM Frequency
KRKT	990	99.9
KSHO	920	
KGAL	1580	
KXPC		103.7
Corvallis Radio Stations	AM Frequency	FM Frequency
KLOO	1340	106.3
Sweet Home and Eugene Radio Stations	AM Frequency	FM Frequency
KFIR	720	
KLCC		89.7
KPNW	1120	
KUGN	590	
KEHK		120.3
KOOL		99.1
KDUK		104.7
KFLY		101.5

For More Information

Contact the College at: 541.917.4940 or email marcene.olson@linnbenton.edu

Ham Operators are Always Prepared

Dale Hummel

Contributing Writer

It was a dark and stormy night. The trees bent and swayed to the will of the crazed wind, and the rain came smashing down against the window pane. The National Weather Service had advised that adverse conditions were on the way; however, this appeared to be very serious.

Suddenly, a huge gust of wind crossed some power wires nearby and a bright blue flash illuminated the entire neighborhood. Seconds later the lights went out all over that side of town. I looked at my cell phone and watched the reception bars drop from full to nothing.

Nothing worked! How do I contact people? How do I contact the emergency services? When all else fails, ham radio works!

Since the turn of the century, people have been using amateur, or "ham" radio, for emergency and other kinds of communication. Hams are best known for jumping to action during times of bad weather, floods, earthquakes, or any other type of adverse condition. They even use their own equipment to help their communities in times of need.

A national organization for emergency communication is called The Amateur Radio Emergency Service, (ARES). The storm of 2007 battered the northwest part of Oregon, with 120 mph winds and torrential rain that knocked out all power and communication to the region.

About 200 ham radio operators, according to computerworld.com, volunteered their time and equipment to provide vital communication for the well-being of the area. Emergency communication, however, isn't the only use for ham radio.

With ham radio, you can talk with people across the street, across the state, across the country, or across the world. Some of the most interesting people are hams, and interesting people have interesting conversations. Among people who are hams are singer/songwriter Ronnie Milsap,

pop singer Lance Bass from 'N SYNC, country singer Patty Loveless, Joe Walsh of The Eagles, Oregon Congressman Greg Walden, and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple.

Anyone can be a ham. There is no age limit. All anyone needs to do is take a test for an Federal Communication Commission license. There are people you may know who are hams.

Marcene Olson is the safety and loss prevention manager at LBCC. She is also a ham. Her call sign is KF7PGK. Mindy McCall is clerical specialist III at LBCC safety and loss prevention office. Her call sign is KF7PGH.

Olson came up with the idea of getting volunteers at LBCC to take classes for ham radio licenses through the Linn County Amateur Radio Services (LCARES) group.

More information on the local ARES group is at qsl.net/lcares. Olson obtained her technician license about 10 months ago, and is involved with emergency preparedness and response in the community.

She sees ham radio as an addition to social media and says there is good potential for learning. Like anything else, there is a bad side to the hobby. Two of the biggest down-sides are expense and that some neighborhoods don't allow antennae.

The greatest appeal, according to Olson, is helping others during times of need and the nostalgic feel of being a radio operator.

Olson is not the only person in the area, who enjoys being a licensed radio operator.

Tony Masvida, of Albany, has been a ham for 46 years. In high school he was confused on whether to take wood shop or electronics. About that time the 1964 Alaskan earthquake occurred, and he heard a lot of broadcasts from Alaska calling for help or giving reports. Masvida knew then what he wanted.

Today, he is the president of LCARES and helps in neighborhood watch programs. He really enjoys the hobby and likes helping people.

Continue reading online at: <http://wp.me/p14GZu-4SU>

Mmm, Mmm Good: Soup Provides Comfort during a Wet Winter



Mankamundo/ flickr.com

Alan Boone

Contributing Writer

We are in the heart of school season. The weather is cold, frigid, and uncomfortable. You're feeling unmotivated, stressed out, and just plain grumpy. There are many solutions to this endeavor, like exercising and reading, but one of the most common ways to perk yourself up is what you put in your body.

A lot of high fat foods tend to make you feel sluggish, bloated, and uncomfortably full. Don't get me wrong, I love stuffing my face with a delicious and filling burger, but if you're a poor and stressed-out college student like myself, maybe a load of fat isn't the best choice.

Picking the right comfort foods isn't an easy task, but there are some options.

A great solution is soup. It warms you up from the inside, is very wholesome, and there are endless possibilities for catering to your taste buds. If you're feeling lazy, then you should try Sam City on Pacific Blvd. here in Albany. This Asian-themed restaurant serves some of the best Pho

soups around, with many varieties to choose from. Average cost is about \$10 per person, and trust me, you will leave with a snack for later.

Want to save some cash? You can always make your own soup. Start with a base like beef or chicken broth, or if you're a vegetarian, try vegetable bouillon cubes. You can add a plethora of ingredients, like fresh vegetables, beans, rice, meats, etc. Winco Foods in Corvallis has a great selection of bulk items to minimize your budget deficit.

Actually, you can shop at any grocery store to find your favorite ingredients, and still save money by making your own soups from scratch.

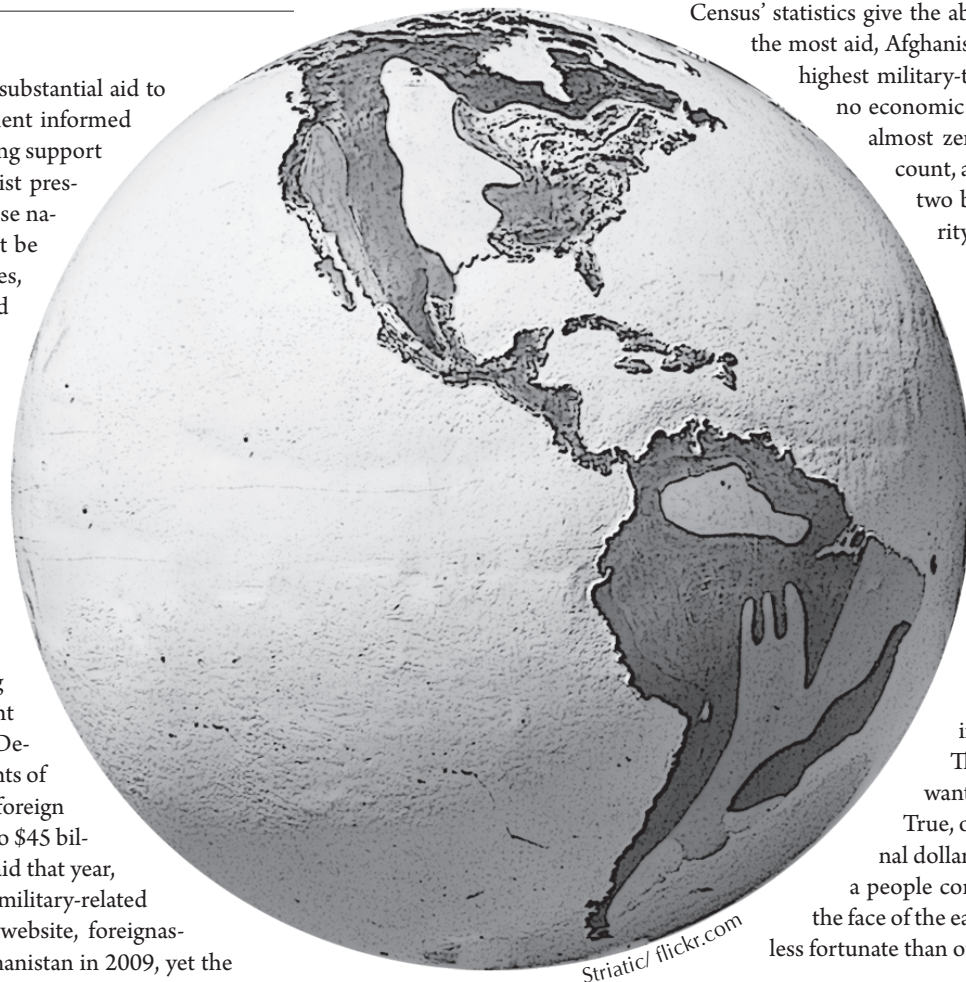
Are you in a time crunch and need something on-the-fly? You can spice up some ordinary Top Ramen by adding an egg to the dish for a little protein. It's very similar to egg flower soup. Hot or cold tea is an excellent finish to a hard day of work and craziness. Adding a little half and half to hot tea makes it rich, creamy, and soothes the soul. If you prefer it a little sweet, add some honey or condensed sweetened milk for a festive beverage enjoyable at any time.

