

LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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STORY BY
CHRISTOPHER
TROTCHIE

ANATOMY OF AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Part-Time Faculty

Mary Borman along with Lucette Wood, Rosalie Bienek and a host of other part-time instructors, have created the Part-Time Faculty (PTFA) Association.

The PTFA will attempt to establish itself as a collective bargaining unit for the 170 would-be affected LBCC instructors in the coming weeks.

"We are holding a drive to collect signatures the second week of the term," said Bienek... "If we can collect signatures from the majority of Adjunct faculty [That teach three or more credits], we will be recognized as a bargaining unit! There will be a collection box for signatures in the Learning Center and the signatures can also be mailed [interoffice mail] to Mary Borman."

According to the The National Education Association 2014 Almanac of Higher Education, "Two-thirds of the nation's faculty members teach in non-tenure track positions, and most non-tenure track faculty members teach part-time."

Such statistics represent a difficult situation felt by many of the instructors on campus.

"In recent years a lot of the joy has gone out of teaching as more things are asked of us, more things are expected of us without additional compensation, and we are feeling less and less appreciated," said Borman.

For the last 20 years Borman taught as a part-time math instructor at LBCC. During that time she's enjoyed her experience but doesn't want to be full-time.

"I never wanted to be employed full-time by LBCC because the part time gig fits my lifestyle very well," said Borman.

Creating a new forum for adjunct instructors to collectively solve issues such as underrepresentation, fair treatment, and job security, this newest majority of the academic laborers are seeking solutions to their difficult situation.

"Being an adjunct instructor means you never know what you will be teaching, the college has no commitment to you as an employee (considers you a contract worker and will cancel your classes at the last minute with no remuneration for the loss of employment), you make half the money for the same work and credentials as full-time faculty and without the benefits, you are excluded from essential college governance discussions, and you have no representation or recourse in the case of an employment related dispute," said Wood. "We are the lifeblood that affords this college to operate. We are passionate about the essential work of teaching and serving our students. We certainly wouldn't be here if we weren't,"

Because adjunct instructors are not full-time employees, they do not have the same protections as other instructors at LBCC. Adjunct instructors can be terminated without reason, are limited to teaching five sections a year, and don't receive health benefits. In some cases adjunct instructors work in two different departments yet maintain a part-time status.

"Some [adjunct instructors] are putting in extra time creating programs hoping to be considered for a full-time position. And some feel they have been so disrespected that they have left LB or are seriously considering

leaving. The one thing that is pretty consistent is the feeling that there is too much of a discrepancy between full-time and part-time pay for the same work," said Borman.

Currently adjunct instructors comprise the majority of instructional staff not only at LBCC, but in the entire country. At LBCC they number about 2.2 adjuncts to one full-time contracted employee.

"In the Biology Department we have four full-time faculty and 14 part time faculty," said Bienek. "I feel that LBCC takes advantage of part-time employees."

Bienek, while working the last two and a half years, has witnessed two different full-time faculty members retire with the school choosing to replace only one of their positions with a full-time instructor.

"I personally feel that the business model of using full-time faculty to oversee instruction and hiring part-time faculty as non-contracted instructors on an as-needed-basis does not lead to stability for the college," said Borman.

The dynamics of this situation are both complex and have widespread effects on the daily functionality of this school. As the PTFA plans to move forward with their plan to create a collective bargaining unit, LBCC will wait and see what changes are, or are not in the wind. ♡

FOLLOW CHRISTOPHER
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2014 IN REVIEW: A YEAR OF SELFIES, HASHTAGS, GRUMPY CAT AND PHARRELL'S HAT

JANUARY

January 1

Recreational marijuana stores open in Colorado.

January 11

First black hole recorded on film. X-ray astronomers find evidence of a black hole at the center of a dwarf galaxy gobbling up a star.

January 20

Revenge porn becomes illegal in Israel.

Rosetta robotic space probe wakes up, Tweets its approach to Comet 67P.



January 21

For the first time in the history of digital currency, two Las Vegas casinos begin to accept Bitcoin.

January 22

The European Space Agency and other institutions detect the presence of water vapour on the only dwarf planet in the inner Solar System, Ceres.

New data published independently by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that the global warming trend is continuing.

January 17

President Obama announces reform to NSA after Edward Snowden leaked information about a government eavesdropping scandal.

January 26

Thirty-three couples have a group wedding on stage at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards officiated by Queen Latifah with Madonna serving as maid-of-honor.



January 29

Edward Snowden is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

January 29

Scientists find a way to convert normal cells into stem cells, which can be used for any part of the body.



January 16

For the first time ever, a trial based on alleged defamation via Twitter begins in the U.S.





COLUMN BY
**CHRISTOPHER
TROTCHIE**

PROTESTING FOR PEACE

Protests are not peaceful. In fact, the concept is aggressive.

Disrupting the daily-grind is how protests snap people out of a numbness to societal issues. After

all, the events in Ferguson and New York don't affect people here in the Willamette Valley, or do they?

On Dec. 6 over 200 people took to the streets of Corvallis to protest. Startled motorists came to a halt on many downtown streets as protesters weaved through vehicles, making it impossible for people to get home, to work, or to the store.

Some motorists laid on their horn in support while others did so out of frustration. In one case a disgruntled driver exited his SUV yelling at the protesters in an attempt to get them out of the way.

