

COMMUNITER

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FORGING THE FUTURE

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THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COMMUTER

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LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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:

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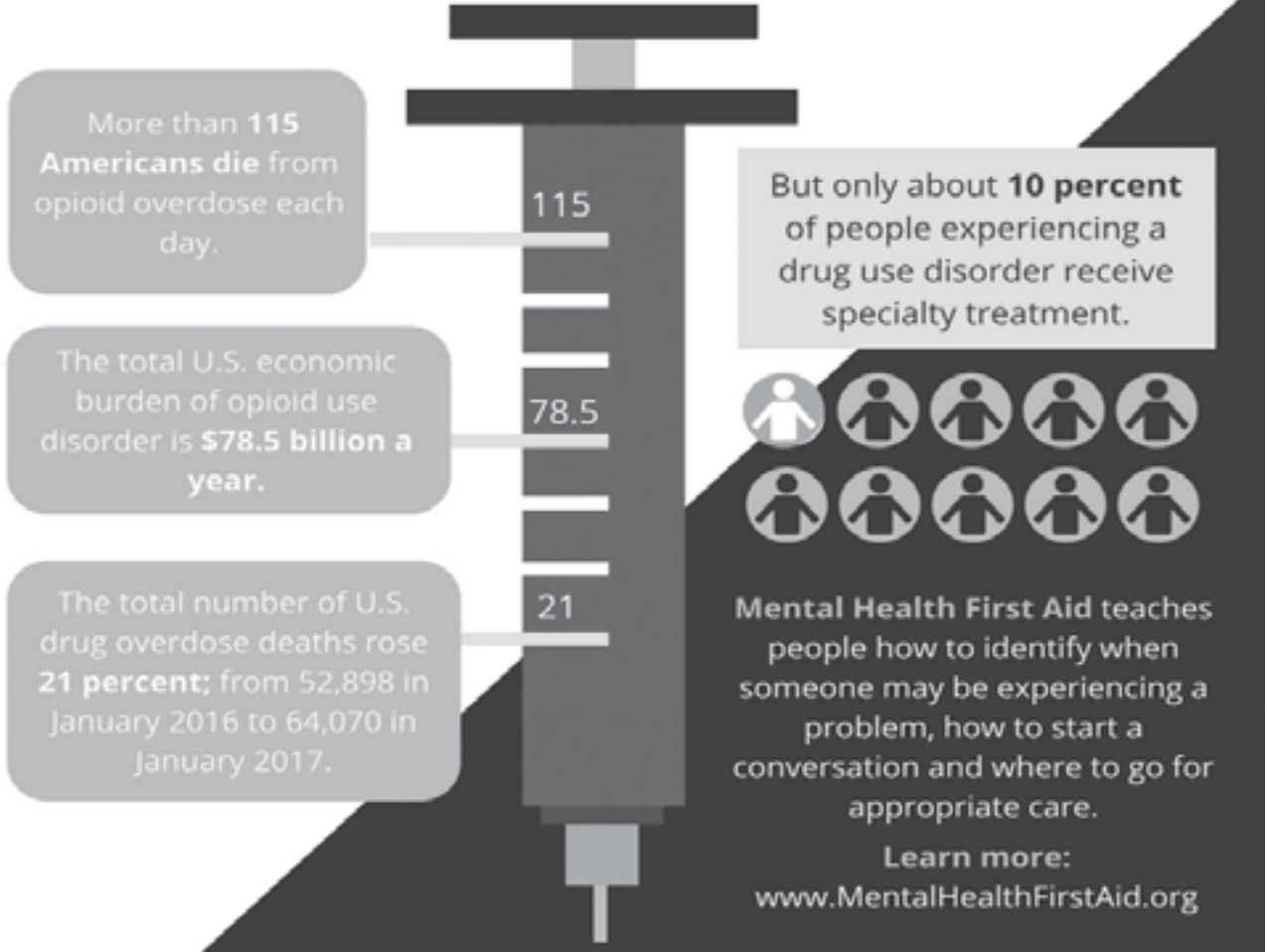
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THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

[WHO IS IT AFFECTING AND HOW CAN WE HELP?]



CAMPUS VOICE

If you could turn anything into an Olympic sport, what would it be?