US Foreign Policy: Then and Now

Matt Chatham
Contributing Writer

Historically, since WWII, the U.S. has provided substantial aid to foreign governments. In 1947, the British government informed the State Department that they would be withdrawing support from Greece and Turkey, both subject to communist pressure. The U.S. then took it upon itself to support these nations, and the Truman Doctrine was born: "It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples, who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." The reasoning behind this was that communist forces, were they to gain power, would cause nearby governments to fall. \$400 million were appropriated for these two nations, followed by the massive Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, known as the Marshall Plan, which ultimately delivered almost \$13 billion to Europe.

Throughout the Cold War, the U.S. engaged in significant military spending and the use of foreign assistance as political leverage, both of which culminated in the Vietnam conflict, which began long before the Gulf of Tonkin incident. In 1961, President Kennedy created the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is the vehicle for significant amounts of funds today. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, foreign aid increased significantly, from \$17 billion in 2001 to \$45 billion in 2009. Afghanistan took the largest chunk of aid that year, with almost \$9 billion, 65% of which was devoted to military-related aid. (Interestingly, according to the government's website, foreign assistance.gov, only about \$3 billion was spent in Afghanistan in 2009, yet the



Census' statistics give the above numbers.) Of the next six countries receiving the most aid, Afghanistan, Egypt (sorry Arab Spring), and Israel had the highest military-to-economic aid ratio, with Israel receiving almost no economic aid whatsoever. Iraq and the West Bank/Gaza had almost zero military spending (military occupation doesn't count, apparently), though that is set to change with at least two billion dollars budgeted for Iraq's "Peace and Security" in 2012.

In 1970, UN Resolution 2626 was adopted by the General Assembly to declare the Second UN Development Decade. To help developing nations progress, it was recommended that each "economically advanced" nation increase foreign aid to .7% of GNP by 1975. This never happened, and although there have been several reifications of the goal, it is not being met, at least not by the U.S. According to the United Nations Millennium Project, which is devoted to ending a host of global problems, this percentage is "utterly affordable" and would easily help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In 2009, \$45 billion dollars was about a third of one percent of the GNP. From 2009 to 2012, little change in the total aid budget has occurred.

The question now is: what kind of power does the US want to be; what message does the U.S. want to send? True, our government currently provides the largest nominal dollar amount of aid in the world. Yet it seems that we, as a people commonly cited as the richest and most powerful on the face of the earth, would have more than a dime to spare for those less fortunate than ourselves.

In the News:

Local:

Portland, OR. (KPTV): Authorities had to detain two 'Occupy Portland' protestors outside Pioneer Courthouse in Portland. The two detained were reportedly shoving and shouting at protestors and at the U.S. Marshals. The two were cited on orders of failing to comply with orders. There were more than 200 people that were outside marching and protesting for over two hours. The protestors were repeatedly shouting "Whose court? Our court." They were protesting the Supreme Court decision that removed most limits on corporate and labor spending in U.S. elections.

source: KPTV

Albany, OR: This has been reportedly the worst flooding in about a century. Nearly 200,000 people were without power and there have been three confirmed deaths. Most towns are still underwater and the residents have been told to evacuate. Governor John Kitzhaber has said that the state is going to work with local and federal officials to try and get them disaster funding.

source: USA Today

Salem, OR: Emergency crews in Marion County are working around the clock to clean up and assess damage after the region's worst flooding in years. It's estimated around 300 homes were affected by flood waters, and 150

residents were forced to evacuated, according to the County. At the height of the crisis, hundreds of people were helped to safety from the rising waters; 50 roads were closed, more than 100,000 sandbags distributed, and over 400 city workers were in the field. Cleanup efforts include street cleaning, clearing debris from storm drains, streams and parks. In addition, bridges are being inspected for any damage. Salem's Department of Public Works says teams will work through the weekend to assess the damage.

source: KPTV

Nation:

Seattle, WA: People in Seattle are finding new ways to enjoy the constant snow that keeps falling. Local Seattle artist and quadriplegic Jesse Higman, built a custom sled that he attached to his wheelchair. Another person(s) put a snowman head on the bronze Jimi Hendrix statue. Most people are trying to find ways to get around, MacGyver style.

source: CNN

United States: About half of American drivers between the ages of 21 and 24 say that they still use their phones while driving, despite the ban in most states. Nearly one in every 100 car drivers was texting, emailing, surfing the Web or otherwise using a hand-held electronic device, the safety administration said. And those activities spiked 50 percent over the previous year, even as states rush to ban the

practices. There are now 35 states that have banned using cell phones while driving.

source: FoxNews

Fresno, Calif.: A 23-year-old woman has been arrested on charges of shooting her two toddlers and her cousin. It is reported that she was high off of methamphetamine. Fresno is the largest meth capital of the U.S.

source: AP

World:

Japan: The Japanese government kept secret for months a worst-case scenario report predicting a massive release of radioactive materials for a year at the earthquake-crippled Fukushima Daiichi power plant. It was originally only shown to a small group of reporters, they have just recently released that they knew how worse the plant was from the beginning. Then-Prime Minister Naoto Kan decided to quietly bury the report, the sources said. His successor, Yoshihiko Noda, changed the document's status after it leaked so it would become public late last year.

source: MSNBC

Maumere, Indonesia: A 10-year-old girl was swallowed by a crocodile, while her father watched helplessly. Juraida was hunting for turtles with her father, when a giant saltwater crocodile sprang up from the river and pulled her in. Villagers found pieces of her clothes several hours after she was

attacked, but there was no sign of her body. Last month there was a boy that was killed by a crocodile in the same river. There has also been a reported number of livestock that have gone missing.

source: MSNBC

Italy: There has been another reported death from the cruise ship 'Costa Concordia'. It was of a woman who was wearing a life jacket. She was found on the fourth deck. There is also at least 20 people still missing. There is a new fear too, oil. There is a fear that the ship could possibly leak oil into the water. The coast guard and navy divers are having to blast their way throughout the ship. The woman's body was found near the rear of the ship and was found during a risky investigation. Rescue officials on Saturday said they would not end the search until the whole ship had been examined.