Watching the news from the safety of a living room or from behind a glowing computer screen creates distance that obscures the intricacy of issues. The cocoon that forms around us from that distance anesthetizes our emotional response to terrible events happening too far away for people to feel the effects directly.

Across the country, protests are taking place because displeased Americans are fed up with political leaders and the handling of hot-topic issues such as police brutality and racism. Some of the protests, similar to the one in Corvallis on Dec. 6, are "peaceful." Other protests in recent history have digressed into rioting, looting, and the loss of life.

Even small towns such as Corvallis are experiencing blocked streets and the closing of bridges during the latest rash of civil-disobedience sweeping the nation.

Over 400 comments were posted on an OSU Facebook thread titled, "Things overheard at OSU." It drew many supporters and its fair share of naysayers. The dialogue of OSU students became heated at points,

but the air surrounding the conversation was one of intellectual growth.

Conversations are springing up online. Local papers have online comment sections exploding with banter from every angle as Linn and Benton County put their opinion on display.

"We are sorry that being in the street was an inconvenience, but this is an emergency," said Stephanie Parreira, one of the Corvallis protest organizers. "People are dying. And until something is done they are going to keep dying." She continued, "People have protested in Ferguson, Oakland and New York, but it has not been enough to change the system. We don't know what it is going to take, but we can't keep doing business as usual and expect these problems to solve themselves."

On Facebook, the same group responsible for the organization of the Corvallis demonstration has continued to debate tactics used. Some agreed that halting traffic was crossing the line, while others vehemently supported the action.

The fact is that people who don't normally weigh in on controversial debate, had there not been a protest, wouldn't have engaged in conversations that create awareness among multiple peer groups. Regardless to personal feelings on police brutality or racism, the protest effects are widespread among community members.

The protest held at the Corvallis courthouse, that ultimately took to the streets, was born on a social website that invited over 1,200 people to join together. They were to meet civilly and demonstrate against the perceived misuse of force by police in the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

"The point of the protest was in solidarity with the thousands of people across the country who were in the streets, blocking highways and bridges. To disrupt things in this way is an expression of the power that the people hold—flexing our collective muscle, so-to-speak," said Leah Bolger.

Bolger showed her support by sitting down on the Harrison Bridge in Corvallis during the protest. Her voice raised above others in the crowd during the chants.

"I believe that those who demean or



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER TROTCHIE

diminish this type of protest are probably not very knowledgeable about its effectiveness, and have probably not participated in any type of activism themselves," said Bolger.

Many protesters also used the opportunity to confront feelings that racism is alive and influencing the treatment of people of color across the country, but mostly in poor black and Latino communities.

"It is incumbent upon citizens in a democracy to voice their concerns, spread awareness, and seek redress on a policy issue, particularly when the mainstream political machinery ignores you, taking to the streets to protest facilitates this citizen's role," said Eric Coker.

Coker protested in Corvallis on Dec. 6 because he cares about the state of society. He and his wife are a multicultural family. Their concern regarding recent police actions is based on the color of their skin and the environment that their child will grow up surrounded by.

"It got the local news media writing in the newspaper and showing on TV screens what is happening around the issue of police violence against people of color, and that people in Corvallis care deeply about this extreme social injustice," said Coker. "Secondly, it really got some folks of diverse backgrounds to start discussing sensitive topics around race, privilege and what are the goals and tactics of protesting."

Regardless of personal feelings on whether or not the protesters are right or wrong, in our country individuals have the ability to discuss, disagree, and voice our opinions openly and people care enough to organize events like the one held in Corvallis. 📍



PHOTO: NAKUL KATARIA

FOLLOW CHRIS @CHRISTOPHER999

FEBRUARY

February 4

The Scottish Parliament votes overwhelmingly (105–18) in favor of a bill legalizing same-sex marriage in Scotland.

February 7-12

Tamara Green (2/7) and Barbara Brown (2/12) speak out to Newsweek accusing comedian Bill Cosby of sexual assault in the 70's and 80's. In the coming months, more than 20 women come forward with similar stories of Cosby drugging and raping them.

February 12

A sinkhole opens underneath the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, swallowing 8 vintage Corvettes including the millionth Corvette built.

February 2

American actor Philip Seymour Hoffman is found dead in his Manhattan apartment at the age of 46. Authorities initially attribute the death to a drug overdose.

February 14

The U.N.'s Human Rights Council accuse North Korea of crimes against humanity. Their report describes the horrors endured by political prisoners numbering between 80,000 and 120,000.

February 27

Chaos erupts in Stockholm after the Swedish Public Employment Service by mistake invites 61,000 persons to the same job interview.

February 17

A large near-Earth asteroid, passes by the Earth safely with no threat of collision.

February 19

In a power play to dominate phone and internet messaging, Facebook buys WhatsApp for \$19 billion.

February 24

The president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, is removed from power and issued an arrest warrant.

February 20

Riot police and protesters clash in Kiev as demonstrators attempt to reclaim portions of Independence Square.



MARCH



RACISM AT LBCC

STORY BY
**ALLISON
LAMPLUGH**

During the last week of Fall term a board was displayed by the doors of the library posing the question, "Have you experienced racism in the community?"

Markers were provided for students to respond in whatever way they felt compelled. Their testimonies and opinions were similar to the subject itself: Eye-opening and controversial.