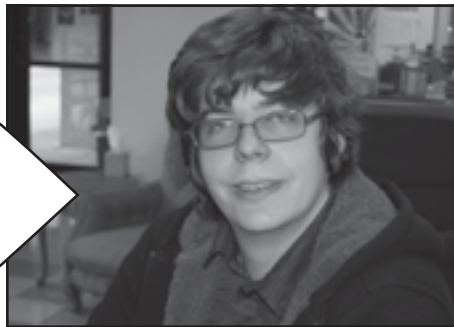
CALEIGH VICKERY
ENGLISH

"THE OLYMPIC SPORT OF SKYDIVING OUT OF A PLANE, RIDING A SHARK INTO A VOLCANO."



MICHAEL TUCKER
MUSIC

"A VIDEO GAME CONTEST...A 'CALL OF DUTY' COMPETITION"



DYLAN BROOKS
COMPUTER SCIENCE

"EXTREME DODGEBALL. THIS INCLUDES EVERY COUNTRY THAT IS PART OF THE OLYMPICS. EACH HAS A 2 MAN TEAM ON THE FIELD AT THE SAME TIME. A PILE OF BALLS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD. THOSE ARE ALL THE RULES."

KYREEN VERGARA
GRAPHIC DESIGN

"A READING CONTEST. YOU WOULD BE GIVEN A BOOK AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME TO GET INTO IT. WHOEVER GETS FURTHEST AND RETAINS WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE BOOK, WINS."



ELIZABETH CRAWFORD
UNDECIDED

"AN ACAPELLA COMPETITION, LIKE IN 'PITCH PERFECT.'"



STORY: BECKY HOWELL & SARAH MELCHER

PHOTOS: CUAHTEMOC REILLY & BECKY HOWELL

I KNEW A WANNABE MASS MURDERER: HERE'S WHAT I LEARNED

In 2013, something was dreadfully wrong with one of my childhood friends. Recently returned from school after a months-long stay at the Trillium Children's Farm Home in Corvallis, the changes were subtle at first, but began to show themselves more as time went by. He talked about the friends he had made there, how some of them had been convicted of violent crimes, how some of them piqued his fascination with weaponry. Then things got worse. He revealed his fascination with the Columbine High School shooters. He bragged about obtaining information on how to construct homemade explosives. He showed us tactical gear and weapon attachments he had obtained. He talked about killing certain teachers and students who had wronged him.

Something was wrong. Something had to be done. So, one evening, I asked my mother for advice. She called a friend who worked with the police department, and I was told to expect more conversations in the morning. Over the next few months, my 17-year-old life was an absolute flurry of activity. First talking to the police, then to school faculty, then to reporters, then to friends and family, then community members. You see, this friend of mine had entire notebooks filled with dozens of contingency plans to carry out a massacre with guns and bombs at our high school. He studied the layout of the school in detail and had an almost exact timeline of events, as well as a list of exactly what he was going to wear. These revelations left our community in shock, and sometimes, I still can't believe just how serious everything was. And every time we hear about another tragic school, people ask me, "What's your take on all this?" I usually stay quiet, or say very little. But this time, I can't.

Having studied what information is available about the shooter in Florida, I can safely draw multiple parallels between him and that old friend of mine. And, no, I will not mention either of their names, for my own reasons. Furthermore, having listened to the testimonies of the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, I can draw many parallels between myself and them as well. So, almost five years later, I am here to tell you exactly what I saw then, and exactly what I see now. This will not be a political polemic. My opinions on guns, mental illness, the NRA, mass media, and what-have-you are not relevant to what I wish to talk about here today.

School Shooters Tend to Have a History of Violence, Particularly Towards Women and Girls

According to one student, interviewed by the New York Times, the Florida shooter had been abusive towards an ex-girlfriend and had been expelled from the school for violent conduct, and was accused by other students and staff of threatening and stalking behavior. This is consistent with many "lone wolf" mass murderers in the United States. According to a study by Everytown Research of all "mass shootings" (as classified by the FBI) from 2009 - 2016, in 54 percent of cases the shooter engaged in domestic or family violence prior to the massacre. You will notice earlier that I mentioned the Trillium Children's Farm Home, but not why my friend was sent there. He had been convicted of attacking and threatening his mother and sister with a knife.

