

THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

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RoadRunners on the Court

Sophomore Ginna Lorusso defends the ball in a pre-season scrimmage against Chemeketa Community College.

Men's and Women's Basketball: on Pg. 6

photo by Jill Mahler

New Hire
pg. 2

Tech Toy
pg. 9

Holiday Movies
pg. 10-11

THE COMMUTER
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<p>Wednesday(1/11)</p> <p>Lots of Sun 46°/26°</p>	<p>Thursday(1/12)</p> <p>Mostly Sun 47°/24°</p>	<p>Friday(1/13)</p> <p>Some Sun 47°/24°</p>	<p>Saturday(1/14)</p> <p>Partly Sun 51°/29°</p>	<p>Sunday(1/15)</p> <p>Showers 49°/33°</p>	<p>Monday(1/16)</p> <p>Cloudy 47°/38°</p>	<p>Tuesday(1/17)</p> <p>Rain 50°/39°</p>
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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.

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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

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LBCC's New Hire for the New Year

Press Release from LBCC

Linn-Benton Community College has selected Dale Stowell as the next executive director to lead the college's office of Institutional Advancement.

Stowell comes to LBCC from Tacoma Community College, where he has served as the director of marketing, communication and outreach since 2007. Previous to TCC, Stowell served as director of college relations at Pierce College from 1998 to 2007, and as assistant director from 1994 to 1998.

In addition, Stowell was employed as a regional physician communication manager with Franciscan Health System, and as a publications and media relations manager for St. Joseph Medical Center, both in Washington state. Stowell also worked for several years as an editor and reporter for the Woodburn Independent newspaper and as a reporter for the Lebanon Express.

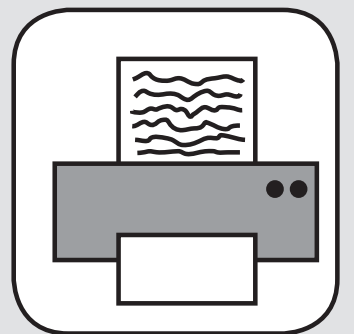
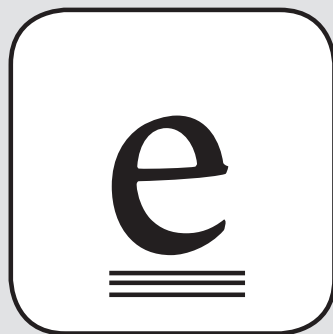
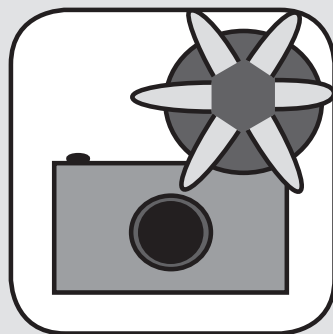
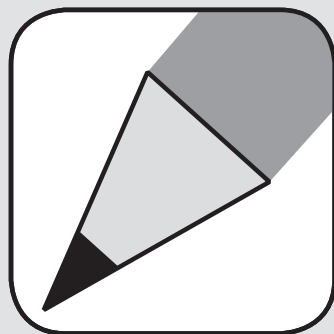
Stowell was raised in Philomath and attended LBCC where he studied journalism. He went on to Portland State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English. Stowell will start in his new position at the college on Jan. 12.

Dale Stowell succeeds Marlene Propst, who has served at executive director since 2003. Propst recently retired after serving 35 years at the college.



provided by LBCC blog

Dale Stowell, LBCC's new Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



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.



timo_w2s/flickr.com

Driving Safely This Year

Amanda Hayden

Copy Editor

There were five fatalities over New Years holiday weekend this year, which is the state 10-year average for annual New Years driving fatalities. That statistic, along with winter weather conditions, is a reminder that it is important to review how to be a safe driver.

Here are some ideas to think about how you might improve your driving habits, and not become a statistic yourself.

From a driving safety website :

- * Look over your shoulder when merging (check the blind spot).
- * Use your signal when turning or changing lanes.
- * Measure tire pressure before getting on the road.
- * Drive the speed limit (and suggested speed, at corners).
- * Watch for other traffic.
- * Go with the flow.

From OSHA :

- * Use a seatbelt at all times.

- * Be well-rested, and avoid impairing medications, alcohol, or drugs
- * Do not attempt to drive when overly tired, and take breaks as needed.
- * Avoid distractions, such as radio, food, and phone.
- * Be alert to road conditions.
- * Do not drive aggressively, remember to use patience and courtesy.
- * Do not take personally the actions of other drivers.
- * If possible, reduce the stress of a trip by planning your route to avoid busy roads and driving times.

Some other ideas:

- * Keep a small first aid kit, water, and emergency food supply in your vehicle at all times.
- * Make sure all external lights are in working order.
- * If necessary to pull over on the side of the road, use hazard lights and get as far off the driving surface as possible, to avoid being rear-ended.
- * Keep a safe distance from other traveling vehicles.

Keep these ideas in mind next time you get behind the wheel, and your trip is much more likely to be without incident.

New Laws of 2012

Kay M Roth

Contributing Writer

Whether it's talking on your cell phone, driving drunk, or getting paid more, there are dozens of new laws that took effect in Oregon when the calendar flipped to 2012. Some, such as a higher minimum wage affects us all in one way or another. Others, such as making the possession of shark fins illegal, will affect fewer Oregonians. Here's a brief run down of some of those laws.

The excuse, "It's work related," won't hold water any more if you're pulled over for talking on your cell phone. The loop hole that allowed some drivers to continue using their cell phones while on the road is gone. From now on, only emergency responders and roadside assistance employees, such as tow truck drivers will be allowed to use their phones while driving. And, don't forget, it's illegal to text while driving- period. The fine is \$110.

Drunk drivers beware! The new law meant to force drunk drivers from the road started on New Year's Day. Even first time offenders will be required to have an ignition interlock device installed in their cars. Before the car will start, the driver will need to perform a breathalyzer test. The system is set up to even require a test while driving in order to keep the vehicle running.

Those gift cards you got for Christmas can now become cold, hard cash. Gift cards used at least once and with less than \$5 remaining on them can now be redeemed for cash.

For those working in minimum wage jobs, you got a 30 cent pay raise! The new minimum wage is \$8.80 an hour. Of course, one thing to remember, while the wage goes up, the cost to purchase certain products can also rise. This will be a wait and see if the cause and effect rule comes into play.

Gas prices are on the rise- again. The new six cent a gallon gas tax increase started at the first of the year, causing the cost of gas, which had been experiencing a slight decrease, is once again on the rise. Gas prices as of the first week of January were \$3.13 a gallon at some of the less expensive stations.

Other transportation related laws include allowing children over 40 pounds to use a 5-point passenger safety seat system instead of a booster seat, ODOT approved training for all motorcycle drivers aged 40 and under, and how bicyclists should respond to bicycle signals.

Just be thankful you don't have to worry about every new law across the United States. Over 40,000 new laws took effect on New Year's Day throughout America. Happy New Year everyone...and remember, be safe, make more money, spend more money and redeem those gift cards!

THE COMMONS FARE
1/11 - 1/19

Wednesday:
Pot Roast, *Chicken Massaman Curry over Steamed Rice, Falafel.
Soups: *Tortilla, Loaded Potato Chowder

Thursday:
Pulled Pork Sandwich, *Grilled Chicken Breast w/ Hazelnut-Berry Beurre Rouge, Lasagna Florentine w/ Garlic Cream Sauce.
Soups: Beef Barley, * Split Pea

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday:
Roast Turkey w/ Dressing and Pan Gravy, *Pork Chops w/ Fennel, Lavendar and Cracked Black Pepper and a Roasted Shallot Butter, Eggs Benton. Soups: Corn Chowder, *Tomato Basil

Wednesday:
Turkey Club w/ Pasta Salad, Swiss Steak, *Tofu Thai Green Curry w/ Rice. Soups: Seafood Chowder, *Red Lentil

Thursday:
Beef Stew, *Chicken Ballontine, Eggplant Parmesan. Soups: *Turkey and Vegetable, Beer Cheese

Items denoted with a * are gluten free. All menu items are subject to change.