Albany residents may recall the hate flyers that blanketed cars at the Veterans Day parade in November. The flyers were clear with a message that read, "Africa is for Africans, Asia for Asians, and white countries are for everyone else." The racial remarks in the flyer led to local news outlets responding, the Albany Police Department investigating, and many within the community voiced outraged.

The slander delivered to thousands on a day designated to honor the Americans that fight for the country, many of whom are not white, was considered in bad taste. Yes, people have freedom of speech, however, the blatant disregard in this instance of those minorities who fought, were injured, or lost their lives to protect the self-proclaimed "Nazi" writing the flyer was shocking.

Librarian Richenda Hawkins attended a discussion on campus shortly after the flyer was circulated. The goal of the conversation between LBCC staff was to brainstorm how they could initiate conversation with students regarding the issue of racism in our community. The question prominently displayed in the library was Hawkins' solution to bringing awareness to campus.

"I'm not a classroom teacher but I am faculty, and I found a way to engage dialog," said Hawkins. "Let's let the students talk and express themselves, just write their thoughts and not feel confronted."

Keeping the comments anonymous gave comfort to those who might be afraid to speak up. Albany is predominantly white, and having an outlet to share the impact of racism in the community led to powerful statements reminding us that racism still exists.

Elikamida Toran works at the Help Desk in the library. She sat directly in front of the board and observed people reading and sometimes writing on it.

"Whenever I saw anyone come up they had a very intense look on their face," said Toran. "I saw a lady with a head-cover [hijab] come in and it looked like she came in just to write something."

In modern-day America — where a black man was voted into the most powerful position in the country — people may dismiss the issue of color as something of the past. Yet, one by one students began to write their experiences revealing centuries-old mindsets as a reality today.

"In the town I live in, my friend gets called a n****r by the locals and has been threatened with a noose. Racism is still very real."

Someone else wrote about a woman in their class talking about immigrants taking jobs from Americans.

"Why are they here? They're just here to take our jobs and to do nothing for our community."

Some left testimonies of racial intolerance personally affecting those in interracial relationships.

"I and my fiance get jeered and booed sometimes when we are walking together."

Others were candid about their thoughts on our ability to erase the ongoing issue in our nation.

"Racism will never die."

One person commented on the overuse of "racism" as a reason to explain conflict.

"When in doubt, play the racism card."

As the board filled with real-life experiences and opinions from those that surround us, some people responded to comments left by others.

"Blacks and Native Americans need to get over what happened in the past." In direct response a student countered with, "But racism is still prominent in the United States. The Ferguson protests aren't 'Blacks getting over it,' it's real racism. The Trayvon Martin shooting was undoubtedly racism. Blacks aren't doing anything wrong, they are just black."

"The key to ending racism is to stop talking about it." This provoked an opposing opinion of, "Just completely ignore a real issue facing us as a nation? It needs to be fixed, not ignored!"

Regardless of each opinion, it was clear from the board in the library and from the hate letter at the Veterans Day parade that racism is alive in the Willamette Valley. Advancements in embracing diversity have surely been made, but much work is left to be done. Talking is a first step.

"Black, White, Hispanic, Asian -- it doesn't matter! We are one race: human," said anonymous. ♡

FOLLOW ALLISON @LUCYLAFLOURE



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Last spring, Mike Smith was terminated as an LBCC employee because of an interaction with a student, Jamaal McGinty, which was widely regarded as racist by a number of people on campus.

I was, and still am, deeply disturbed by how this incident was handled for two reasons:

1.) I was involved in a similar incident approximately two years before Mike's, however, my situation was handled very differently.

2.) There are a number of facts regarding Mike's situation which were never made public. I believe that if the LBCC community knew of these facts, there would be more concern for what happened to him.

I have waited until now to raise these issues for a couple of reasons. First, Mike was considering legal action. Two lawyers informed him that he had a legitimate case against the college, however, he has

recently decided against pursuing a lawsuit. Secondly, I am also a non-contracted employee and have to wonder if I will lose my job as well. One or two terms from now, will I quietly be told that LBCC no longer has a position for me?

About my incident:

In January of 2012, I and a colleague were working at the Math Angle in the Learning Center. A female student was wearing a T-shirt that I believe was meant to be a spoof of the "I enjoy Coca-Cola" slogan and read "I enjoy Vagina," with the word vagina written in the distinctive Coca-Cola font. My co-worker was concerned by the T-shirt and brought it to the attention of both myself and our supervisor, Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia. Chareane stated that if someone's clothing was making someone else uncomfortable, or had the potential to make someone else uncomfortable, then

it created a hostile workplace and we were within our rights to ask the student to wear a jacket, wear the T-shirt inside-out, or to leave the Math Angle.

I spoke with the student who subsequently became angry and reported the incident to an administrator. As a result, a meeting was held which included myself, Chareane, and several other managers. We were told that dress becomes an issue only when it is disruptive to the learning environment. However, no emails were sent out and no trainings were held to clarify this position for others. Mike would have been unaware of this when he made the same mistake Chareane and I did and asked a student to modify his dress.

Yet, why was my situation handled so differently from Mike's? My episode was discussed only with

STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MARCH

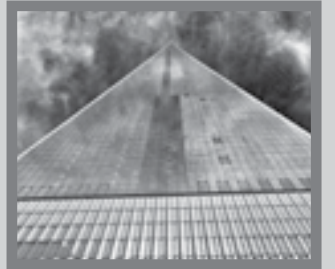
March 1
Russian President Vladimir Putin formally asks the Federation Council of the Russian Parliament for approval to use armed forces in Ukraine. He receives unanimous support.