School Shooters Tend to Have a Fascination with Other School Shooters

As mentioned earlier, my friend repeatedly expressed a fascination with the Columbine shooters. Research from Arizona State University and Northeastern Illinois University shows that about 20 to 30 percent of mass shootings are directly inspired by other mass shootings. In 2014, Andre Simons of the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit said, "The copycat phenomenon is real. As more and more notable and tragic events occur, we think we're seeing more compromised, marginalized individuals who are seeking inspiration from those past attacks."

School Shooters Tend to Talk Openly About Their Plans

My friend bragged about having a copy of "The Anarchist Cookbook" and, according to police reports, did, in fact, have homemade bombs under the floorboards in his room. Multiple students at our high school interviewed after his arrest said that he had talked with them casually about constructing explosives. He showed off tactical gear and talked about who he wanted to kill. The Florida shooter was not much different. Multiple reports detail the Florida shooter talking about killing students at the school, and about killing/violence in general, with multiple Instagram photos showing him covered head to toe in weaponry and tactical gear. As early as five months

before the shooting, the killer had written "I'm going to be a professional school shooter" on his own YouTube page. According to Brett Carr, an FBI spokesman, the comment, and the person who made it, were reported to the FBI. The person who made that call, Benjamin Bennight, said two FBI agents spoke with him about it, but that was the end of it. In the aftermath of numerous other mass shootings, people who knew the killers have consistently come forward and said that they saw bizarre behaviors in the shooters which, in hindsight, gave away their intentions. In some cases, such as Columbine, certain students/colleagues were told not to attend school on the day of the massacre.

If You See Something, Say Something!

As someone who lived through the prevention of one of these tragedies, it breaks my heart to hear the testimonies of students, and especially more so to see the many warning signs that made themselves abundantly clear. Please understand that I am not blaming anyone who may have noticed something but didn't act on it. These warning signs are extremely difficult to notice consistently until it is already too late. I certainly didn't expect anything to come of my revelations. I hoped nothing would. But at the same time, I have never regretted my actions for one second. My message to anyone in any situation who is worried about someone being violent towards themselves or someone else, is speak out! If you notice these patterns in anyone you know, speak out! Even if you are wrong, and I hope that you are, no one will blame you for it. People will thank you for having courage and integrity. An oft-repeated mantra is "Better safe than sorry," and there is hardly a time where that is more crucial than in a situation like this. Even though a headline of someone planning mass murder is terrifying, we can all agree that it is, at the end of the day, absolutely more preferable than the heartbreak and pain upon reading of another senseless massacre.

OPINION BY TRUMAN TEMPLETON

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- Registration in CWE program at LBCC
- Prefer a one-year or longer commitment

QUESTIONS???

Contact: **Lena Carr** at cwe@linnbenton.edu with questions
www.linnbenton.edu/cwe



FORGING THE FUTURE

PHOTO: ELIJAH MANG

New students honored in third annual CTE Signing Day

Seated in the Forum of LBCC's Albany Campus, 97 potential students of the Certified Technical Education programs sat waiting. Their moment to touch pen to paper, to sign their name, and to document a commitment to receive training in one of the 14 trade programs offered by LBCC.

Many haven't graduated high school yet, but have laid their stake in the future of America's infrastructure.

On Feb. 15, LBCC held the third annual CTE Signing Day in the college's history. Hosting parents and prospective students, LBCC was one of 55 schools to participate in National Signing Day, intended to provide students with a sense of opportunity and importance in their future. There are many more jobs in CTE fields than employees to fill those jobs.

"They are bursting at the seams around here. We have more jobs than we have people. The businesses in the area are estimating that they are going to have a thousand new job positions within the next 4 to 5 years for skilled laborers. Especially, in the world of manufacturing and medical health," said LBCC Cooperative Work Experience Coordinator David Bird.

With manufacturing making a comeback within the United States, the push for businesses to fill valuable positions in growing industries has been gaining strength the last three years. Coinciding with the NFL's National Signing Day, CTE Signing Day is a way for America to

honor the value of individuals willing to strap on their boots or put on a pair of scrubs and go to work for the future of our nation.

"CTE is also worthy of a signing day. How do we bring more excitement to jobs that are going to help fill the skills gap? How are we going to build tomorrow as a better country? You guys are the answer," said Alex Brookhouse, NC3 Program Manager and Instructor Coordinator.