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In The Community

Wednesday 1/11	Friday 1/13
10 p.m. - Cloud 9 Brian Smith performs in Corvallis!	9p.m. - Bogey's Bar & Grill Rock N Roll Cowboys come to Albany for a killer performance!
Thursday 1/12	Tuesday 1/17
5 p.m. - Taquiera Alonzo Drinking Liberally Albany	12 p.m. - Albany Public Library Modern Voices Book Club discusses Wallace Stegner's Angle of Repose

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.

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).

Forestry Tech-Recreation (OHV) (#9436, coast) The Forest Service is hiring for full-time, March-Sept., Off-Highway Vehicle Crew Work Lead position in the Oregon Dunes Nat'l Recreation area. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2012. Pay is \$15/hour.

CWE On-Line Technician (#9409, Albany) This is a great way

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.

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.

to get experience, get references, have a job until you graduate from OSU and they work with your school schedule. \$10.85-11.70/hr DOQ.

Forestry Tech- Recreation (OHV) (#9435, coast) The Forest Service is looking for Seasonal Off-Highway Vehicle crew to fill full-time seasonal June-September positions. Pay is \$13.41/hr and deadline to apply is April 15th.

IT Tutor Web Page Designer (#9429, Albany) If you are proficient in Excel, Word, Outlook, Publisher and want to tutor the work staff, this part-time, flexible job is for you. \$10/hr

In the News:

Local:

Eugene, Ore.: It has been 95 years since the University of Oregon Ducks have won at the Rose Bowl. Since 1917, the Ducks have been to the Rose Bowl five times and every time they went, they lost. But on January 2, they finally won, with the final score being 45-38 against the Wisconsin badgers. There is still no word yet, on whether or not there will be a celebration.

source: KPTV

Portland, Ore.: Mayor Sam Adams hopes that Republicans won't come to their scheduled debate in Portland on March 19 because there isn't any money for police protection. OPB and state Republican Party leaders were surprised to get a call from Adams last month, asking them not to hold the debate in Portland. According to Adams, the local law enforcement has already exceeded their overtime budget, due to the Occupy Portland protestors. Adams has asked the debate sponsors to consider moving to a new location, preferably closer to the airport. OPB and Oregon Republican Party spokesmen say they've not yet agreed to any changes in the debate, unless a suddenly strong candidate emerges to make a March debate unnecessary.

source: KPTV

Yamhill County, Ore.: Yamhill County police officials have raided four stores in McMinnville and Newberg, and have arrested three people accused of selling synthetic marijuana known as "K2" or "spice." Police seized hundreds of containers that contained more than 1,000 pieces of the drug paraphernalia. It has only been a year since "spice" was banned in Oregon. However, the "spice" manufacturers have altered their recipes just enough to skirt the bans, and are again openly marketing in stores and on the web. Some of the users are saying that the new recipe is more potent than the original. "Spice" is commonly sold in colorful packets as an "herbal incense" and is smoked to get high.

source: The Oregonian

Nation:

Los Angeles, California: Harry Burkhart, a native of Germany, has been arrested on Monday after a string of 52 fires, mostly parked cars, and has been charged with 37 counts of arson. Along with the 37 counts of arson that he has in America, he is also under investigation in his native country for fraud and arson. The fires started on December 30 and lasted until January 2. While in court, Burkhart appeared unable to stand on his own, and was held up by three deputies. He was also seen wearing a "suicide gown," which prevented him from harming himself. Once he was seated in the audience, Burkhart began shouting at the crowd and tried to communicate with his mother, who is also in custody. According to his defense attorneys, it is believed that the

reason he started the fires was because he hates Americans, and once the fires were set, he intended to harm and terrorize as many residents of the city and county of Los Angeles as possible. Once convicted here, he will go back to Germany. German officials are still working on the transfer paperwork.

source: CNN

Texas: a 15-year-old boy was shot and killed by police officials after he brandished a weapon in his school hallway. An ambulance was called, rushing the student to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to Israel Tapia, a spokesman for Cameron County Justice of the Peace Kip V. Johnson Hodge. No other students or employees were injured. School officials and students have been sent to a nearby high school gymnasium while authorities investigate.

source: CNN

Coronado, California: The killings of four people, two of which were Navy pilots, on New Year's Day has been ruled as a murder-suicide. Lt. J.G. John R. Reeves, 25, put a gun to his own head and killed himself after shooting Lt. J.G. David A. Reis, 25; Karen Reis, 24; and Matthew Saturley, 25, according to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The shootings were ruled as a murder-suicide based on the medical examiner's autopsy report. The Coronado Police Department got a call around 2:20 a.m. Sunday about shots being fired inside a condominium. Responding officers found a man's body in the doorway, and the other bodies inside the residence, according to a press release from Lt. Larry Nesbit of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Homicide detectives will not provide any more information about Reeve's motives until they do further investigation.

source: CNN

World:

Pyongyang, North Korea: Thousands of North Koreans pumped their fists and chanted their loyalties to Kim Jong Un in the main square of the capital on Tuesday. Since the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, Jong Un has been seen out in public interacting with soldiers and carrying out inspections. In 2010, Jong Un was named successor to Jong Il, which also was his emergence into North Korea, as no one knew that he even existed. Being only in his 20s, he has been named a four-star general and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Campaign. Jong Un has been highlighted as an "identical" extension to his father.

source: Associated Press

Iran: Iran's military has given the United States a blunt warning, the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier John C. Stennis is not to return to the Persian Gulf. This warning is the latest, and most aggressive, babble between the United States and Iran. According to

the Islamic Republic of Iran, the warning will not be repeated. There has been no word on what will happen if the aircraft carrier decides to venture back into the Persian Gulf. Iran has just finished their naval exercises and has threatened to close the passage through which roughly one-fifth of all the crude oil traded worldwide passes, if Western powers move forward with new sanctions on Iran's petroleum exports.

source: New York Times Service

Asia: Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to withdraw their troops that are surrounding a disputed border temple. The two countries have reached a deal to implement an order by the International Court of Justice to put in place a "provisional demilitarized zone" around the Preah Vihear temple. Thai and Cambodian troops clashed over the temple in early 2011 and had displaced thousands of troops on both sides, causing at least 20 deaths. The 11th century temple sits atop a cliff on Cambodian soil, but has its most accessible entrance on the Thai side. The two countries differ on whether some territory around the temple forms part of Thailand or Cambodia.

source: CNN

Weird:

Shanghai, China (Reuters): Everyone stresses, but it just so happens that the Chinese may have found a way to relieve said stress, if only for a little while. As many Chinese people gathered to blow off steam, they were given pillows as they walked through the door. During the event they listened to rock music and waved their pillows in the air, but once the music stopped they all engaged in the ultimate pillow fight. The pillows were supposed to be their frustrations and had someone's name written on it. This epic pillow fight has been an annual event for the last five years, and has gotten so big that they decided to do it twice in one week.

source: Reuters

California: Off of the Gulf of California a local fisherman has found a one-eyed shark, or "Cyclops". The albino fetal shark has one eye right in the middle of its nose like a Cyclops and according to shark researchers; the single eye is made of functional optical tissue.

source: Scientific American

Beebe, Ark.: About 100 blackbirds died on New Year's Eve, due to being spooked by fireworks. It isn't as many that died the year before in the same town, coincidentally. According to the state Game and Fish Commission, someone appears to have targeted a blackbird roost this year, and there was evidence of fireworks at the roost. Officials had to advise people to stop setting fireworks off because it was causing the birds to crash into things and into each other.

source: Huffington Post

Have you seen The Commuter's new look?

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and keep up-to-date on all the latest campus news.