Twenty-nine people killed and 130 injured by stabbing when 10 men enter a train station in Kunming, a city in Southwest China.

March 8
Russian President Vladimir Putin annexes Crimean Peninsula as a result of conflict with Ukraine leading to suspension from the G8.

Malaysia Airlines flight 370 disappears over the South China Sea with 239 people on board.

March 23
The United Nations Children's Fund reports an outbreak of Ebola in Guinea.



March 25
Four men are arrested after B.A.S.E. jumping from the top of the World Trade Center in New York City.



March 10
A mudslide in Oso, Wash. caused by a 1.1 magnitude earthquake, kills 41 people.

March 31
The UN's IPCC release a report predicting dire environmental and economic consequences if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced immediately.



March 3
Ellen's Oscar selfie breaks retweeting record with 871,000 retweets in one hour, temporarily crashing Twitter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR **CONTINUED**

appropriate administrators and those within my chain of supervision. No one called those of us involved homophobes. We did not have our names published in the school newspaper along with opinions from people who had no first-hand knowledge of the incident. No one was fired. In fact, a short time later, I received an award for outstanding part-time faculty member. (I did not receive the award because of this situation, but neither did it stop me from receiving it.) On the other hand, Mike's supervisor related the event to someone who was not an administrator and had no supervisory relationship with Mike. He was labeled a racist by people with no direct knowledge of the event, a public forum was held although Mike was explicitly told not to attend, and within two weeks, he was fired.

About Mike's incident:

1. Mike believed he was following school policy when he requested that the student pull up his pants.

In trainings at LBCC, staff members were told that if they see something offensive, they have the right to ask students to modify their behavior. Mike had confirmed this with two administrators. During the T-shirt situation, my colleague also stated that she had participated in a training where she was told that staff members could ask students who were wearing potentially offensive clothing to leave the room. This was, apparently, a common belief at LBCC.

2. Mike was supported by his supervisor and other LBCC staff both at the time of and after the incident.

Mike's immediate supervisor as well as another Learning Center administrator and a security officer were all involved in the incident and supported his actions. On the following day, he received an email of support from another administrator.

3. Mike's request of the student had nothing to do with the color of his skin.

Over the previous few years, Mike estimates that he had asked six other students to pull up their pants. The only difference? Those other students were white. Mike treated Jamaal exactly the same way that he had treated other students who wore their pants in a manner which appeared offensive and inappropriate to him.

4. The student later expressed remorse for his behavior.

Five days after the incident, Jamaal approached both Mike and his immediate supervisor in the computer lab and apologized for his behavior.

5. Mike was not the staff person who suspended the student.

Much of the negative campus reaction to this situation resulted from the student's suspension. Mike was not the one who suspended the student.

6. There is nothing in Mike's personnel file about this incident.

Mike asked for his personnel file about a week after

he was dismissed, and there was nothing recorded about this incident. If his actions were so egregious, why were they not noted in his file?

Many cited LBCC's value of inclusion regarding this incident. We have another value that also applies: Engagement. Engagement cannot happen without occasional conflict. Is there even a single staff member who has never had a contentious interaction with a student? Had Mike flown into a rage, I could perhaps understand why he was terminated. But he didn't. LBCC cannot hire perfect employees: The only choice is to help them improve.

The incident I was involved with was handled correctly. I believe the student who wore the T-shirt would agree. A similar result had largely been achieved with Mike's situation when it became public knowledge. Because of the resulting uproar (almost entirely by individuals who had heard only one side), a decision was made to fire someone. And who got fired? The one and only person who was non-contracted and could be fired without cause. The college recognized that a wrong was done to the student and remedied the situation as best it could by apologizing and allowing him to make up missed work. Will it now do the same for Mike? Will Mike receive an apology and an offer to return to his job?

Diane Hunsaker



STORY BY
**ALLISON
LAMPLUGH**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As 2014 came to a close and we gathered highlights for The Commuter timeline of events that hit the printed and virtual headlines, there was a theme that

arose locally, nationwide, and worldwide: Tolerance.

Worldwide we saw countries battle themselves for control, as in Syria and Russia. On a national level we saw uprisings in response to claims of police brutality resulting in citizen deaths, and we saw high-ranking politicians apologize for spying on each other. Locally, we saw Benton County residents organize protests in response to police injustice and Linn County residents respond to a hate letter distributed in Albany.

Despite citizens protesting in support of tolerance or siding with the opposite, it seems that 2014 was a year when many people simply had enough. Moving in the direction of social change seemed to be a common goal at home and abroad. We saw entire countries band together to give themselves a voice, as in India, China and Scotland. The United States and Cuba even called a truce to their 50-year intolerance of each other.

On the other hand, in the wake of all the action it seems we also may have taken some steps back in separating ourselves from one another. The events in

Ferguson and New York had an overwhelming impact on an "us-versus-them" mentality. Whether it be the police against the public or black against white, lines were not so blurred as people gathered to fight for their community.

In the United States we have spent the better part of a century creating a place for all to live equally despite color, heritage, or orientation. We even saw same-sex marriage become legal in Oregon last year. However, at the expense of racial protests and angry rants directed toward people of the opposite group, have we lost a bit of the camaraderie we share as the people of one nation?