Starting three years ago, Signing Day began as NC3 Signing day. It included students enlisting to become educated in the automotive field. It then changed a year later to CTE Signing Day which provided more recruitment for LBCC, covering other essential trades such as healthcare and industrial programs.

The first year of Signing Day, saw three training facilities take part, the next year, there was 15, this year, 55 community colleges and trade schools from over 17 states took hand. Next year, for CTE Signing Day, coordinators, industry professionals, and instructors would like to see all 50 states across the U.S. take part.

CTE Signing Day, was a day not only for prospective students to be honored in their commitment by faculty of LBCC, but it was also a day in which their future industries could show appreciation. Twenty local sponsors, and six guest speakers from companies such as Snap-On, ATI, Trane, and Mike's Heating and Air,

were there to voice their support of the industry's future employees.

"Next time you're on an airplane and you look out of the window and see the jet, much of what is on that engine is manufactured here [in Albany]," said Lee Weber, President, ATI Specialty Alloys & Components.

With the availability of jobs, and a workforce ready to fill those jobs, CTE has become a destination for students who don't wish to attend a four-year university. Not only are those students seeking a shorter return time on their hard work, but the graduation rate is much higher in many CTE fields than in liberal arts degrees, or any equivalent.


"One of the most important statistics that we have our state to determine how successful CTE programs are, is our graduation rates. Are you all aware that graduation rates are increasing in Oregon for CTE compared to the general population in our schools? Success at graduation is 15.5% higher than the statewide average," said Theresa Richards, Assistant Deputy Superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education.

CTE has a good foundation in Oregon, as well as a future to sustain it. Legislation in Oregon has been able to put funding into programs that provide for future CTE Students, and keep local employers seeking to fill jobs from local institutions.

"This year's grant builds on earlier investments from

Energy Bill Assistance

Do you need help paying your energy bill?



Community Services Consortium will be on LBCC Albany Campus to provide information and services for energy assistance. Please call [541-926-7163](tel:541-926-7163), or stop by the LBCC Student Life & Leadership office Forum 120 to sign up for an appointment.

Schedule List

- Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 - 1 pm to 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018 - 1 pm to 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018 - 1 pm to 5:30 pm

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations

Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. For further information see Board Policy P1015 in our Board Policies and Administrative Rules. Title II, IX, & Section 504: Scott Rolen, CC-108, 541-917-4425; Lynne Cox, T-107B, 541-917-4806, LBCC, Albany, Oregon. To report: linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report





PHOTO: ELIJAH MANG

Oregon legislation, which began in 2011. Then funding again in 2013, 2014, and 2015, to the tune of \$23 million total investing in CTE," said Richards.

Future students and faculty of LBCC are just as excited as industry leaders and education experts about the future of CTE, as well as what CTE Signing Day brings to bear for the future of trade programs at LBCC.

"It's an excellent opportunity for the community to see the industry's outreach," said Barry Payton, Heavy Equipment and Diesel Technology Instructor.

CTE Signing Day is as much about student and their parents, as it is their prospective employers and instructors.

"For me, I think it's important. I work in the CTE field as well, and having my son take advantage of programs in Albany is great. I like these types of occupations, because it's like a family that you go through the same programs with," said Heather Slocum, whose son, Cole Beaty, is attending the CAAD program next fall.

Some CTE students have already attended LBCC and decided later in their education that they were cut out for a trade program.

"I've been here for a term, and just decided what it is I want to do. I'm way more hands on than any other programs can offer," said Zak Nasby, 20, of Newberg.

Some of LBCC's future students argue the same sentiment, looking for a place to put their hands to work.

"I'm ready to get out of high school and start working," said Jacob Rossman, 17, of Lebanon High School.

The most important part of CTE Signing Day is echoed by President Greg Hamann, "The students, they are the future."