source: BBC

Weird:

New Castle, Pa.: The saying 'Where there is smoke, there is fire', isn't necessarily true, as the Pennsylvania fire department found out. Firefighters were called about an electrical outlet on a floor that was smoking, only to find out that the family's cat had urinated in it. The assistant chief, Jim Donston says a Columbia Gas worker was at the house checking for a possible leak when he noticed the smoking outlet and called the fire department Wednesday about 7:30 p.m. Donston

says firefighters "found the receptacle wet from cat urine" and shut off the electrical supply to that circuit.

source: AP

Los Angeles: An L.A. woman has been arrested on charges of soliciting sex for chicken nuggets. Khadijah Baseer, 31, is homeless and has a history of run-ins with the law. Sgt. Darin Ryburn said she approached the fast-food restaurant manager, told him she was hungry and asked him for free McNuggets in exchange for sexual favors. She was also seen opening car doors of customers waiting in the late-night drive-through. Police were called because Baseer refused to leave the property.

source: Huffington Post

From beyond: When you die, what would you want your last status message to say? Well there is an app for that. The application is called 'If I die' and gives people the chance to write their final status message in advance. The way that the app works is you have three "trustees" verify that you're dead. Once you've chosen your three facebook friends, you can then record videos or craft any number of status updates that will be published posthumously, such as "Why didn't I spend more time doing the mambo," "The pizza's better in heaven" or "Can somebody tape 'The Bachelor' for me?"

source: Huffington Post

Is Iran a Threat?

Matt Chatham

Contributing Writer

Since November 2011, when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a new report on Iran, some news outlets and commentators have made such a hoopla over the ensuing developments that one might be convinced that this was a revelation for the international community. Nevertheless, Iran's forays into nuclear power stretch back to well before 2011.

From the 1950s until near the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Iran attempted to utilize nuclear power for civilian purposes, with significant aid from the West. However, just prior to and especially after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which resulted in an Islamist regime coming to power, suspicions arose about Iran's nuclear intentions despite its near-immediate signature in 1968, of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. After the revolution and withdrawal of foreign supports, Iran's nuclear program may have staggered, but in 2002, it was revealed to the public that Iran had continued clandestine development since at least the mid-1980s (which happens to be the time that Israel's nuclear capabilities were publicized), though this was no surprise to U.S. intelligence.

Even after significant investigation and disclosure the IAEA, which is charged with upholding the NPT, deplored continued lack of transparency and felt that it could not certify Iran's nuclear program as entirely civilian. According to a 2007, U.S. National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), it is likely that Iran was attempting to develop nuclear weapons until 2003, when it was halted due to international pressure and the Iraq War. This Estimate was, according to The Cable, superseded by the (classified) 2011 NIE that purportedly focused much more on the threat posed by enrichment alone. The 2010 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review Report stated that Iran's behavior had destabilized the region and could lead to an arms race, though there is no mention of Israel's yet-unacknowledged nuclear stockpile anywhere in the document. In its latest report on Iran, the IAEA reiterated its concern for the program's "possible military dimensions." The Agency claims to have received and collected intelligence that would point to a nuclear weapons program, such as modeling of nuclear explosions, high uranium enrichment, and development of detonators and "neutron initiators," small capsules with the potential to spark a nuclear reaction if compressed. Appended to this report is a graphic showing that the Agency regards Iran's nuclear payload capability to be "likely," the highest rating possible.

Since 2006, the UN Security Council has passed several resolutions on non-proliferation, calling bans on several categories of material, as well as a travel ban and assets freeze on various Iranian organizations and individuals. These have been repeated in several nations, including the U.S., which has pursued sanctions on Iran for decades. In essence, Iran's lack of transparency, in violation of the NPT and relevant agreements, is alarming to many, particularly those such as the U.S. and Israel. While it is reasonable to enforce an international treaty, it must also be done in a responsible manner so as not to harm the people of the nation. A nuclear-free world is the ideal, but many of the main actors in this situation fail to live up to it.

Sex AND THE Campus

The Key to Any Relationship

Jill Mahler

Editor-in-Chief

When it comes to relationships, there is a lot to be said about what you should and should not do. However, when you get down to the bottom of things, there is only one principle that can make or break a relationship. Communication. The communication in your relationship is a barometer to how healthy it is. It seems like a simple concept, but for many relationships this is one of the hardest challenges they face. Needless to say it is one of the most important fundamentals and can help turn back a relationship from the brink of separation. So why is it the area where couples tend to lack in if it's one of the most critical?

Whether it is saying I love you more than on special occasions or learning how to communicate effectively during a fight, there are

a few areas every relationship could improve in.

First, knowing how to listen is half the battle. One common conflict occurs when women vent to their significant other. Men treat the problem how they would in their own way by trying to fix it, as if it was a broken machine. For women, just being able to talk about the issues is how they work through them. Women are social creatures by their nature, unlike men, who prefer to ask other men when they want to know how to solve issues. Other times, a man finds the clarity he needs by retreating within himself; letting other matters take the stress off his mind.

Women might benefit from allowing men the alone time they need to deal with issues in their own way.

Go online to read the rest of the article at:
<http://wp.mc/p14GZu-4UN>

New Laws of 2012

What It Will Cost You

Dale Hummel

Contributing Writer

Ah yes, it's that magical time on the calendar when things have started over and we receive a "second chance," if you will. It's the New Year. Students weren't the only ones busy last year. Our elected officials in Salem also had their noses to the grindstone to bring us the new laws for the 2012 model year.

As with all laws, some seem quite legitimate and useful for the safety of the public, while to others it may appear to be a huge waste of taxpayer time and money.

Hundreds of new laws went into effect in Oregon on Jan. 1 of 2012, according to TDN.com. A few of them could affect the life of college students and their pursuit of higher education or just a good time.

A modification law on drinking and driving is back. Anyone who has been convicted of driving

while intoxicated will need to use a computerized breathalyzer in order to start their vehicle. The price of installation of the analyzer would be about \$75 and \$50 to \$75 a month to monitor the device. The penalties and fees for this infraction, as of the new year, have gone up from \$391 to \$591. It would be a very expensive hangover.

The "cell phone while driving" law has also been changed. As of Dec. 31, 2009, there was a loophole in the law.

You could talk on a cell phone and drive if the call was directly related to your business. As of Jan. 1 of this year, that loophole no longer exists. The only people who can use wireless devices, while driving now are first responders, tow truck drivers, licensed operators, and utility workers. No more checking the LBCC baseball and basketball scores while behind the wheel. You can be fined \$142 if you are caught!

A couple of new laws help kids in

foster care and veterans. Children in foster care in Oregon will be eligible for free tuition in Oregon colleges. To help out those brave souls who have proudly served our country, a new law helps veterans find work. The law requires public employers to give interviews to vets looking for civil service positions. Yeah! One for the troops!

And finally, some good news for those students trying to pay their way through college the "old fashioned" way. It will be good news to hear of the rise of the minimum wage. It has gone up from \$8.50 to \$8.80, as www.examiner.com tells us.