We saw high profile celebrities such as Bill Cosby abuse the lines of racial equality when he publicly asked "black media" to be "lenient" in their coverage of his alleged sex scandal. For an individual of any influence to make a clear distinction between skin color, and in addition, to request that someone should be supportive depending on that color, is troubling. Some protesters blatantly demonstrated in support of their fellow race instead of in support of humanity.

In 2014 conflict seemed centered around how people fit into a particular group. The LBCC community had a challenge of its own in 2014 when a white staff member approached a black student about his choice of dress,

resulting in loss of the staffer's job and judgment on the motives of the staffer by the LBCC community. Conversations with both that former staff member and President Greg Hamann regarding the incident are in this edition.

As you read the words of both people, I ask that you keep an open mind to both sides, both interpretations of the incident. We should ask ourselves if the incident was based on a racial bias or if it was a case of a community making it about race, simply because of the coincidence of it involving people of different ethnicities. Ask yourself if we are being too observant of whether a person is white, black, Asian, Latino, or Middle Eastern? Is there a chance that we are creating these racial issues instead of focusing on the real issue of a disagreement or mistake?

As we start 2015, I challenge each of us to be conscious of the way we choose to respond to such events. Modern-day America is a melting pot of diversity. Our ancestors have worked to make it that way and we should work to keep it that way. It starts with one person at a time.

*Sincerely,
Allison Lamplugh*

APRIL

April 7

India's 2014 general election makes history as the longest and largest election in world history with 814 million voters.

The Heartbleed bug is discovered in certain versions of the popular OpenSSL software which allows attackers to steal information from internet servers which would otherwise be protected.

**April 26**

700,000 Atari game cartridges that were buried in 1983 are discovered in a New Mexican desert.

April 4

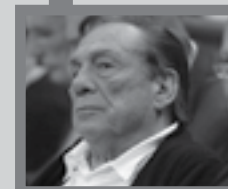
A Manhattan court stenographer is discovered to have written nonsense instead of actual court transcripts, potentially jeopardizing thirty court cases.

April 11

Peter Gabriel, Hall & Oates, KISS, Nirvana, Linda Ronstadt, and Cat Stevens are inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame.

April 21

A sixteen-year-old boy stows away in the landing-gear compartment of a 5+ hour flight from San Jose, CA to Kahului HI, surviving a severe lack of oxygen and -80°F temperatures.

**April 29**

L.A. Clippers owner Donald Sterling is banned for life from the NBA and is fined \$2.5 million for his recorded racial slurs.

April 18

At least 16 Sherpa guides die in the deadliest avalanche ever recorded on Mount Everest.

**April 2**

An Iraq war veteran opens fire at the Fort Hood Army Base killing three, before turning the gun on himself.

April 15

The terrorist group Boko Haram, attack a Nigerian school, killing two security force members and the abducting 200 schoolgirls.

MAY
PAGE 6

MIKE SMITH SPEAKS OUT

The following is an interview with Mike Smith, a former employee in the Learning Center who was let go in May 2014 after an encounter with student Jamaal McGinty regarding his low-riding pants. The people Smith mentions below are: Greg Hamann, LBCC president, Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia, Learning Center Coordinator, Shay Newman, Learning Center lab specialist, Vikki Maurer, math faculty, and Lynne Cox, associate dean of student development.



PHOTO BY: NAKUL KATARIA

I understand that Jamaal McGinty came to you at the Learning Center and apologized for his behavior a few days after the incident. Is that correct?

“He did. The thing was settled. The young man came and said, ‘I own this,’ and I was really impressed he came to us [Shay Newman].”

How low were Jamaal’s pants actually below his waist?

“I could see between his legs. I could see his bare legs, not his butt. I could tell you what boxers he was wearing.”

I understand there was training in the past advising staff that student clothing could be adjusted if it was a distraction. Did you receive that training?

“Yes. After that training with Lynne [Cox] I went to Vikki Maurer and the dean at the time and got clarity from both of them. I was following what I believed was current training and the results of a previous incident where a Learning Center Coordinator had stated that inappropriate dress, if offensive or potentially offensive to other people, created a hostile work environment.”

Chareane was on vacation when the incident occurred, so when did she become involved?

“Chareane came over after [the apology] and said it was racial and she was going to, ‘take it to task.’ At that point she was judging motives of my heart. It was like taking a smoke grenade and yelling fire.”

Did a student complain about his pants or did you take it upon yourself to confront him?

“I did. There had been people before complain about that style of dress. I approached him because of the training in the past from Lynne Cox.”

Had you ever confronted a student in the past

regarding that style of dress?

“I had. Seven or eight white guys have been asked before. It wasn’t until it was this man and his color, and the coordinator’s color, that anything happened.”

Were there any witnesses to the confrontation?

“Yes, a work-study student. He actually said, ‘I thought I was going to have to restrain the kid and he was going to start breaking things.’ At this point, it wasn’t about dress, it was about a disruption.”

I understand that you called security for help with the permission of your supervisor. Is that correct?

“Shay came out [of the computer lab] wide-eyed. In

six years I had never seen him rattled. The first thing he said was ‘call security.’ Calling security was the escalation they claimed caused all the problems. Vikki Maurer told me to call them. I didn’t suspend him. I couldn’t. I turned it over to the powers to be.”

Is it true that you were told not to attend the forum held on campus a few days after the incident?

“Shay and I both were told a half hour before the meeting that we were not to attend the meeting by direction of Human Resources.”