Out with the old, and in
with the new!
Meet our new Shoulder
Angel and Devil.

Dear Conscience,



How should I start the year off right in college and in life?

Jill Mahler

Shoulder Devil

This is my favorite part of the year ... also the funniest - millions of people babbling on and on about their resolutions to be better and happier individuals.

I get to kick back and enjoy myself as they spend countless dollars and time on their pursuits. Sure, death and destruction are entertaining, but nothing is as great as watching humans fool themselves over and over again, wasting precious time. In no time at all, everything is as it was.

Sure, there is a small danger in their attempt to make better decisions, but quick fixes and the glow from the New Year eventually fizzles. To be honest, my job is pretty much cut out for me.

Here are some of my favorites to watch and how I deal with the occasional hiccups.

Spend more time with friends and family - I just remind them of all those annoying traits they can't stand. Nagging mothers deserve a national holiday.

Enjoy life more - This one is great - a kill two birds with one stone kind of thing. They eat and drink whatever is in sight, then the bulge sets in. The willpower at the gym is vamoose.

Quit drinking - No one celebrates the holidays without a little liquid power. Once my little assistant is in their blood stream, there is no telling what ill-conceived notions they will be willing to allow.

Get out of debt - Holiday season presents consumers with great sales and "those can't live without" deals, money burns its way out of their pockets.

Get in shape - Need I say more? Sure, gyms present discounts on memberships to entice the public, but the McDonald's next door is where they end up. Impatience and stubborn fat are the magic duo.

As for college students, they are easy to snare. College is a time for partying, not studying. With all those apps on phones and everything on Google, who needs an education? College is about wasting time in a haze and letting those bad habits become all-consuming. It's a wonderful time of year.

Have questions? We have answers.

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

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

It's simple! Preparation is key when making the right decisions for any part of life. For starting college off right, I suggest downloading all of your instructors' syllabi before classes start. This gives you time to read their expectations, create a schedule of homework and exams, and know your book list.

Then, make an appointment with each instructor to talk one-on-one about your concerns and questions.

This may be intimidating, but I know you can gather the courage! Also, spending a lot of your time in the Learning Center is a great way to remain focused on your studies and have the opportunity to ask questions!

As for life, this is even simpler: What does it take to make the best you! This can be an assortment of things: donating time to a cause, setting aside time for hobbies, helping a friend in need, bake cookies for your neighbor, or calling that grandparent who you can't stand!

The list of kind gestures goes on and on! Sometimes, the best parts of life come from making life better for others! This will guarantee a great start to the New Year!

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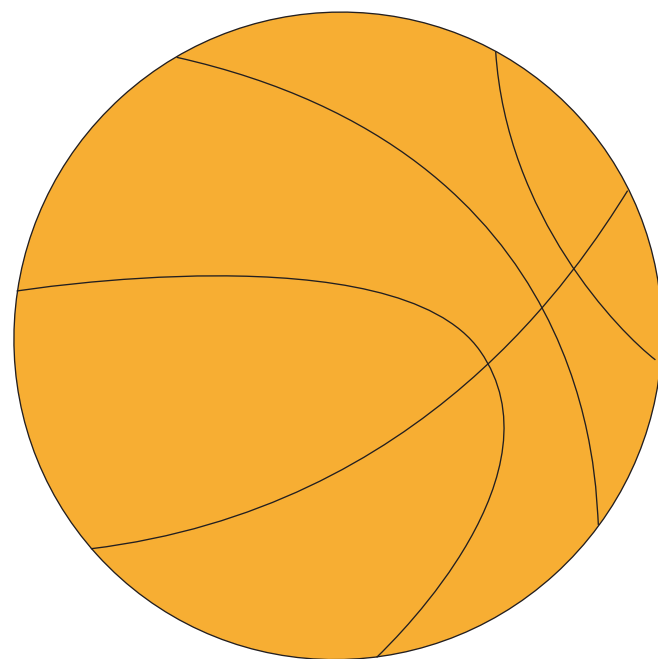
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Strong Start for RoadRunner Basketball



Women's Team has Something to Prove

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

The lady RoadRunners have fought through a tough pre-season schedule to help position themselves for a strong run in league play.

On Saturday, the team headed to Portland to face Portland Community College for their league opener. After falling behind by one at half, the team battled back to dominate the second half and win 84-66. The strong team defensive effort led to an amazing one-woman offensive outburst in the second half.

The team's leading scorer, sophomore Alicia Love, scored 32 points in the second half after only scoring one in the first half, due to foul trouble and limited minutes.

"It was good to have a game like that, my team had the confidence in my shooting and kept feeding me the ball, the game was a real confidence booster for us." The team is 1-0 now in league play and 8-6 overall. All six losses by the Lady RoadRunners have come to teams ranked in the top eight in the NWAACC.

Upcoming Games:

Women's Basketball

Wed. Jan. 11

Home vs. Lane at 5:30 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 14

Home vs. Clackamas 4 p.m.

After battling an injury to freshman Guard Michelle Bromagem in the first week of the season, that was a constant threat from outside the team, which meant that others had to step up.

Ayla Rodriguez has done just that. "She's been great on defense and offense, always applying a lot of pressure" Coach Teresa Guerra said about her freshman power forward.

In five pre-season tournaments, the Lady RoadRunners had some tough competition, but were able to pull off some big games and finish in second place in two of the five.

In the Everett Basketball Classic back in November, the Lady RoadRunners



provided by LBCC

The 2011-12 women's basketball team

lost in the championship game by just two points to Bellevue 51-49.

In December, the team suffered another close loss in the championship game of the Wenatchee Valley Crossover, losing in hard-fought grinding game 54-46.

The next four games should really give the team an idea of how the rest of league play will be. The Lady RoadRunners play four of the top teams in the division in a row.

"The next four are going to be tough, but I'm confident the team is going to step up and play hard and get some big wins this year" Coach Guerra said.

The team still has the ultimate goal to make the NWAACC playoffs and be a competitive team every game.

"We have people stepping up when the need to. We are really looking forward to see where we're at over the next few games, and excited to get into the regular season" Love said.

Women's Team Roster

3	Steffani White
5	Alicia Love
10	Gianna Lorusso
12	Dorian Perkey
14	Michelle Bromagem
15	Ayla Rodriguez
20	Kaitlin Shuffield
21	Jensyn Short
22	Shelby Hammer
23	Haley Dixon
25	Lacy Wood
32	Kirsten Allen
34	Ashley Warnke-Juarez
44	Heidi Halemeier

Head Coach: Teresa Guerra
Assistant Coach: Laura Olsen
Ball Boy: Jamison Guerra

Men's Team Ready to Play Ball

Men's Team Roster

10	Joseph Vance
11	Joe Challe
12	Kelly Christensen
14	Josh Garlington
15	Kyle Kruesi
21	Adam Hastings
22	Nick Dillingham
23	Trevor Daniels
24	Colton Evans
25	Logan Bertram
31	Brady Brent
32	Chase Bansemer
33	Seth Brent
34	Mitch Tohlen

Head Coach: Randy Falk
Assistant Coaches:
Jeff Anderson
Josh Binderup
Ron Richards

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

After an up and down start to the season the Linn-Benton men's basketball team is focused and ready for league play to get started.

The team opened league play on Saturday with a big win against Portland Community College crushing the Panthers 73-43.

The RoadRunners put together a strong defensive effort holding the Panthers to just 34% shooting, while forcing 18 turnovers. Two major stats that LB dominated PCC was second chance points and free throw points. LB outscored PCC 9-0 in second chance points and 11-1 in free throw points.

LB had three players score in double figures, including freshman Adam Hastings with 14, sophomore Brady Brent with 14, and freshman Colton Evans with 16.