STORY BY ALEX GAUB

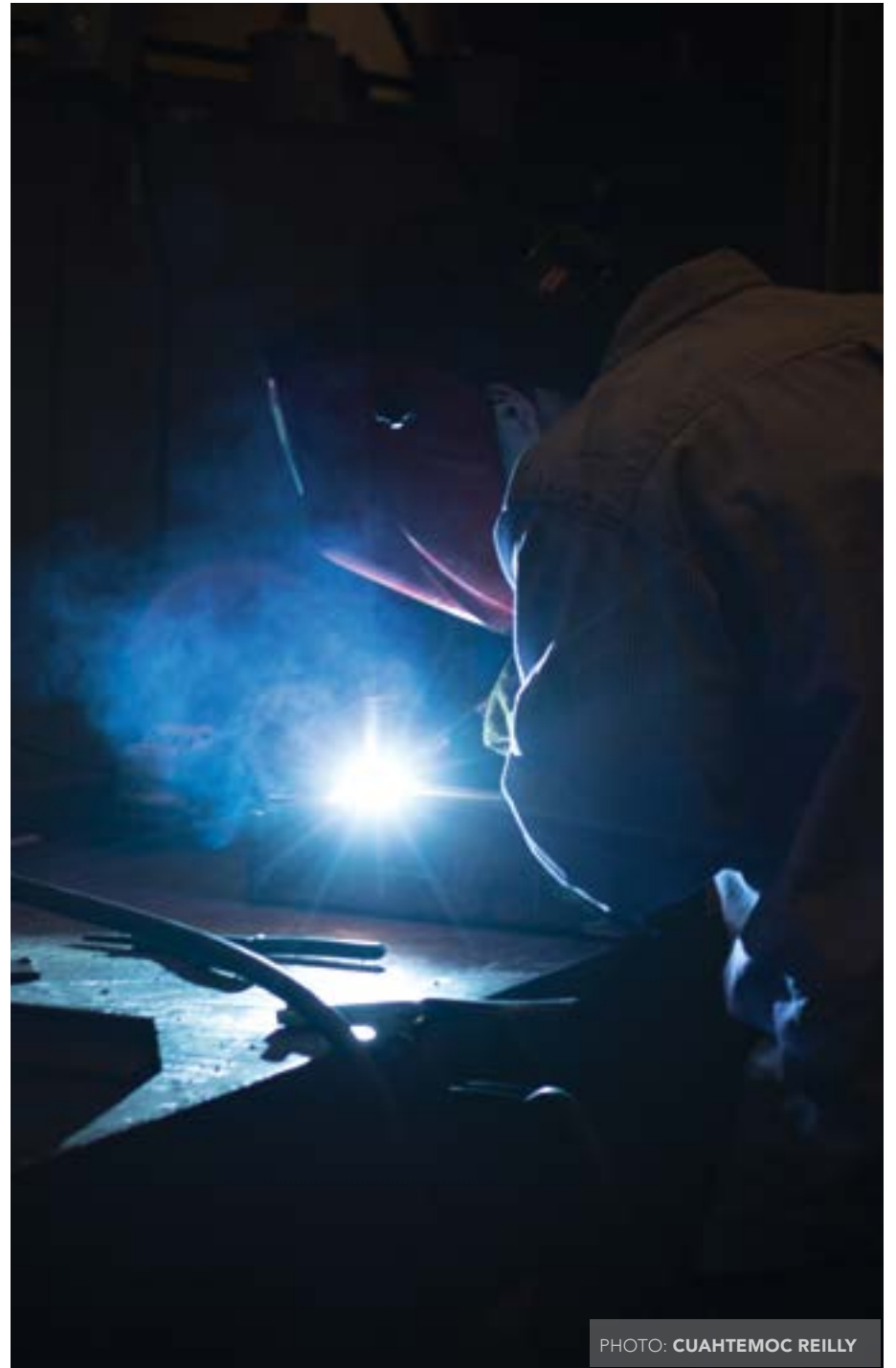


PHOTO: CUAHTEMOC REILLY



PHOTO: ELIJAH MANG

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"BLACK PANTHER" CLAWS TO THE TOP



COURTESY: MARVEL

MOVIE REVIEW:

Marvel's Black Panther

STARRING: Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Martin Freeman and Andy Serkis
DIRECTOR: Ryan Coogler (Based the Marvel Comic by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby)
RATED: PG-13
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

"Black Panther" is the latest installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Director Ryan Coogler has not only delivered another great installment for Phase 3, he has easily crafted one of the best films in the 10-year history of Marvel Studios and the comic book superhero genre as a whole.