After that meeting, a campus-wide memo came out from Greg Hamann about tolerance and inclusion. How did you feel about it?

“The funny thing about the message was they were totally intolerant of me. To be tolerant we have to be tolerant of all groups as a whole, not just one group. So to be tolerant of one group and not all is to be intolerant.”

Greg Hamann suggested that maybe you didn’t see eye-to-eye with the school’s opinion of the situation. Do you agree?

“It had nothing to do with if I would change. I was the fall guy. I knew the very first meeting I had with Human Resources that they were going to fire me.”

Why do say you were the fall guy?

“Administration was afraid the kid would go to the paper and by letting me go that would appease him.”

It’s been nine months since the incident. Why come forward now?

“Everyone at the college has heard that I am a racist. I’ve had people confront me at Walmart. It’s on Facebook. I was seeking representation and didn’t want to cause complications. The smoke has cleared, things have settled, and it’s time to tell the truth. I think the issue is at this point the damage it has done to other students and staff. There have been people that have quit. I’ve talked to people [at LBCC] for 15 or 20 years and they feel there is no protection. A lot of people have come forward and said, ‘We’re so sorry, this was so wrong.’ So if I can give them a sense of security, I want to do that. I’m not looking for my job back, or for an apology, I would just like to see the non-contracted employees feel a sense of worth.”

INTERVIEW BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH

COMMUTER



Get the word out!

Advertise with the Commuter commuterads@linnbenton.edu

MAY

May 19

Same-sex marriage becomes legal in Oregon.

May 20

A truck going from Florida to Maine carrying about 1.5-2 million bees crashes in Delaware.

May 29

W.H.O. and Doctors Without Borders arrive in Sierra Leone to deal with an outbreak of Ebola virus.

May 1

Egypt opens a 3D-printed full-sized exact replica of King Tutankhamun’s KV62 tomb in the Valley of the Kings.



May 16

American journalist Barbara Walters retires after a 52 year career.



May 15

First Family and numerous political figures dedicates the September 11 Memorial and Museum.

May 31

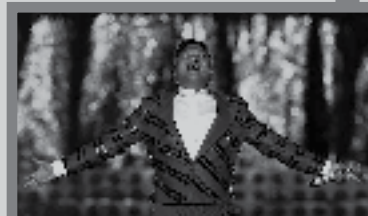
After several years of negotiations, the U.S. and Taliban complete a prisoner swap. The Taliban surrenders Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, held prisoner for five years.

May 6

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs into law a bill that bans profanity at arts, cultural and entertainment events.

May 13

Investigators claim to have found the wreck of Christopher Columbus’s flagship, the Santa Maria, off the north coast of Haiti.



May 31

Psy’s “Gangnam Style” breaks YouTube’s views counter by becoming the first video to reach 2 billion views.

GREG HAMANN ON TOLERANCE

The following is an interview with Greg Hamann, president of LBCC, regarding an incident in April 2014 between an employee, Mike Smith, and student, Jamaal McGinty, about appropriate clothing. Smith was let go in May after the incident became a public matter, and McGinty missed two days of school. The people he mentions below are: Diane Hunsaker, math faculty and Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia, Learning Center coordinator.

Mike Smith worked for two weeks before he was terminated. How long after the incident with Jamaal McGinty were you aware of it?

"I knew about it pretty quickly because a faculty member chose to bring it to my attention and I became concerned about the issue."

Do you believe that employees should not confront students about their choice of dress?

"I don't think the institution should be in the role of defining what's socially acceptable. When an employee chooses to impose their standards on a student, it's a problem. I don't care if it's personally offensive, I don't want to exclude people from campus."

Do you recall a situation a few years ago involving Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia and Diane Hunsaker involving a student wearing a potentially offensive T-shirt?

"I do know about the incident. I think it's similar but maybe we concluded we didn't do that one right. The difference was Jamaal wasn't putting up with it. We love to come out of these situations learning something, always being redemptive, and saying, 'I see what we did wrong.'"

So you didn't think that this situation with Mike could have been resolved by clarifying school policy as it was with Chareane and Diane?

"When you deal with people who persist in their sense of being right, that's where we have a problem. We can't be a community that includes a bias of superimposing our bias on someone else, specifically an employee. A world cannot survive if we can't learn to be tolerant of our differences. If we can come to a common understanding, termination is seldom the resolution. To the extent I understood it, I don't think there was a possibility of redemption."

Are you saying that you didn't believe Mike agreed with LBCC's opinion about the incident?

"I like to think of reality as the image of a hologram. Every one of us has a two-sided reality, which if we bring them together, we see reality more wholly. That's what we're trying to teach, and it comes down to a conversation about someone's pants. I can only speak personally, and I don't care if Jamaal is white, black or green, I wouldn't confront someone about their pants."

Was this incident handled differently than Diane's because one person was white and the other black?



COURTESY: LBCC

"The worst possible situation is thinking we were careful because he was black. It's disrespectful to everyone. I think people want to focus on the issue and it obscures things. I think all issues stem from a larger issue. I don't think we were trying to take sides."

Did you have problems with Mike in the past?

"We have no record of students complaining about him before."

Do you think this situation was racially motivated?

"I think understanding our own motives is hard enough without understanding someone else's. There's unconscious racism, even when we don't know, we do it. Racism is still there but it's often expressed in ways we don't recognize, like cultural bias. My son is black and there are circumstances he had that I had no awareness to. It opened me up to a healthy view about reality."