Whether the government is trying to overload us with meaningless laws in a sad attempt to pick our pockets, or someone in Salem got it right with some much-needed guidelines to help improve our lives, ready or not, here they are. To see more information on the new laws that came into effect on Jan. 1 in Oregon and other states, go to www.ncsl.org.

Advice from Weiss

Question: I just started in fall quarter and I've already lost my financial aid. I got a 3.0 GPA, so I don't really get it. I guess it has to do with not finishing my math class, but it's not like I flunked it. I got a WP, which is supposed to mean "Work in progress." So now I'm out of school until at least spring quarter. It's pretty upsetting.



Mark Weiss
Counselor

Answer: It is upsetting, and I'm sorry this happened to you. It happened to a lot of other students, as well. Financial Aid rules changed this year, and the new, tighter regulations have caught a lot of students and faculty by surprise. You now can lose your aid in your first term by not finishing one or more classes.

Financial aid has always demanded that students complete a high percentage of classes, but they used to have two or three "grace periods" when a student started. Now we really don't have "grace periods," where if a student doesn't complete classes they get a warning. Now they are removed from aid and have to petition to get their aid back.

And that's the good news. You can petition to get your aid back, and you should. Immediately.

You can download a "financial aid appeals petition" from the financial aid website. Just go to the LBCC homepage, click on "financial aid," and click on "forms and applications." The form will call for you to write down what the problem was and what you think the solution will be, so that you can complete all your classes. You'll also need to make a two-term plan with an adviser (a teacher, if you have a major. A counselor if you are undecided).

People are often surprised that when they get a non-punitive grade, like a WP or an incomplete, that it can hurt their financial aid. But financial aid, like the college as a whole, is all about completion. If you sign up for a class, and don't drop it in the first two weeks, they expect you to complete it. The only grace period any student should count on is the first two weeks of the term. Once we get past that point, you are locked in and you really

need to believe you can finish everything you've got. If life circumstances stop you from finishing all your classes, then you may have a good chance with a petition, but "completion" is the new maxim, at LBCC and every other college.

Question: I've been going to LB for almost a year. I thought I wanted to go into health care, but some of those classes haven't worked out for me. So, I need to do something, how can I figure out a new way to go?

Answer: LBCC provides Career Counselors and Career and Academic Specialists to help students who have become undecided about their major and the world of work. The counselors (and I am one of that team) would meet with you, help clarify what it is that you want, what has worked for you so far, what has not worked well, and how to use what you've got to start something new. Our goal is to get you a new goal, a new dream.

Career and Academic Specialists can do Career Testing, to show what professions and occupations you match up with. They also can help you with Career Information, showing you how to check out how much different jobs pay, what the employment outlook is, what kind of training you need for a job, where the training is, etc.

My two cents worth is to start with some career testing and information and then make an appointment to see a counselor, who can help you synthesize and make decisions based on the information you get out of career testing and information searches.

At the Albany campus, come to the 1st Stop Center in Takena Hall and ask for an appointment with Carla, Marci, or Janeen. Janeen also does appointments in Lebanon. At the Benton Center, you could ask for Molly. And then do a follow up with a counselor. We really can help you find a new path.

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. The purpose of this column is to answer students' questions about the college, academic advising, and how to be successful at LBCC. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

OPINION



Dear Conscience, Does money buy happiness?

Jill Mahler

Shoulder Devil

Is hell hot? Do little kids in Uganda eat sticks? Duh, money does buy happiness. If everyone had money, this world would be full of people with no financial qualms, living freely and ... giving – I shudder at the thought. That is why this world is composed of haves and have-nots, as in people with slaves – I mean personal assistants – or people who use their children as their slaves. The unhappiness of the world is by design. I got to keep busy; people are making it really easy on me these days.

For the hopeful and equal parts annoying people out there, let's just think about what you could buy with money. I like to imagine myself on a yacht somewhere, sipping on a Bisco Sour, but that's me. What could you buy that your little heart can't live without? How about a nice automatic weapon? I know I would like that – something with target assistance, so I could rid myself of a pesky little angel.

Some less ambitious pursuits could be moving far away from relatives or restarting the seal-clubbing industry. Most people spend their extra dimes on material possessions, which is a good start, but they need to think bigger. They need to challenge their thinking, such as a nice lifetime supply of sweet cocaine or a personal militia.

Guess who appreciates the old cliché of "money can't buy happiness." Poor people. If you want to be happy, don't bother trying to earn money the 9-5 way. By the time you have money, you'll be spending it on a social security scam, dentures, and a catheter. If you want it now, remember to go big or go home. The monkey that climbs out to the farthest branch gets the best fruit (before they fall to their death).

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

Material possessions should never be more important than a healthy mind, body, and spirit. There is great joy and fulfillment in befriending kind people, partaking in enriching hobbies, and participating in charitable activities.

When happiness blooms from within a special place in your heart – from your core being – your presence inspires great things in this world.

You smile more, you sing more, your cheeks are a rosy red. You're excited not only to tackle the day, but to engulf it! You wake up two hours early in order to watch the sun rise over the hills. And you don't have a cup of coffee in your hands, because mornings are no longer drenched in harming stimulants like caffeine!

But wait, there's more: Your radiant glow attracts those around you, and guess what, they want a taste! How wonderful and special it is to be joyful and serene and, well, marvelous!

Now, excluding material possessions and their harmful, controlling grasp on people, money can buy happiness in a sense that it's a currency for purchasing necessities. Without food, people starve. Without medical treatment, people become ill and may die. Without schools, teachers, and school supplies, people may not receive an education. You get the point.

I wish we lived in a world where people were generous enough to just give things away for free! But alas, we live in a world where goods and services cost money, and without these necessities, life would be much harder to enjoy.

SOPA/ PIPA Postponed, Not Forgotten



Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

Voting on both SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect IP Act) became postponed "indefinitely" following Internet blackout protests last Wednesday, which largely spawned from Wikipedia's decision to go dark.

Many critics on the supporting end of both SOPA and PIPA initially withdrew with disgust, including Senator Chris Dodd, chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Dodd accused the blackout attempts of being "yet another gimmick, albeit a dangerous one, designed to punish elected and administration officials, who are working diligently to protect American jobs from foreign criminals."

And what does Dodd do after the Senate's decision to freeze PIPA, and after Senator Lamar Smith's move that shelved SOPA "indefinitely" instead of pushing

to vote in February?

He switches his views on the matter, comparing the movement to the Arab Spring, a classic move for rotten politicians famous for supporting one-sided authoritarian agendas.

Messages like "SOPA and PIPA are dead" echoed across the internet, and supporters for a free internet joined together to celebrate the occasion. Regardless, we shouldn't let our guard down just yet.

Both the Senate and House's versions of these bills were suspended, but there's no guarantee that organizations like the MPAA and Entertainment Software Association (ESA) will simply lobby for yet another extreme solution – and this time, they know what they're up against. For all we know, the MPAA and ESA are regrouping to create stealthier plans. Even SOPA and PIPA remained outside of the public eye for a scary amount of time.

Overall, we still have great reasons to celebrate: democracy proved itself in a society seemingly

manipulated by systems dependent on cash flow and special interest. Many individuals, who might not have come together otherwise, joined forces in stopping one of the greatest threats to ever face free speech.