The team also got a big boost from sophomore Seth Brent, who has been recovering from ankle surgery and has missed the entire pre-season. Brent, a starting post player saw his first minutes of the season knocking in nine points and seven rebounds in just 12 minutes of play.



provided by LBCC

The 2011-12 men's basketball team

After the big win the RoadRunners are now 1-0 in league play and 5-7 overall. Coach Randy Falk said "Our confidence is good, we just had to iron out some things, but we are hitting our stride at the right time. Our competition in the tournaments has been very good, playing four top ranked teams, but we

have been very aggressive and competed very well."

The RoadRunners have high expectations this year after making it to the NWAACC tournament for the third straight year last season and are striving for a deep run in this year's playoffs.

Returning wing player sophomore Josh Garlington also feels good about his team's chances after the tough pre-season schedule.

"We are where we should be, yet our record doesn't show it. We should have won games we lost, but it was a great learning experience. We are ready for league play though and still feel we can be one of the top teams in the league."

It won't be an easy task, but the RoadRunners seem to be clicking on all cylinders and after a romping PCC in the league opener the team is on a season high. The next two games are at home giving the RoadRunners an opportunity to get a leg up in league play.

Upcoming Games:

Men's Basketball

Wed. Jan. 11

Home vs. Lane at 7:30 p.m.





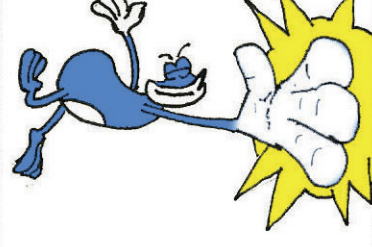





Sat. Jan. 14

Home vs. Clackamas 6 p.m.

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

Gamer's Log: Rayman Origins

Mason Le Britton © 2011
Groovysweet.wordpress.com

 <p>Rayman Origins is a 2D sidescrolling platformer that is more about humor and having fun than anything else.</p>	 <p>The unique art style is amazing, and refreshing.</p>	 <p>The different types of levels was surprising, and the boss battles are intense.</p>	 <p>The game is multiplayer, up to four players. which can get out of control quickly.</p>	 <p>At times getting through the level takes a backseat to slapping your friends.</p>
 <p>There are over 100 different character unlocks, as well as over 60 levels.</p>	 <p>The story begins with some innocent snoring, which starts a battle of epic proportions.</p>	 <p>The Bubble Dreamer's mood has a direct effect on the world, try to keep him happy.</p>	 <p>Don't forget about saving Betilla and her bodacious nymph sisters.</p>	 <p>The game is incredibly exciting, especially when you are flying through the level, almost dying at every turn.</p>

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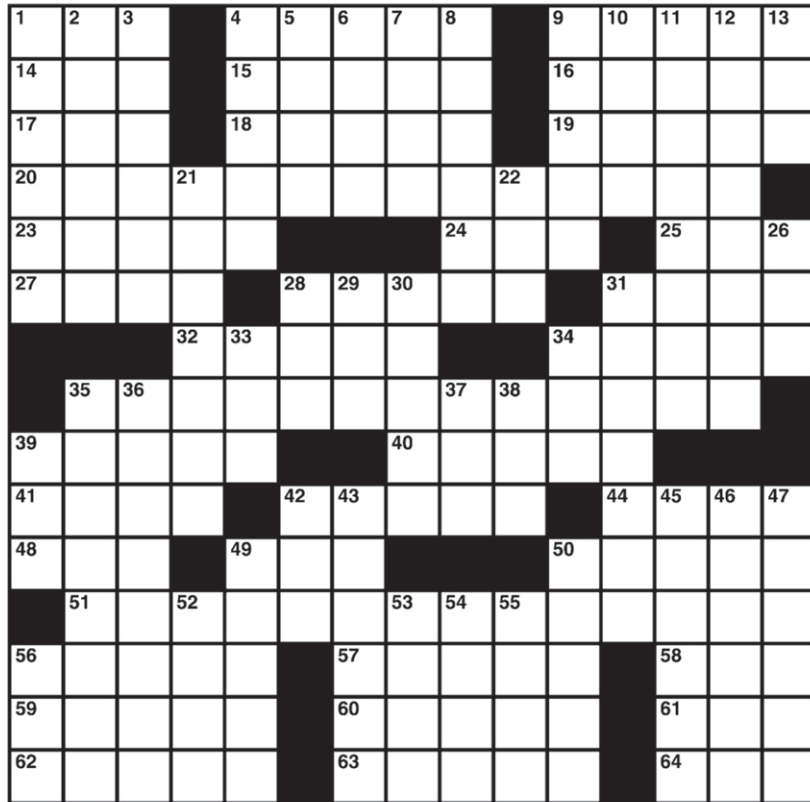


ACROSS

- 1 Sends a duplicate to, for short
- 4 Half-baked, as ideas
- 9 Tended
- 14 Fink
- 15 3:1 or 7:2, e.g.
- 16 Easy to understand
- 17 Thurman who played June in "Henry & June"
- 18 Maine college town
- 19 Improvise lines
- 20 Toy that might answer "It is decidedly so"
- 23 Pub orders
- 24 W. Hemisphere defense gp.
- 25 "Cats" poet's monogram
- 27 Average
- 28 Ancient moralist
- 31 Despair's opposite
- 32 Knight fight
- 34 Imus's medium
- 35 Sly inquiry
- 39 Appears to be
- 40 Charlatan
- 41 Helen of Troy's mother
- 42 OneZip bag maker
- 44 Strong wind
- 48 Cell "messenger," briefly
- 49 Critic Reed
- 50 Barbecue equipment brand
- 51 Cesar Millan dog-training apparatus
- 56 Just right
- 57 Packaging foam prefix
- 58 Cavity fillers' org.
- 59 Crooner Mel
- 60 November birthstone
- 61 Meditative sect
- 62 Where many vows are exchanged
- 63 Covered with marsh vegetation
- 64 Finish

DOWN

- 1 Bread bits



By Barry C. Silk

- 2 Chevy muscle car
- 3 Puts on, as a show
- 4 Gators' kin
- 5 Steak order
- 6 Yours, in Paris
- 7 Criticize in a witty way
- 8 Classic chocolate drink brand
- 9 Picket line crossers
- 10 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
- 11 Affluent
- 12 Sudden and precipitous downturn
- 13 Sphere
- 21 Pacific Island on which a memorable WWII photo was taken
- 22 Audible dance style
- 26 Job listing initials
- 28 Northern diving bird
- 29 Attorney's abbr.
- 30 Fill, as with padding
- 31 Styling goo
- 33 Military training acad.
- 34 Hwy.

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved



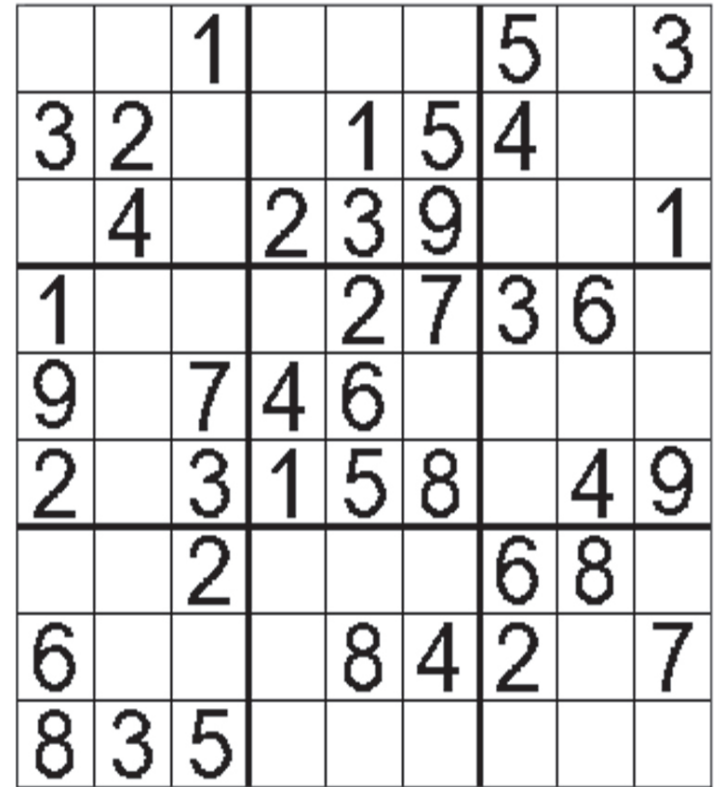
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 35 Miley Cyrus, for one
- 36 Ready-for-the-worst status
- 37 Gobble down
- 38 Wild blue yonder
- 39 Camera type, for short
- 42 "___ So Fine": 1963 #1 hit
- 43 Is
- 45 On fire
- 46 Hard to move
- 47 Quick trip that's "run"
- 49 Foot-long stick, often
- 50 Reeling from a blow
- 52 Tibetan priest
- 53 Native Nebraskan
- 54 "Law & Order" gp.
- 55 Jagged rock
- 56 "Let's call ___ day!"