The film opens on a prologue that details not only the history of Wakanda and a key event in Oakland, CA in 1992, but plays a large part in this summer's "Avengers: Infinity War." In the film's timeline, one week has passed since the events of "Captain America: Civil War." T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) must not only take his father's place as king, but also take on the mantle as Black Panther to defend his homeland and the world against threats such as Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) and corrupt weapons dealer Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis). Using his skill as a fighter and a host of vibranium-powered weaponry, T'Challa emerges as both warrior and king alongside allies such as his former lover Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o), his bodyguard Okoye (Danai Gurira), and

CIA Agent Everett K. Ross (Martin Freeman) in a stunning landmark for Marvel and easily their best film since "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

As the director of films such as the "Rocky" spinoff "Creed" and the underrated drama gem "Fruitvale Station," Coogler has a great eye for character drama and flashy action alike. On a lavish \$200 million budget, Wakanda makes its mark as one of the most distinct worlds Marvel has crafted over the years. Much like the comic the film is based on, the country blends traditional African tribal motifs with more otherworldly technology and weapons. With spectacular fights in locales such as London and South Korea, the film blends some of the best action scenes in the franchise with a visual flair that would not be out of place in films such as the "James Bond" or "Kingsman" series. Despite arguably being one of the more somber films Marvel has done, it also has a sense of witty humor, thanks to a script Coogler co-wrote alongside Joe Robert Cole.

While the film may not be the first attempt

at a superhero blockbuster with a main cast led by primarily African-American actors; it is easily the biggest landmark for Marvel since the original "Blade" hit theaters in 1998. The film easily ranks alongside the first "Iron Man" and "The Dark Knight" in films that blend blockbuster spectacle with topical allegories for real-world issues. It is a magnificent 134-minute epic that easily does for African-American superhero films what last year's "Wonder Woman" did for female ones.

With the film shattering critical and commercial records, "Black Panther" is a film that is not to be missed. Even with "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Ant-Man & The Wasp" in the wings for this summer, Marvel has easily given us one of their best films yet. "WAKANDA FOREVER!"



STORY BY
 STEVEN PRYOR
 @STEVENPRR2PRYOR

Inaugural
Black History Month
Essay Contest



Contest open to students to examine a piece of African American Literature and express their understanding of the value of "witnessing."

For details:

robin.havenick@linnbenton.edu
mcgheer@linnbenton.edu

Cash prizes awarded, with opportunity to read at the Unity Celebration Feb. 28.

Black History Month Events

Diversity Achievement Center
F-220
Albany Campus
Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

The Beauty of My Black Hair
Wed., Feb. 21
1-3 p.m.



Join us for a panel discussion and workshop on Black Hair.

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations: Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6509 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321. Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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Passing A Ghost:

I passed her on the street last night
 For the first time since last September
 Her gaze was brief and broken
 No longer could she look me in the eye
 Or murmur meaningless niceties
 She had a new girl on her right arm
 But the same man clung to her left
 His eyes cold and deeply embittered
 I couldn't help but smile to myself
 But I felt guilty for my own happiness
 To be able to move on and love fully again
 The new girl stared at her feet the whole time
 No one uttered a word aloud to one another
 The silence was deafening
 I felt an overwhelming urge to apologize
 For bad timing, for lost love, for leaving
 For being a fighter instead of a lover
 But I couldn't find it in myself to feel truly sorry
 I remembered the last days with them
 But I also remember the first days
 The late summer night passions
 The mid-afternoon movies that we never finished
 And the good morning messages we shared
 As she looked at me for that split-second
 I realized I didn't love or miss her at all
 I only loved and missed the memory of her
 And, for the first time
 We truly passed each other as strangers

By: KATELYN BORING

Spanish:

¿Sabes las dos palabras que te abrirán muchas puertas en el mundo?

No. ¿Cuáles son?

Tire y empuje.

—Translation—

English:

Do you know which two words will open a lot of doors for you in the world?

No. What are they?

Pull and push.



2/21 to 2/27

Wednesday 2/21: Kahlua Pork w/Rice & Mac Salad, Grilled Salmon*, Fettucini w/Sauteed Veggies. *Soups:* Italian Sausage*, Potato Leek*. *Salads:* Carnitas, Mexican w/Spinach & Cotija Quesadillas.