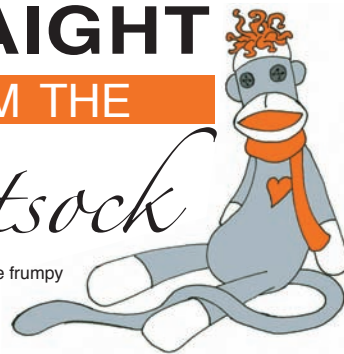
There's still much to be done. Our next step and greatest sight of hope to destroy SOPA and PIPA once and for all is in the form of the OPEN Act (Online Protection and Enforcement of Digital Trade Act) introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa of California. Not only is OPEN an excellent alternative to the SOPA/ PIPA disaster for the web, but it was created by concerned users on the web.

Regardless of the piracy problem, the last thing we'll ever want is free speech regulated by mass media conglomerates. But thanks to millions of united internet users, creative writers and artists will continue expressing their inspiring, comical, and dramatic visions with the entire world. We all have the power to make a difference, and assure that our freedoms remain protected.

STRAIGHT FROM THE

Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy sock monkey



Jennifer M. Hartsock

Opinion Editor

Last Thursday in Early American Literature, the class conducted a (potentially scary and nasty, that was instead beautiful and enlightening) discussion on the puritans, pilgrims and the settlers of the "New World."

Eventually, William Bradford found himself in our discussion, a puritan who believed in Calvinism – the belief that God has predestined certain souls to heaven and certain souls to hell.

Our instructor, Robin Havenick, asked us to elaborate.

Yikes, a discussion on religion? I prepared for the inevitably tense, and perhaps defensive, conversation that was yet to come. We would have hair-pulling, raised voices, and perhaps a "You're a heathen!" thrown in here and there. Before long, we would relive our history, and our words would be just as gruesome as the first American religious folks onlooking the Native Americans.

And yet something else unfolded before us. Something very special.

As students speculated about the first European travelers to America, strangers and acquaintances taught the class different religious views. Each explanation was well delivered and well understood. Our own ideology was

welcomed, fully listened to and considered.

People's faces lit up.

Side conversations sparked new ideas and brand-new directions of conversation. We ran down to the last minutes of class, eager to get in just one more word, one more nod of someone else's head. A "Yes, I agree," or a "Hold on, what about this?"

What can cause tension and boundaries between many people undoubtedly brought us closer together – all because of a willingness to speak respectfully and to listen objectively to each other.

For the duration of only two hours, we realized when discussions on religion are approached with an open mind, a want to understand and a respectful and courteous approach, we can truly create an inspiring environment. This is possible when theology ceases to blind us, and we see the goodness in other forms of faith.

When a Buddhist and a Christian realize they have love and compassion in common.

When the nonreligious and the religious sit in the same room and find some sort of appreciation in each other.

When the fundamentalist finds value in science and how medicine can enhance our standard of living.

When the naturalist finds wisdom in religious teachings.

When we choose to disagree and actually know what we're disagreeing about.

When we accept having preconceived notions about other ideologies and seek to eliminate all ignorance and prejudices.

When different methods of existing no longer threaten us, but offer a door to a different, and perhaps worthy, approach to our own devotion.

In an English Lit. classroom of all sorts of differences, we were able to create such an environment. This is a world I want to live in.

Have questions? We have answers.

We offer advice on ANY topic from two different points of view. Send your questions to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

"Dear Conscience" does not necessarily reflect the views of any of The Commuter staff.

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats



Soderbergh Goes "Haywire"

Ian Butcher

Contributing Writer

Want to see a totally unoriginal action film that you think you've seen before but it turns out is actually a lot of fun? Then look no further than "Haywire."

"Haywire" is a great example of how a talented director can really elevate the material he has to work with. Director Steven Soderbergh (Ocean's Eleven, The Informant, Contagion) brings his own energetic style and wit to a film that on paper just looks like any old action film you'd find playing on TNT on a Saturday afternoon.

You've seen it all before: spy gets betrayed by agency, spy promptly turns around and goes on a quest to clear her name and bring those responsible to justice (I think Matt Damon was in at least three of those movies). What this film lacks in narrative originality, it makes up for in just about every other category. So I think I can give them a pass for a rather been-there, done-that story.

Soderbergh seems to share my nostalgia for the old-school style of action film making. All of the film's many fight scenes are shot without any kinds of shaky cam or flashy editing; they are straight to the point and effective. People brutally beat the tar out of each other as the camera stays perfectly still and just lets the action play out.

There are also some pretty gloriously brutal moments in this film that recall the best moments of Liam Neeson taking names in "Taken."

The action is just really engaging and a lot of fun to watch. This, combined with the brisk pace that this 90 minute film moves at, as well as the surprising amount of A-List talent in the cast, makes for a really fun time at the movies and a solid spy thriller.

All in all, "Haywire" is a lot better than the trailers would lead you to believe, and in spite of a story you have seen before, the film is really a lot of fun and is one of the more exciting and just plain enjoyable action films to come out in recent memory. Overall I would have to give "Haywire" a surprisingly enthusiastic 4 out of 5.



Yesenia Espailat
Contributing Writer

have the largest selection of coupons versus your local newspaper.

Sunday papers have traditionally been, and still are, the best source for coupons. Sunday papers come supplied with glossy booklets officially known as inserts, which pack hundreds of dollars worth of savings in manufacturer and store coupons.

Below are tips and tricks that will help you save big money using your Sunday paper.

Know Your Inserts

General inserts occur weekly and carry manufacturer coupons, as well as grocery store coupons. These inserts include:

- Red Plum
- Smart Source

Manufacturer-specific inserts occur monthly and carry coupons for that manufacturer's brand only. These inserts include:

- General Mills
- P&G brandSAVER (Proctor & Gamble)

Don't forget to check your newspaper's magazines for coupons. The type of magazine inserted in your newspaper will vary by region. These magazines include:

- Parade Magazine
- USA Weekend

Although inserts are generally included in every newspaper, there are some exceptions (like major holidays, for example). For a complete insert schedule and a sneak preview of coupons in the upcoming Sunday paper, you can go to www.sundaycouponpreview.com or www.couponinsertspreview.com

Buy the biggest newspaper in your area.

Big city newspapers, like The Oregonian, will always

Buy Multiple Newspapers.

The general rule of thumb in the couponing world is to buy at least one Sunday paper for every person in your family. Why? Because when a sale for toothpaste rolls around, you'll be able to stock up on four free tubes of toothpaste, instead of one. The extra expense is worth it, when you consider that every newspaper you buy has anywhere from \$200-\$500 dollars worth of savings.

Buy your newspapers from your local dollar store to save money.

The cost is \$1 - half the cost of convenience store prices of \$2 or above. When buying multiple newspapers, the savings add up.

Need more coupons for that big sale? Use a coupon clipping service!

Coupon clipping services sell whole inserts and clipped coupons from newspapers for a small handling fee. Using a clipping service is great way to stock up on coupons for your favorite products. Here are a few of the most popular coupon clipping services available:

- Coupons and Things by Dede (A personal favorite)
www.couponsthingsbydede.com
- The Coupon Clippers
www.thecouponclippers.com
- The Coupon Master
www.thecouponmaster.com

You don't have to use your coupons all at once. Coupons found in the Sunday paper typically don't expire for two to three months from their release date. If you wait to combine your coupons with sales, you'll get the biggest bang for your buck.