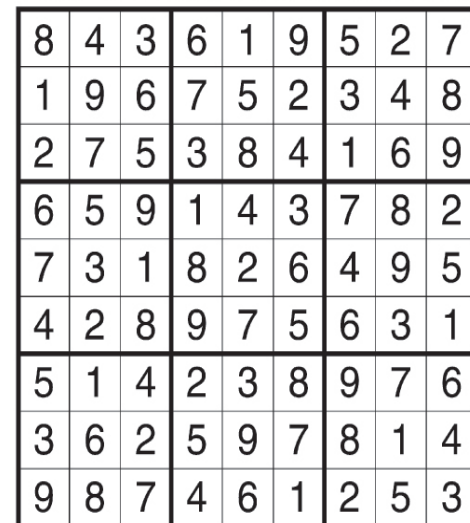
SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

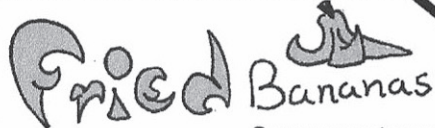


Last Week's Puzzle Solved



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

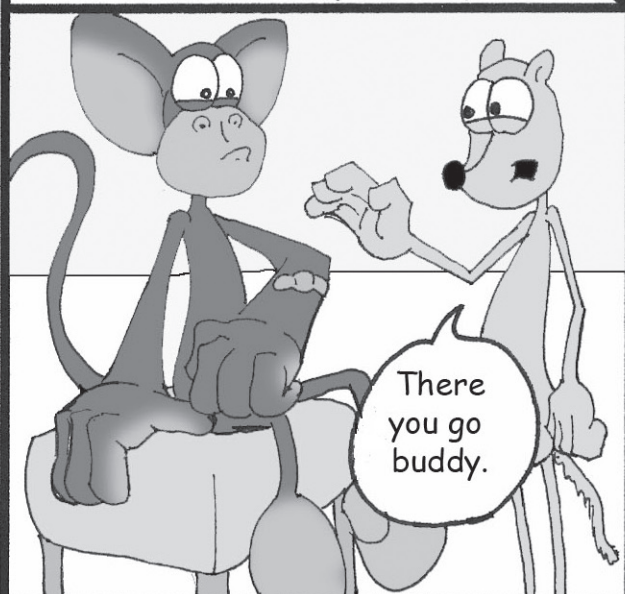
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Groovysweet.wordpress.com

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



Mason Le Britton © 2011

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

Tech Review: New Kindle is on Fire

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

The Kindle Fire is Amazon.com's hot new tablet computer. It's the size of a paperback and light enough to stuff in a pocket or purse for easy carrying. It's slick-looking and incredibly affordable at \$200. When the Fire's release was announced back in September, the Internet's tech-blogging community screeched to a halt, stared agog, and then did an appreciative slow clap.

They billed the Kindle Fire as an "iPadkiller." So... is it?

The Pros

OMG, people, the video on this thing is spectacular. It's the first thing I checked out when I opened my shiny new Kindle Fire Christmas morning, and I was not disappointed. Seriously, I've had TVs that didn't have a picture this nice.

The sound is pretty good, too. You'll pick up earbuds for the Fire regardless of the quality of the on-board sound because you'll be using this in cafes and out in public and whatnot, but it's good to know that if you're chilling out at home, the sound is decent. You can hear it, it's clear, and it's not tinny or scratchy. You won't be using the Kindle Fire to throw a dance party anytime soon, but it'll get you by for your own tunes and some TV.

Obviously, you can read books on the Kindle Fire. That's kind of the point, and it does this well. You're reading on an LCD screen, so it's going to wash out if you're trying to read out in the sun, and you may face some eye strain if you're sensitive to reading on computer screens, but so far, I haven't had this problem. Color looks crisp and clean, making for easy reading when it comes to magazines and comics.

Surfing the Internet is quick and easy. It's about 50/50 if you get the mobile or full version of a website, but either way, the website loads fast, it's

easy to read and use. The Kindle Fire also runs apps, just like any other tablet computer. You load apps out of the Amazon App Store, which has a pretty decent selection for most everything, except the Fire.

Which brings us to...

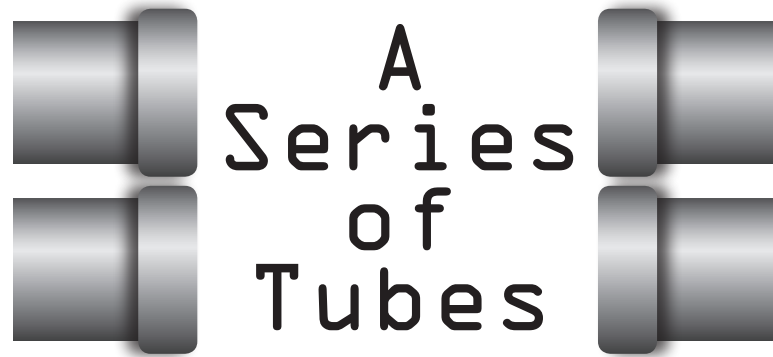
The Cons

Unlike other tabs, the Fire relies solely on wifi, with no 3G, 4G, carrier pigeons, or whatever else they're using these days. That means that if you don't have a wifi connection and you forgot to download something to your Fire before you left the house, you're carrying a brick, not a book.

Of course, wifi is everywhere these days, so it's debatable how much of a "con" this actually is. But compared to the previous versions of the Kindle, with their semi-magical 3G tablet computers to watch video, read a book, listen to a few tunes, and Facebook, and the Kindle does all that very well. Amazon got that bit right.

It's also pretty obvious that the Fire is a first-generation device, and that it's got some room for improvement. The touch screen could be a little more sensitive, and the app selection could certainly be better. It could use something beyond wifi for connection abilities. But over-all, for a first generation device, the Kindle Fire is in very good shape.

And for \$200, who can complain? I'm very happy with the Kindle Fire, and I also can't wait to see what Amazon does with it in the future. The Fire is pretty cool right now, but a year from now? Then we'll be talking about iPad killers, people.



Your Guide to the Interwebs

Internet Blackout?

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

Back in October I wrote about SOPA and PIPA, and I'm sad to report the problem didn't go away over winter break. In fact, if anything, it's gotten worse.

For those of you who just got here, SOPA and PIPA (AKA, PROTECT-IP Act) claim to address the issue of Internet piracy by instituting new laws and regulations that will supposedly allow the government to stop "piracy" sites hosted in foreign countries. I use phrases like "claim to" and "supposedly" because these bills were written, sponsored, and supported by big media corporations and are so broadly and badly written that A) they'll actually break how the Internet works on a technical level, B) they'll bring any sort of new creative innovation on the Internet to a screeching halt, and C) will result in the suppression of free speech online right here in America.

Mythbuster Adam Savage said of SOPA and PIPA,

Make no mistake: These bills aren't simply unconstitutional, they are anticonstitutional. They would allow for the wholesale elimination of entire websites, domain names, and chunks of the DNS (the underlying structure of the whole Internet), based on nothing more than the "good faith" assertion by a single party that the website is infringing on a copyright of the complainant. The accused doesn't even have to be aware that the complaint has been made.