Thursday 2/22: Five Spiced Braised Chicken w/Rice*, Spicy Shrimp Stir Fry w/Rice, Green Shakshuka w/Garlic Crostini. *Soups:* Smoked Salmon Cheddar, Curried Eggplant & Zucchini*. *Salads:* Smoked Salmon Caesar w/Hazelnut Crisps, Caesar w/Avocado.

Monday 2/26: Ginger Poached Chicken*, Meatloaf w/Mushroom Gravy, Quinoa Bowl w/Greens*. *Soups:* Egg Flower*, Tomato Basil. *Salads:* Steak and Egg, Grilled Veggie.

Tuesday 2/27: BBQ Chicken Sandwich w/ Coleslaw, Grilled Pork Loin*, Pasta Puttanesca. *Soups:* Cuban Black Bean*, Creamy Coconut Carrot*. *Salads:* Moroccan Chicken OR Falafel.

Monday to Friday - 10 AM - 1:15 PM

* Gluten Free

Family Portrait



By: MICHAEL BECK

Nature's Lessons:

I've never felt compelled to write about the beauty of the earth
 I've never felt the need to capture the beauty in a smile
 Or the waning of the moon.
 The trees will be, with or without me
 So I let them be
 I bask in the presence of beauty constantly
 Living in their moment
 Soaking in their jubilation
 Sharing a certain stillness
 Where a mind can finally rest easily
 where a heart can beat freely
 Where worries rush away, with the currents of the streams;
 that never stop for the minor displacements of its surroundings
 I've always wanted to be like those streams
 So I sit, trying to absorb Nature's Lessons
 Be still like the forest
 But let your mind be as cohesive and chaotic as its ecosystem
 Be consistent, like the evergreens
 Always knowing who you are
 Never giving in to the cold
 Be spontaneous, like the wind
 Keep things interesting, keep them moving.
 Be as free
 Yet as structured
 as the stream,
 Who knows where it's going
 Who carves its own path
 Don't let external displacement
 Disrupt your internal peace
 But again
 I've never felt compelled to write
 About things like these

By: RAVENSHIRE

Spanish:

¿Cuál es mayor, la luna o el sol?

No sé. ¿Cuál?

La luna, porque la dejan salir de noche.

—Translation—

English:

Which is older, the moon or the sun?

I don't know. Which one?

The moon, because they let her go out at night.

LBCC CELEBRATES UNITY

The LBCC Vice Council will host its ninth annual Unity Celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 4:30 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. on LBCC's Albany Campus in the Fireside room, CC 211.

Join us and acknowledge individuals and organizations who work to establish unity, inclusion, and promote diversity and social justice at LBCC and in the community.

The program will include speaker, Frank Thompson; former Superintendent of Oregon, Department of

Corrections & National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. There will also be poetry performances by members of the LBCC Poetry Club and Hors D'oeuvres will be Provided by the LBCC Culinary Program.

The celebration will close with recognition of award nominees for the Analee Fuentes Unity and Gary Westford Community Connection Awards.

The Analee Fuentes Unity Award recognizes students, staff and faculty who have demonstrated a commitment to bringing awareness to and advancing diversity and

social justice at LBCC. The Gary Westford Community Connection Award recognizes individuals or community organizations whose work had demonstrated a connection with LBCC and helps the college and surrounding community advance diversity and social justice.

STORY BY MAUREEN WOISARD



PHOTO: FREEPIK.COM



PHOTO: REBECCA FEWLESS

CORRECTION:

A story on page 8 of last week's edition of The Commuter incorrectly identified one of the organizers of a series of workshops on digital privacy. The LBCC Library, including research assistant Rhonda Hankins, is hosting the series, which continues this week at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, with a focus on passwords.

The Commuter regrets the error, which happened in the editing process, and was not the fault of the reporter who wrote the article, Jeremy Durand.

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Meet the Student Board Presidential Election Finalists

FEBRUARY 22nd, 2018
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM AT THE HOTSHOT CAFE



Did you know?

Oregon's state flag is the only American state flag with a different design on each side.

Marta Nunez **Shelby Pick**

Be sure to vote! Send in your ballot via your LBCC Email.
FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 1ST
 (Voting ends 5 PM)