Bonus Tip

Find Even More Savings in Magazines

Some magazines that regularly include manufacturer coupons in their issues are: Cooking Light, Every Day with Rachel Ray, Family Circle, First For Women, Good Housekeeping, Parents, Real Simple, Redbook, Shape, and Weight Watchers.

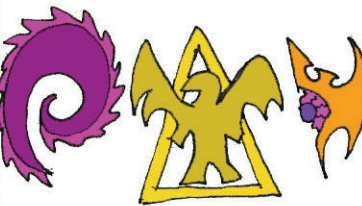
All You Magazine, found exclusively at Wal-Mart or through a subscription, is a favorite among couponers - it offers over \$50 worth of coupons in every issue.

Gamer's Log: StarCraft 2

Mason Le Britton © 2012
Groovysweet.wordpress.com



StarCraft 2 is a real-time strategy game. It came out in 2010, but is still going strong due to MLG competitions. (Major League Gaming)



There are three races to choose from, each with their own strengths and tactics.




The Terrans are an army of super soldiers, who make use of their war machines by turtling up.



Protoss are high-tech, ruthless warriors, but they use robots to fill their army.



The Zerg rely on superior numbers. These creepy critters love to spread their creep.



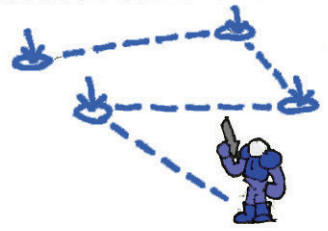
The single-player campaign is for a single player. It might be good, but it does have fewer players.



In multiplayer, you simply collect resources, build an army, and battle it out.



Speed is important. To be competitive, you should be around at least 100 actions per minute.



Macro and micro management is key. Continue upgrading your army, and control them in battle. Simple right?



StarCraft 2 is a lot of fun, but most of my joy comes from watching recorded games with commentary.

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats

Movies to Look Forward to in 2012

Ian Butcher

Contributing Writer

2012 is upon us and that means more movies to grace to silver screen. But with so many big films coming out this year, what are some of the big movies to watch out for?

What are some of Linn-Benton's student body looking forward to? What do they think will be worth checking out this year? Here's a hint, it's "Battleship" (yes the movie based on the board game of the same name). Here's another hint, there are other movies coming out this year besides Batman.

This year's first big release that seems to have everyone excited is "The Hunger Games." The sci fi action film about the youth living in a post apocalyptic, who are forced to fight each other seemed to excite everyone who was interviewed. It seems that most of the student body had all devoured the book in a matter of days and were through the roof excited for the film. For example, one person interviewed, Matt Winnett, a Linn Benton freshman and huge fan of the books, is already looking for a Nerf bow and arrow that he can take with him when the film opens on March 23.



Thor, Captain America, and the rest of the Avengers hit theaters May 4. What other films are you looking forward to this year?

The summer movie season kicks off when the next big film that drew enthusiasm from just about everyone interviewed was "The Avengers." In case you that doesn't sound familiar, this is the big Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, and Captain America crossover film that has been in the making for the last four years. Freshman and big film fan Paul Durbin simply said that the Marvel superhero team up film, "just looks really, really, really cool."

"I've been looking forward to this since the first "Iron Man", Durbin explained.

He's not alone in thinking that the film will be great once it is released on May 4.

Jump forward a couple months farther into the summer and on July 20, the film that Winnett described as causing, "My excitement level (is) so over 9,000 right now it's ridiculous" is released. "The Dark Knight Rises" picks up eight years after the last film as Bruce Wayne must come out of retirement and become Batman one last time to stop the terrorist Bane from destroying Gotham. The film promises to end Christopher Nolan's Batman

trilogy on a satisfactory note and it sure seems like all the fans are hoping for that as well.

"I am so excited for this it's not even funny", freshman and education Major Michelle Lee explained, "If this movie sucks I might just kill someone."

"Yes, yes, yes, yes", was all LB freshman and die hard Batman fan Jony Duran had to say.

Finally, the last major release of the year that got a serious rise out of everyone is "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" coming out on December 14. The film follows the early adventures of Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf 50 years before the start of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Duran summed up the film best as "Lord of the Rings but more."

"That's something that I'm really excited for and am pretty sure it'll be great", Durbin explained.

"Every movie that is not "Twilight" and has been in two parts has been great. Which means, well you know", Winnett said.

So it seems that there are more than a few movies coming out this year that people are optimistic for. It also seems that more wallets will be emptied out as the year progresses. But as 2012 begins, what movie are you most looking forward to?

Movie Calendar

The Hunger Games (3-23)
Young people fighting to the death

Wrath of the Titans (3-30)
The battle for more money

The Avengers 5-4)
Big Marvel team-up
Battleship (5-18)
The death of original ideas

Prometheus (6-8)
Prequel to 1979's "Alien"

The Amazing Spider-Man (7-4)

The movie you saw 10 years ago, but with better-looking stars

The Dark Knight Rises (7-20)
Epic Batman finale

The Hobbit (12-14)
The Lord of the Rings, the early years

**Dates subject to change*

Earn Your Degree in Bend

Oregon State University - Cascades



Application Deadlines

Priority Fall Admissions
February 1

Priority Financial Aid
February 28

OSU-Cascades Scholarship
March 31

OSU-Cascades is a small university, powered by the resources of Oregon State University. Here, students find the excellence, resources and lifelong advantages of a premier research university, and a personalized, small-campus learning experience.

Transfer your community college credits to one of 14 degree programs, including Business, Liberal Studies, Tourism and Outdoor Leadership, and Exercise and Sport Science.

OSUcascades.edu | facebook.com/osucascades

OSU | Cascades



NORTH CORVALLIS
29th & Grant
(541)452-3115
Open 7-9 Daily

SOUTH CORVALLIS
1007 SE 3rd
(541)753-3115
Open 7-9 Daily

www.firstalt.coop

BUY 10 GET ONE FREE!

NEW! Frequent Buyer cards for coffee, muffins & scones, and oatmeal...