These bills are so bad that companies like Google, Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia, YouTube, FourSquare, PayPal, Mozilla, AOL Time-Warner and Reddit - just for starters - are up in arms over it. In fact, they're so up in arms they're talking about shutting their sites down to protest.

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales is leading the charge. Quoted from that article, Wales said, "My own view is that a community strike was very powerful and successful in Italy and could be even more powerful in this case."

At the moment, this is just talk. The aforementioned companies are floating the idea of going dark on Jan. 23, the day before the Senate debates SOPA. It may seem like a drastic step to take, but these may be desperate times. Senate Majority Leader Henry Reid said of SOPA just last month, "This is a bipartisan piece of legislation which is extremely important. I repeat, it is bipartisan. I hope we can have a productive couple of days, pass this bill, and move on to other matters."

That's a mighty flippant statement over a bill that is ripe with potential for abuse, folks. It's that flippancy and stunning ignorance of what SOPA could mean for the Internet that makes a "nuclear option" like shutting down some of the most-used areas of the Internet start looking like a good plan.

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Sex AND THE Campus

New Year, Same Deal

Finding Balance in Your Relationship

Jill Mahler
Editor-in-Chief

With the beginning of a new term and a new year, aspirations are high. For some, losing that extra weight or paying off those maxed out credit cards is key. While for others, successful

relationships are top of the priority list. However, with the holiday food coma wearing off and plans being made, becoming overwhelmed is a likely possibility. So when it comes to the everyday juggle, how can you have your cake and be happy? How can you accomplish what you need to and maintain a harmony with your significant other?

The driving force to meet responsibilities and deadlines sometimes play havoc with relationships. When you begin dating you have all the time in the world for the one your with. However, somewhere along the way, your time feels tighter and significantly less. You figure they will understand as you reach for your goals; skip right along with you, until you look back and they have skinned knees. So what changed? your love for him or her didn't so why do you prefer to stay later at the office or sleep instead of cuddle on the couch? It's easy to allow your priorities to shift when you need to focus on more pressing issues than picnics in the park. Unfortunately, if keeping a healthy and happy relationship is what you desire most, some matters will have to take a back

seat. This also works the other way around.

Ask yourself what you want to have and accomplish the most. What do you want to be your current focus? Once you have nailed down what you are working for in your life, be honest about your needs and expectations. Your partner should be able to support and understand what your goals are, but it is your constant duty to make sure they know where they rank with you. No one wants to be second fiddle or neglected. Just like anything, when you place something aside you begin to forget, as it gathers dust. You also have to be equal in your support with their desires. Another area to consider is creating common goals you can accomplish together, which is a great way to feel connected and independent at the same time. Perhaps, set aside time for your partner each day where you discuss the events of your day or just spend quality time together. When it comes to relationships, there a lot of work, but in the end they are a happiness worth fighting for.

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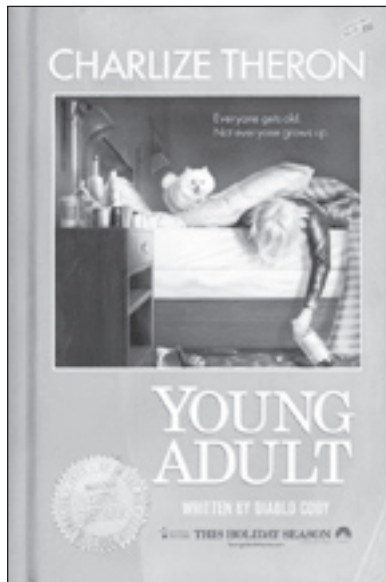
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Holiday Movie

Young Adult



Rated: R

Runtime: 94 min.

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

I generally like films that are ... a little off. If it's a little dark or quirky, if there's a general warped sensibility about it, I'll usually give it a chance. The trailer for "Young Adult" looked promising, but it sadly didn't live up to its potential.

The film stars Charlize Theron as Mavis Gary, a ghostwriter for a young adult fiction series. She seems stuck in a state of perpetual adolescence, her days are filled with "Teen Moms," Kardashians, and Hello Kitty, while she drinks her nights away.

When she gets an email from her high

school boyfriend (Patrick Wilson) inviting her to a baby shower, she decides to head back to her small town home, along with her Pomeranian Dolce, and win him back ('cause that's the mature thing to do).

This film is the collaboration of a lot of great talent. It's written by Diablo Cody and directed by Jason Reitman, who have been behind some of my favorite films ("Juno" and "Up in the Air"). It also has a talented cast; besides Theron and Wilson, there's an outstanding supporting performance by Patton Oswalt.

I liked the story and it has some interesting characters, but I couldn't stand Mavis. Theron's portrayal of her is excellent, she just

isn't written as a character you should like, or even tolerate. I know that may have been the point, but even when you have despicable characters you're usually given a chance to see their softer side.

Mavis at the beginning of the movie is the same Mavis at the end of the movie. She's the same Diet-Coke-binging, semi-alcoholic, lonely divorcee who longs for the glory days of high school and hasn't learned about a thing after trying to steal a married man away from his wife and child. She has no redeeming qualities and has no intention of changing.

This film could have been great, but ultimately falls flat. It has all the pieces, but it never comes together as well as it should.

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Who'd have ever thought that a man who starred on "The Facts of Life" would become such a good actor. Over the years, George Clooney has proven that he can play anything: action star, leading man, comedic relief, or dramatic lead.

"The Descendants" is another good film to add to Clooney's already-impressive resume.

The film, written and directed by Alexander Payne ("Sideways"), is about a lucrative Hawaiian businessman and land baron (Clooney) who gets an opportunity to reconnect with his two daughters when his wife is left comatose after a boating accident. While dealing with his wife's deteriorating health, he finds

out that she was having an affair and thinking about divorce.

Payne's last few films have all centered on middle-aged men going through a mid-life crisis of sorts and he's very good at them. The story and characters feel real and authentic. The entire film feels grounded in reality, which is hard when you're shooting on Kauai and Oahu.

Most films shot in Hawaii play up the tropical paradise aspect, making it look all shiny and sparkly. It's easy to forget that people actually live there and it's not all just one big resort. "Descendants" is completely story-driven, and while the setting is an important aspect to that, it's not the sole focus.

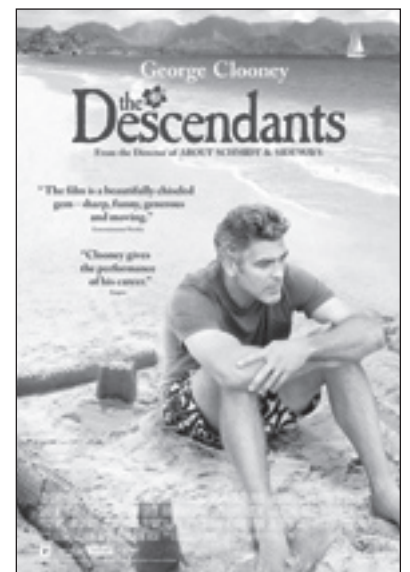
The acting is top-notch here. Clooney is dependable and makes good choices when choosing his scripts (he makes you almost

forget he was Batman). But I was more impressed with up-and-coming actress Shailene Woodley, who plays Clooney's oldest daughter Alexandra. Woodley brings real emotion and depth to what could have been a throw-away angry teen role.

The pacing of this movie is really the only thing about this movie I didn't like. It's really slow. It's not a huge deterrent for me, but it definitely took me out of the story a few times and I was just thinking to myself, "Just get on with it."

I enjoyed this film. And while I'll gush about the cast, I'm not absolutely raving about the movie as a whole. It's a heart-wrenching film about a man trying to do what's best for his family. It's sweet, and funny, and sad, and definitely worth a watch.