I understand that Chareane, who is also black, seemed very concerned about addressing the incident with Jamaal. Do you think their shared race had anything to do with it?

"Jamaal and Chareane's reality doesn't mean it's the same just because they're both black. She didn't make it out to be a prominently racial issue, rather, a sensitivity to differences and our institution's role."

It's been nine months since this occurred. Looking back are you satisfied with the outcome?

"I think for those who believe there was a racial component, conscious or not, they believe that we took a big step in affirming our cultural differences."

INTERVIEW BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH

LBCC Space Exploration Club

"It's not hard. It's just rocket science!"

Interested in joining our crew?

Meetings are every Saturday 10 am - 12 pm in MH-106

Anyone interested is welcome to join!

Contact our advisor for info: parker.swanson@linnbenton.edu

Get involved now, and help the team create a cosmic ray detector that will go up with a NASA rocket in June 2015.

LBCC Space Exploration Club is supported by NASA education outreach program, the Oregon Space Grant Consortium.

JUNE

June 5

The Beastie Boys win a \$1.7 million copyright violation suit against Monster Energy.

June 6

Nun turned singer Cristina Scuccia wins the seventh season of Italy's "The Voice."

June 22

Due to a court order, the first World Cup water break is taken during a match between Portugal and the United States.

June 24

Lyrics of "Like a Rolling Stone" handwritten by Bob Dylan sells at auction for a record \$2 million.

June 4

Mexico passes a law that increases the minimal sentence for kidnappers from 20 to 40, and the maximum from 50 to 140.



June 10

ISIS takes control of Mosul. Government troops abandon the fight and join civilians with 500,000 people fleeing the city.

June 18

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board cancels several trademarks of the NFL's Washington Redskins on the basis that they were "disparaging to Native Americans."

June 29

ISIS declares themselves The Islamic State becoming a caliphate, meaning it became independently governed and only welcomes Muslims.

June 2

Apple introduces a new programming language for iOS and OS X development called "Swift".



June 18

Jeremy Meeks became famous overnight as a 'hot felon' after Stockton Police post his mugshot on their Facebook page.



STORY BY
**ANDREW
GILLETTE**

ROSE BOWL RECORD ROMP

Oregon smashed Rose Bowl records after defeating Florida State 59-20 on Thursday, Jan. 1 en route to the National Championship game on Jan. 12.

Conversation about the Ducks being a soft team have played out regularly on the national scene for almost a decade. Oregon took this chip on their shoulder and showed up ready to play.

Oregon's linemen are smaller than Florida State's front but that wouldn't be obvious after watching the first half.

The offense started slow for the Ducks, scoring just two touchdowns and a field goal in the opening half. Oregon held onto a one score margin thanks to its defense. Something that was suppose to be their weakness, turned out to be their biggest strength.

After eleven plays and 76 yards, Florida State had drove the ball to the Oregon one yard line. Attempting to punch in a touchdown, on fourth down, to go ahead early in the second quarter, Jameis Winston came up short of the goal on a designated quarterback option play. Oregonians are going to keep that play in memory for a generation.

The "soft" team that everyone is so used to hearing

about has finally been written out of history; Oregon went into a big bowl game with another team having plenty of time to prepare and took it to them.

Stopping the Noles on multiple drives and forcing field goals wasn't enough, and neither was the fourth down stop at the one. Oregon defense needed to outplay the offense and they finally showed the national crowd that they have arrived.

Oregon got just that in the second half, forcing five turnovers in Florida State's first six drives and turning a 18-13 halftime lead into a 59-20 romp. It was the largest defeat the perennial powerhouse FSU has ever had in a bowl game, and was the most points scored in the history of the oldest bowl game, "The Granddaddy of Them All."

Up next on the agenda is winning a national championship. It's the last thing Oregon needs to seal itself into the national powerhouse club, but the only problem is that another perennial club, Ohio State, isn't going to roll over and let the Ducks have it without a fight.

Ohio State ranks just behind the Ducks (2nd) in points per game at fifth, and the defense is going to need to show up big once again for Oregon to win its first national championship.

Injuries run deep on both teams, coming into their 15th game of the season. None seem as questionable as Cardale Jones starting for the Buckeyes. Jones will be making his third start after both Ohio State's first and second string quarterbacks have gone down throughout the year.

This will have to be the focus of the Duck defense. They must start, contain and rattle the inexperienced quarterback. It might sound simple in those words, but Jones isn't your average third stringer.

6'5 and 250 pounds, big even by NFL standards; even bigger than



The Oregon Duck celebrates.

Ben Roethlisberger. Oregon is going to need to find a way to bring pressure constantly without sacrificing the secondary coverage, something they found a balance of against Winston but will be a challenge against this dual threat monster. ♡

FOLLOW ANDREW @ANDREWJGILLETTE



Marcus Mariota Heisman trophy winner.



PHOTOS: ANDREW GILLETTE

Duck fans ready for a championship.



STORY BY
**COOPER
PAWSON**

OSU BASKETBALL STRUGGLES IN PAC-12 OPENER

OSU men's basketball began Pac-12 play 0-1 after their 71-59 loss at Oregon Saturday night.

After a successful 9-3 start to the season in non-conference play, the Beavers were brought back to the strenuous reality that is Pac-12 basketball.