Saves you time and money!



http://rhythmandbrewscafe.com/

RHYTHM & BREWS

LIVE COFFEE & MUSIC

Rhythm and Brews Coffee House
A Great Place To Study
Hang Out With Friends

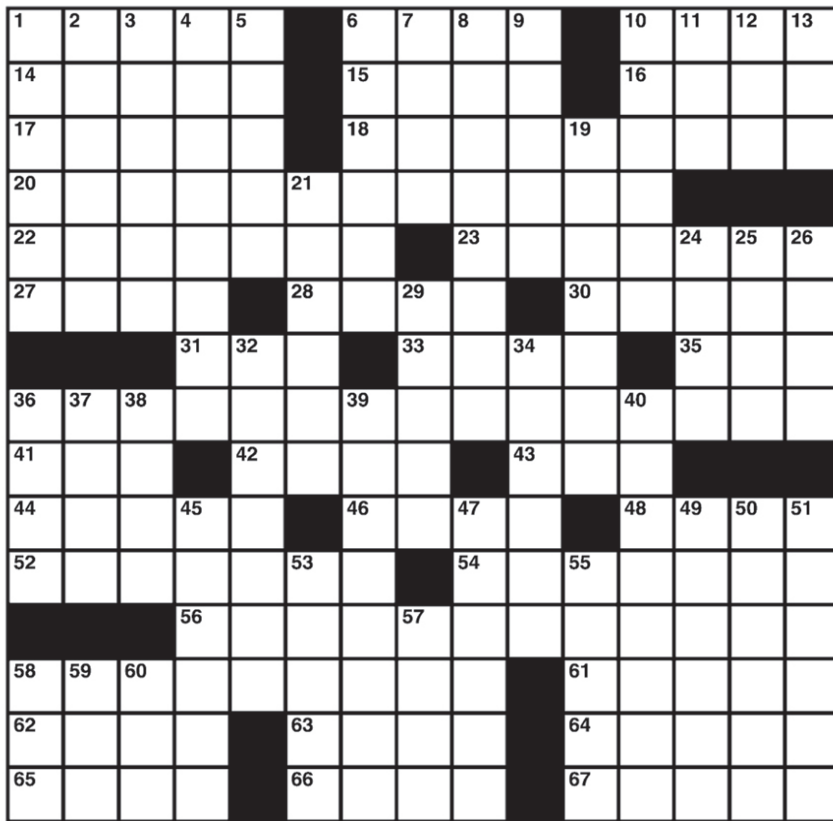
Show Your Student ID and Receive **10% Off** All Coffee Drinks

Espresso Drinks, Scones, Muffins, Bagels
Loose Leaf Teas, Sandwiches and more

Open 7:30am til 9pm Mon-Fri
Open 9am til 9pm Saturday

We are located at 229 3rd St SW in Albany,
Just behind City Hall and half a block down
3rd off of Ellsworth St.
541-924-5668

- ACROSS**
- 1 Taylor of "The Nanny"
 - 6 Roof projection
 - 10 Patsies
 - 14 Are
 - 15 "Star Wars" royalty
 - 16 Had bills
 - 17 Senate minority leader McConnell
 - 18 Enchilada wraps
 - 20 2002 #1 hit for rapper Ja Rule
 - 22 Lake Wobegon creator
 - 23 Without any help
 - 27 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
 - 28 "___ Cop": 1987 film
 - 30 Sugar coating
 - 31 Thrice, in Rx's
 - 33 Bone: Pref.
 - 35 Rural area
 - 36 1989 #1 hit for Paula Abdul
 - 41 Milne marsupial
 - 42 Airline to Ben-Gurion
 - 43 1950s-'60s "Man on the Street" comic Louis
 - 44 Radio station alert sign
 - 46 Academia VIP
 - 48 Apt. balcony
 - 52 He shared a Nobel Peace Prize with de Klerk
 - 54 Will beneficiary
 - 56 1989 #1 hit for the Bangles
 - 58 Ploy
 - 61 Country singer McCann and others
 - 62 Mil. no-show
 - 63 Heavyweight bout?
 - 64 Blazing
 - 65 Applies lightly
 - 66 Grandson of Eve
 - 67 Hardwood trees



By Allan E. Parrish

- 2 Forces out of the country
- 3 Jerk
- 4 Intensify
- 5 ___ alcohol
- 6 Corrida charger
- 7 Quite a long time
- 8 Master performer
- 9 Dine at home
- 10 Cirque du ___
- 11 Leatherworker's tool
- 12 Potpie veggie
- 13 '60s activist gp.
- 19 Mental pictures
- 21 Chestnut horse
- 24 Mustachioed Spanish surrealist
- 25 Former Israeli president Weizman
- 26 Give out cards
- 29 Peter of "Everybody Loves Raymond"
- 32 City NNE of Seattle
- 34 Prison escape route, perhaps
- 36 Gift tag word
- 37 Chaplin's last wife

Last Week's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 38 Colorful horse
- 39 Speed trap device
- 40 "Mind your own business!"
- 45 Role models, say
- 47 Los ___: Manhattan Project site
- 49 And others: Latin
- 50 Comment
- 51 Popular candy pieces
- 53 Purchase alternative
- 55 F-sharp equivalent
- 57 Verne captain
- 58 Teary-eyed, perhaps
- 59 Pan Am rival
- 60 Take from illegally

BACK *in the* DAY

This day in history ...

January 25, 1942 - The birth of a major superpower
Thailand declared war on the United States and England. Yeah, it was and still is a really slow news day.

January 26, 1979 - Cars, cars, and more cars
"The Dukes of Hazard" premieres. Same sarcastic comment as above.

January 27, 1888 - Knowledge is power
That National Geographic society is founded in Washington, D.C. We now know who to blame for all those episodes of "Taboo" that can never be erased from the public conscienceness.

January 28, 1985 - We are the world
American musicians get together to collaborate on the "We Are the World" project. Look it up, kids.

January 29, 1922 - Make your way to the exits
Accumulated snowfall causes a Washington theater to collapse. "Spider-man: Turn off the Dark" can never catch a break.

January 30, 1933 - Nice one guys
Adolf Hitler is named chancellor of Germany.

January 31, 1990 - I'm loving it?
The first McDonald's opens in the Soviet Union, thereby giving the Russians the two best things America has to offer: capitalism and diabetes.

Unplanned pregnancy? Take control.

Options PRC is committed to providing accurate information and compassionate care to those facing unplanned pregnancies.

We offer **free**, confidential services including:

- ✓ Pregnancy test
- ✓ Information on your options
- ✓ Local physician referrals
- ✓ Limited obstetrical ultrasound

Take control of your unplanned pregnancy.

Corvallis 541.758.3662 **Albany** 541.924.0160

possiblypregnant.org

options
Pregnancy Resource Centers



An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

Mason Le Britton © 2012

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats

Streep Impresses as "The Iron Lady"

Cory Warren
Contributing Writer

In the past few years, we have seen many studios take up biographical films of important figures, and "The Iron Lady," a film directed by Phyllida Lloyd ("Mamma Mia"), follows the notable first female prime minister of Britain, Margret Thatcher.

Meryl Streep shines in the roll of Thatcher; sadly, however, the script of the film does not.

The film itself moves back and forth between various periods of Margret Thatcher's life, putting emphasis on her in the present day as she flashes back to her time as a young woman during the German bombing of the British Isles in the midst of World War II, her time in the House of Commons, and her tenure as prime minister. It is, for the most part, typical biopic fare.

However, one would expect that a historical biography would stick to the facts as closely as possible in hopes of presenting an informative reality. "The Iron Lady," while somewhat accurate in the portrayal of Margret Thatcher in flashbacks, suffers from the problem of creating an invented, unsubstantiated reality during their portrayal of the aging Thatcher in the present.

They have chosen to portray Margret Thatcher as a mentally and emotionally unstable borderline schizophrenic, who spends most of her time hallucinating that her dead husband is in the room with her, talking to her. This adds a disturbing layer to the film. Though Mrs. Thatcher in the past has had health problems due to age, there is no public evidence that she has suffered such mental degradation. This portrayal made for an uncomfortable watching experience, as it seemed to be an inappropriate way to diminish Mrs. Thatcher, making her seem almost comical for all the wrong reasons.