The Descendants



Rated: R

Runtime: 115 min.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo



Rated: R

Runtime: 158 min.

Ian Butcher

Staff Writer

I think the best way to sum up my experience watching this film is to use a line from the film: "It is better to look at what I am about to show you on an empty stomach."

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is without a doubt the most vile, disturbing and hard to watch masterpiece you'll find this year. And I loved every second of it.

The film follows Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) who, with his career in ruins, is recruited by businessman Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer) to solve the murder of his great niece that has gone unsolved for nearly 35 years.

Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara), a violent and disturbed computer hacker, is brought on initially to run a background check on Blomkvist. As the case spirals out of control and becomes more and more dangerous, Salander is brought in to aid Blomkvist in finding the murderer.

What follows is a 2 hour and 40 minute descent into madness that involves murder, rape, bigotry, religious fanaticism, and the sudden urge to take a shower as soon as the film is over.

Director David Fincher (Fight Club, The

Social Network), who is known for tackling films with dark subject matter (especially serial killers), crafts a masterful thriller that is tense, gripping, and always keeps you guessing. Everyone involved brings their A-game to the film.

The cinematography is incredible as it is in all of Fincher's films. The score by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross is impressive and is not your traditional score by any means. The standout performance among the exceptional cast has to be Rooney Mara.

She completely immerses herself in the character and gives the most fearless and flat-out truly incredible performance I've seen all year. If for no other reason, see this film for Mara's performance alone. She is completely mesmerizing and truly becomes a character who is deeply disturbed.

If Mara doesn't get the Best Actress Oscar this year, I will have completely given up entirely on the Oscars (granted I kind of already did when "The Dark Knight" wasn't given a Best Picture nomination, but whatever).

Aside from the fantastic direction, amazing cast (Daniel Craig is also fantastic), and incredible score, it goes without saying that the most important part of any film, the plot, is also fantastic.

As someone who has never read the book,

I was always guessing and trying to piece together the overall mystery in my head. But as any good mystery does, it takes those guesses and expectations and completely blows them out of the water with the final answer. This is a film that slowly but surely unravels the mystery bit by bit.

While this is a slow-moving film, that is never a problem, as the pacing is very deliberate. The film slowly builds and builds until the tension reaches its fever pitch at the shocking climax. And it goes without saying, once the answers are finally revealed, I found myself both satisfied and deeply disturbed by the answer. It turns out this is something the film excels at.

Obviously I am head over heels in love with this film. I will issue this warning though: this film is incredibly disturbing and is at points extremely hard to watch. I am someone who watches a lot of horror films and am used to seeing messed up stuff in my movies, but there were scenes in this film that made me physically uncomfortable watching them.

This is a film that is definitely not for everyone. However, if you are able to build up a second skin to these sorts of things, then I highly recommend this masterful thriller.

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

Round-Up

Ian Butcher
Staff Writer

Who would have thought a human chess game could be so much fun?

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" is a successful follow-up to 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" that, while not reaching the level of the first film, is still a good time in its own right. The film follows Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and Watson (Jude Law) as they attempt to stop criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris) from plunging Europe into war. Hijinks ensue, witty banter is made, and

mysteries are solved. If you've seen the first film, then you get the idea.

Director Guy Ritchie manages to reproduce many of the elements that made the first film a success. The action sequences are inventive and engaging. Downey and Law play great off of each other, and the overarching mystery of the film is very clever and well thought out. The film is also one hell of a ride.

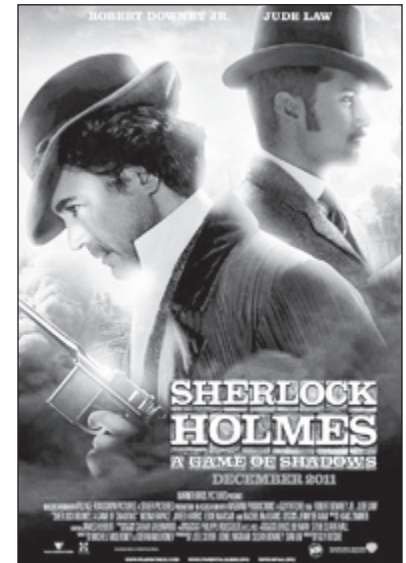
Alas, this film is not without its problems, many of which stem from the running time. The film's 2 hour 8 minute run time really throws off the film's pacing at points. There is a point about an hour into the film where it

feels like the plot comes to a screeching halt. For a good 15-20 minutes, the film stops short of coming to a crawl.

However, once the plot starts picking back up, the film builds very well to its climax. The main plot is wrapped up, but other major characters, as well as their own running plot threads, drop out of the film entirely. It feels like something might have been cut out because major characters just disappear and they are given no resolution.

All in all the film is a lot of fun and is an enjoyable and well-made follow-up, despite its flaws.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows



Rated: PG-13
Runtime: 129 min.

We Bought a Zoo



Rated: PG
Runtime: 124 min.

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

Two of my favorite movies are "Almost Famous" and "Elizabethtown," so when I heard that Cameron Crowe was back at work on a new movie I almost jumped for joy. When I found out it starred Matt Damon and Thomas Hayden Church I was downright giddy.

The premise is a little hokey (although it is based on a true story). Damon is Benjamin Mee, a widower with two kids who decides a change of scenery will help mend his broken family. He finds the perfect house in the country, only problem is that it's a zoo. Literally.

"We Bought a Zoo" isn't perfect, but I still enjoyed myself. It's a heartwarming story even if it is overly sentimental and a bit cloying at times. A good cast and a funny script help it.

I like Damon as an actor and he's always

dependable for a strong performance. Whether he's playing a genius janitor, or amnesiac spy, or widowed father of two, he's likable and believable.

And here a strong cast backs him. Church plays Damon's supportive brother, even if he does think his little bro has lost his mind. Scarlett Johansson is head zookeeper and more than a little worried about her new novice boss. But the real scene-stealer is relative newcomer Maggie Elizabeth Jones as Damon's daughter Rosie. But seriously, what 6-year-old red head with ringlets wouldn't?

The rest of the cast is rounded out by Patrick Fugit, Elle Fanning, and John Michael Higgins, who is excellent as the zoo inspector who seems to have it in for the zoo. Not to mention a slew of critters large and small.

It's the underlying message of family and connection that is the heart of the film. That

message is drilled into the audience a little too much, but it's easily forgiven. All of Crowe's films tend to have one character that is a force of pure positivity in a dark, cynical world.

Crowe puts a lot of time into his films' story and characters; he puts an equal amount of time into the soundtrack. You may hate the movie, but you can never deny that the music is just right. (I guess writing for "Rolling Stone" helps develop your musical tastes.)

The soundtrack for "Zoo," unlike his other movies, is by one artist, Jónsi, the frontman of Icelandic rock band Sigur Rós. It's a sweeping orchestral sound that complements the film's story and mood perfectly.

Though it may not be my favorite Crowe movie, "We Bought a Zoo" is a good family-friendly film. It may cause a few eye rolls at its cheesier moments, but you'll leave with a smile on your face.

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

Who was Marilyn Monroe? Actress, singer, sex symbol ... sure, but who was she really? An insecure and fragile lost little girl, a manipulative genius, a manic-depressive pill popper, or some combination of the three?

All I know is that she's the focus of a new fantastic film, "My Week with Marilyn."

The movie, based on a book with the same name, tells the true story of Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), a young twenty-something who dreams of a career in the movie business. Through a family connection, he's hired by Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) as the Third Assistant Director (a.k.a. gofer) for his upcoming production of "The Sleeping Prince" (later titled "The Prince and the Showgirl") starring Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams) in 1956.

Clark is wide-eyed, freckle-faced and like the rest of the world, in awe of Monroe. The film follows the production of the film from Clark's perspective, including Olivier's disputes with Monroe and her team of handlers, as well as Clark's own relationship with the starlet.

I can not say enough wonderful things about this film, which is rare for me. There's no real plot to speak of, it's just one English boy's account of meeting his American movie star crush. The film relies solely on the actors and their ability to embody the icons they're portraying. If you buy them, you buy the film.

And every single one of them is brilliant.

Besides Monroe and Olivier, the film is filled with other notable names, such as Miss Scarlett O'Hara herself Vivian Leigh (Julia Ormond) and "Death of a Salesman" playwright Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott). Judi Dench also gives an outstanding supporting performance as British acting legend Sybil Thorndike.

This was a different role for Dench. She usually plays harsh, grump old ladies that kind of scare me. Here, she gives Thorndike a softer, more grandmother-like quality. I just wanted to give her a hug and make cookies with her. Is that weird?

Other supporting actors include: Toby Jones, as Monroe's publicist, who is crass and foul-mouthed, but knows how to get the right kind of press for his client; Dominic Cooper, Monroe's manager, who wants to protect Monroe while he tries to smooth the waters

between her and Olivier; and a post-Potter Emma Watson, as a wardrobe assistant who can't keep Clark's attention.

The entire supporting cast play their parts perfectly, but what is a movie about Marilyn Monroe without Marilyn Monroe?

The part had to be cast just right and Williams is a perfect fit. She not only captured the look, but also the essence of the blonde beauty. Roger Ebert describes her performance best in his review on rogerebert.com, "She evokes so many Marylins, public and private, real and make-believe. We didn't know Monroe, but we believe she must have been something like his [Monroe]."

I've only seen a handful of Marilyn movies, but there were times when I forgot I wasn't watching the actual actress. Williams is completely lost into the character. She is Monroe, in her mannerisms, delivery, and spirit.

"My Week with Marilyn" captures a moment in movie-making history. It transports the audience back to a different era. No one may know who Marilyn really was, but this film offers a short glimpse into the life of a smart, yet troubled, young woman, whose legend will never die.

My Week with Marilyn



Rated: R
Runtime: 99 min.

“Rampart” Lacks Heart

An early review of Woody Harrelson’s upcoming crime drama

Dustin Nash

Contributing Writer

“Rampart” is an upcoming crime drama set in a troubled 1999 Los Angeles. Woody Harrelson stars as a sociopathic, and most likely alcoholic police officer. The film follows Harrelson down a rabbit-hole of bad decisions, rotten luck, and the evident effects of his self-destructive nature.

It was a somewhat jarring experience to watch an entire movie centered around a protagonist who pulls you back and forth so much. Just as he starts to seem like a man you want to succeed, his corrupt ways and lack of empathy turn him right back into the villain you so desperately don’t want him to be.

The acting was terrific throughout the entire movie. Every performance I can recall was solid and convincing on a level that made the movie seem all the more real. There were no fantastic coincidences, nor heroes beating all the odds.

There was none of the hyped-up Hollywood feel to it, which made it enjoyable in its own rights.

That being said, I find the movie’s downfall was the lack of excitement. Not just explosions and gunfire, this isn’t an action movie after all, I just couldn’t get attached to the main character and felt it hard to feel any sympathy as his tragedy developed.

This was a movie about bad things happening to bad people, and the bad things that happen to those around them. For fans of gritty, dark, and somewhat violent dramas, look for “Rampart” in theaters Feb. 10.



Sonic for Two Generations

Steven Pryor

Contributing Writer

For the longest time, Sonic the Hedgehog has been one of the foremost favorite video game characters of not only myself, but of the gaming community as a whole. Originally created in 1991 to take on Mario, Sonic’s speed and attitude made Sega a household name and got an entire generation of gamers to buy a Sega Genesis. In 1999, “Sonic Adventure” came out on Dreamcast and brought the series fully into 3D, marking a new frontier for the blue hedgehog.

However, in the mid-2000s, the Sonic series began to die out when it went entirely 3D. There was a focus on an increasing number of side characters, control and camera issues plagued games, and bizarre experiments took place over the traditional speed and platforming action the series is known for. These included, but were not limited to: turning the Blue Blur into a lumbering “were-hog” with combat-heavy sections; putting a sword in his hands for a medieval fantasy story; and, most infamously, a much-derided game for the series’ 15th anniversary in 2006.

“Sonic the Hedgehog 2006” had an extremely rushed development schedule in order to get the game out by the Christmas shopping season of that year, and the game suffered for it.

The controls and camera angles were among the worst ever in the series, there were even more side characters that missions revolved around, load times were long and frequent, and it had reviled story element of Sonic being in a relationship with a human princess.

In the years following that game, Sonic has begun to recover. His crossovers with former rival Mario in “Super Smash Bros. Brawl” and the “Mario and Sonic at the

Olympic Games” series were well-received. Despite some minor issues, “Sonic the Hedgehog 4” was considered a fun return to the classic Genesis gameplay. 2010’s “Sonic Colors” was a triumph, displaying improved controls, an innovative power-up system, and the best graphics ever on the Wii.

Now, in 2011, “Sonic Generations” has come to celebrate Sonic’s 20th anniversary. Sega and Sonic Team went all-out to give us the best Sonic game in recent years. The story revolves around the modern Sonic meeting the classic Sonic to take on a mysterious entity that is sapping the life from both their worlds.

This leads into gameplay containing modern remixes of classic Sonic levels and vice versa. The control takes some getting used to, but once you master it, you can easily get through most of the game without dying. The graphics are the most beautiful I have ever seen in a Sonic game, including the aforementioned “Sonic Colors”.

The environments are full of color and great details (most notably Sky Sanctuary collapsing around as you go through it), and the framerate is consistently without slowdown. The music is full of remixes of classic Sonic themes (the Modern Chemical Plant Zone is my favorite tune).

While the side characters are in the game, you only play as Classic Sonic or Modern Sonic, thus addressing one of the main complaints that people give about newer Sonic games. Boss fights are full of wonderful homages to past games.

The game also includes the full original “Sonic the Hedgehog” game as an unlockable feature, so longtime fans can have a piece of nostalgia in their grasp, and new ones can see where it all began.

Overall, “Sonic Generations” is by far the best Sonic game that has been released in the modern era of Sonic games. I heartily recommend it to everyone.



At a Glance

Publisher: Sega
Developer: Sonic Team
Platforms: Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Rating: E



Feeling low? Seasonal Affective Disorder

Amanda Hayden

Copy Editor

There is not a holiday in sight, outside of Valentine’s Day. While grocery stores may already be selling Easter candy, that is three months away.

For some people, this is emotionally their worst time of year. The holidays are behind us, along with all the celebration and long-awaited favorite seasonal foods. Because of the chilly weather and great comfort food, we may have put on a few extra pounds, been more lax on our exercise routines, or even lost sight of the summer clothes hanging in the back of the closet.

This is when people start signing up for marathons, gym memberships, and buying fruit juicing machines. On the flip side of the positive goals, there is a dark side to this time of year.

A more serious topic is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), otherwise known as seasonal depression. It is an annually-anticipated mood disorder for those affected, which is typically worst in the winter months.

This is likely due to reduced amounts of sunlight, which causes less natural serotonin production in the brain. SAD may cause general depression symptoms, loss of energy, and drastic weight/appetite changes.

One option would be to move within 30 degrees of the equator, where sun exposure is great enough to avoid this condition in nearly everyone. Another, less tropical solution includes discussing concerns with a doctor to see if using antidepressants or light therapy seasonally could be just the trick.

Some basic things which may help, if you begin to suspect the effects of seasonal depression, include spending time outside (whether or not the sun is shining), eating a well-balanced diet and taking a multivitamin, exercise 30 minutes a day at least three times a week, and social involvement with others.

These goals are beneficial for all people, but especially for those who tend to feel drained this time of year.



COMING ATTRACTIONS



Beauty and the Beast 3D
Rated: G
Genre: Disney Sing-a-long



Joyful Noise
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Lots of Singing



Contraband
Rated: R
Genre: Marky Mark Action

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com