Part way through the film, we see her snap, and run around turning on every loud appliance, trying to drown out her dead husband's voice, played by Jim Broadbent ("Moulin Rouge," "Bridget Jones's Diary," "Harry Potter"). This moment was painful to watch, not because of what was happening in the scene, but because it is a purely imagined ailment that really does seem meant to make us view her as a doddering, frail old woman who is a danger to herself.

The film also suffers during flashbacks when they are portraying her as a young woman before her electoral successes. They show little about what motivates her, and the script seems to rush through these scenes as if to get them finished quickly so we can have more time with Meryl Streep. With little chance to see how she came to hold her deep convictions, the impression is given that she just parroted her views from others.

Regardless of whether you revere or revile Margret Thatcher, this film ultimately fails to give us a glimpse into what made her tick, as one might expect, or at least hope, to get from a biographical work. Outside of Meryl Streep's stunning performance, the only other redeeming quality to "The Iron Lady" is that it reminds us that the political arguments are timeless and repetitive, and gives us the opportunity to look to history to see what works, and what does not.



Meryl Streep portrays British Prime Minister Margret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

The Iron Lady | Rated: PG-13 | Runtime: 1 h. 45 m.

Stuck on You

Duct Tape is the Latest Fashion Trend

Carli Gibson
A&L Editor

During these tough times, people are trying to be as fashionable as they can without purchasing new clothes, and just trying to "spice up" what they already have in their closets. Something you wouldn't expect to find in anyone's closet amongst their clothes would be duct tape. So that raises the question, is duct tape really becoming a fashion statement? You better believe it!

Some people believe that Snooki started (or at least set off) this fashion trend, but I'm happy to tell you that she did not. Although I'm sure the day she tweeted a picture of her decorated purse covered in leopard print Duck Tape, plenty of people probably imitated.

Where the fad truly and originally began, we may never know. However, there is one man that we can say is responsible for this era of duct tape fashion.

Keith Drone, 30, is responsible for the website ducttapefashion.com, which is exactly what it sounds like: a website dedicated to fulfilling your everyday needs, be it wallets, flowers, bracelets, backpacks, totes, hats; the list goes on and on, all made of duct tape.

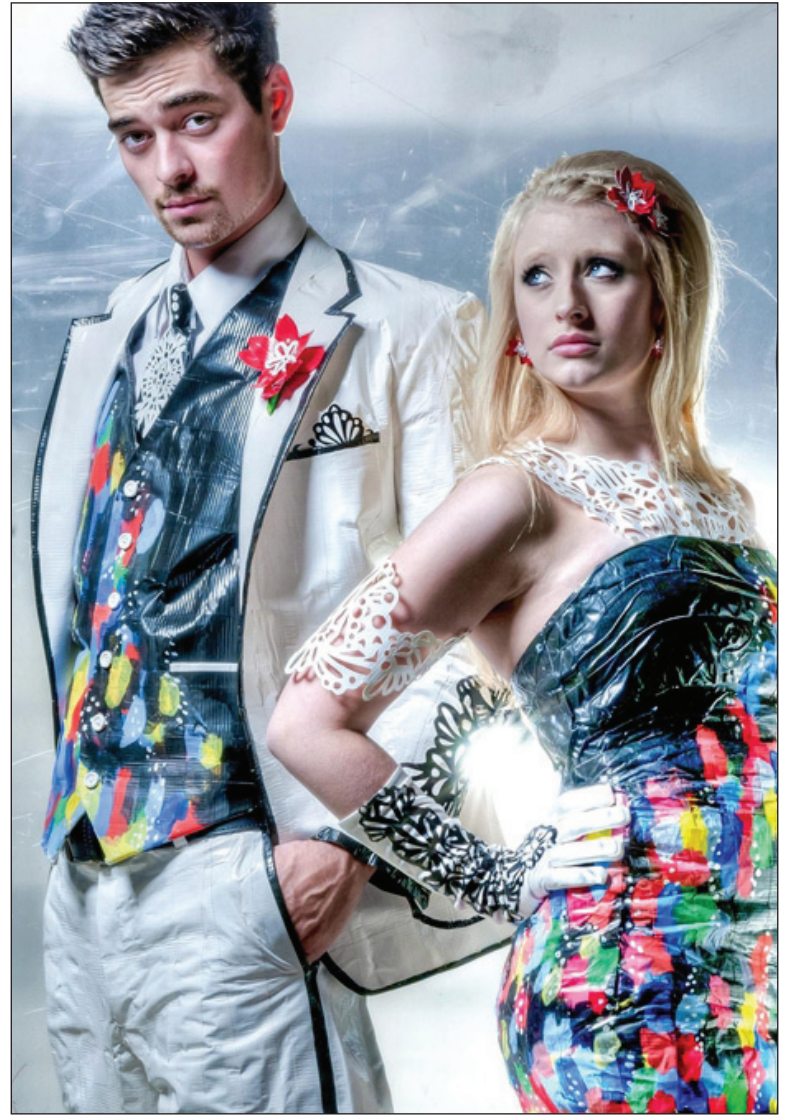
According to an interview he did with Glamour Magazine, Drone not only creates all these products, but even before his website, he wore them.

"For the longest time, it seemed like I was only the one," Drone tells Glamour, "but now it's hard to find any teens who haven't sat down with a roll of duct tape to see what they could do."

Drone's right. What can't you do with duct tape? It's the new bedazzling!

Are your shoes looking old and worn? Duct tape them! Need a bracelet to spice up your ensemble? Fashion one out of duct tape!

But remember, no one uses the boring grey duct tape to make a statement.



duckbrand.com

Lindsay and Jarrid, winners of the 2011 Duck Brand "Stuck at Prom" scholarship contest. It took 95 hours and 57 rolls of duct tape to make their prom fashion.

That must be what the founders of Duck brand duct tape realized when they started their company.

Duck Tape features designed duct tape like zebra print, tie-dye, leopard print, neon colors, camouflage, and even Hello Kitty, but that's just some of what they offer.

And if that isn't enough, Duck also offers a \$5,000 scholarship for the most creative prom dress and tuxedo made entirely of - yup, you guessed it - duct tape. Entries are judged in five different ways: workmanship,

originality, use of color, accessories, and use of duct tape.

Contestants do not take this contest lightly. Each dress and tux are uniquely designed in ways you wouldn't think possible to do with duct tape. From flowers to frills to bowties, these guys think of everything!

Don't let the fun stop at clothes, because you can duct tape anything. I've got a duct taped guitar and switch plate!

Now go! Go out and paint, er, tape the town red!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

 <p>Man on a Ledge Rated: PG-13 Genre: High Crime</p>	 <p>One for the Money Rated: PG-13 Genre: Comedy</p>	 <p>The Grey Rated: R Genre: Survivalist</p>
---	--	---

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com

Samurai Greenhouse Supply

Greenhouse & Indoor Garden Supply
Hydroponics Supplies - Environmental Control
Containers - Soils - Nutrients - Lighting - Seeds
Greenhouses - HID/ Fluorescent Lighting
Residential - Commercial

32067 Hwy 34 Tangent
541-928-3431

www.samuraigreenhousesupply.com