"I don't know if it was nerves or what," said Coach Wayne Tinkle. "This is the first league game for our team. We've got a lot of inexperienced guys, and I thought that showed."

Oregon's Joseph Young lit up the scoreboard scoring a season high 27 points.

"In the future we should do a better job of locating guys like [Young]," said forward Olaf Schaftenaar. "We

have to know our personnel and locate players like that."

The Beavers defense was lacking to say the least. The 71 points scored, tied for the most points allowed by the Beavers in a game this season; Auburn scored 71 against them in late November. OSU came into the game leading the conference in average points allowed at just over 56.

"We came out sluggish, slow, and laid back, and didn't deliver the first punch. Midway through the first half we found a rhythm, and we fought back," said guard Gary Payton II. "We didn't come out that way in the second half, and they got the lead and finished it out."

Pac-12 Basketball currently has three teams in the Top

25 of the country, two being in the top 10: Arizona(8), Utah(10) and Washington(21).

Schools like Stanford and California aren't ranked but have received votes in the latest poles to be so. All and all, the Pac-12 looks to be one of the strongest conferences in the country and the Beavers find themselves right in the middle of it.

The Beavers will take on the Sundevils of ASU Thursday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. in Gill Coliseum before hosting ASU's counterpart, Arizona, on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in Corvallis. ♡

FOLLOW COOPER @LBCCSPORTS



STORY BY
COOPER
PAWSON

ROADRUNNERS' SPIRITS REMAIN HIGH

The LBCC basketball team wrapped up non-league play with a sixth place finish in the Clackamas Holiday Invitational that concluded on Dec. 30.

The team began the invitational with a tough 91-62 loss to Tacoma but bounced back to win by double digits against Yakima Valley. They were then matched up against Everett for a possible fourth place spot; they played a hard fought game, but were defeated 80-76.

Despite the RoadRunner's early season struggles they are tied for first with five other teams in the conference in team shooting percentage at 46 percent. They also shoot 33 percent from behind the arc.

Sophomores Adam Moore and Trever Cooley contribute greatly to the team's shooting percentage.

"My confidence is still very high even though we have lost some games," said Cooley.

Cooley(49/94) and Moore(75/142) are the only players on the team shooting over 50 percent from the floor with at least 50 attempts. Moore is also in the top 20 in the conference in both points and blocks per game. He is eighteenth in points per game with 18.7 and third in blocks with 1.7.

The RoadRunners need to have more production from the team as a whole in order to be successful in a league where team chemistry doesn't come easy. Because of the year-to-year turnover of players, team chemistry can mean a legitimate advantage for any team in the league.

"We need to step up our overall team defense," said Cooley. "When we seem to counter one thing, another



PHOTO: COOPER PAWSON

Taylor Vicknair (right) and the team supports each other from the sidelines.

one hurts us. We need to come together and play solid defense as a group."

LBCC will begin NWAC league play local rival Chemeketa on Saturday, Jan. 10 at

4 p.m. They will not have their first home conference game until they take on SW Oregon on Wednesday Jan. 14 at 6 p.m.

"We finished non-league playoffs with a couple good games that gave us confidence in each other and our coach," said Moore. "[The Chemeketa game] will be tough, but if we stick with each other as a family we can pull out a win." 📍

FOLLOW COOPER @LBCCSPORTS

SPORTS BULLETIN

LBCC Basketball	OSU Basketball	UO Football	UO Basketball
at Chemeketa CC 4:00 pm	vs. Arizona St. 6:00 pm	National Championship vs. Ohio State 5:30 pm	vs. Arizona 7:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 10	Thurs. Jan. 9	Mon Jan 12	Thurs. Jan. 9
vs. SW Oregon CC 6:00 pm	vs. Arizona 7:00 pm		vs. Arizona St. 2:00 pm
Wed. Jan. 14	Sun. Jan. 11		Sat. Jan. 10

CALEB WILSON

Basketball runs in the blood of some people, but for Caleb Wilson it runs deeper than most. The Linn-Benton sophomore started playing sports as a little kid but basketball was always his number one sport. He started playing in his hometown of Springfield, Ore. in kindergarten.

Wilson attended Thurston High School where he excelled in basketball. After high school he wasn't ready to give up the game he loved, so Wilson accepted an offer to play at Linn-Benton.

"I liked the town of Albany and Corvallis. They are not too far from home. Basketball-wise I liked the program and thought it was a good fit for me," said Wilson.

The 2013-14 season, Wilson's freshman year, was a disappointing season for Linn-Benton basketball. The team struggled through the year managing only a 5-19 record, only winning one league game. However, Wilson is part of a solid returning sophomore class that believes they will be able to compete at a higher level in the Southern Division of the Northwest Athletic Conference.

Wilson is a 6 foot tall guard with good ball handling skills and a good jump shot. Wilson tallied a season high 17 points in Linn-Benton's game against Yakima Valley CC in the Clackamas Holiday Invitational. For the year, Wilson is averaging 5.5 points per game in 15 minutes. His production has increased recently, following up his 17 point game with a 13 point game against Everett CC, on Dec. 30.

Wilson has not declared a major in school as his focus right now is helping the Linn-Benton basketball team.

"I'm still trying to figure it out, and I'm taking it one day at a time. My main focus is on the season and trying to get the most out of this year and then figure out next year," Wilson said.

The RoadRunners go on the road for their first conference game at Chemeketa CC Saturday, Jan. 10. 📍



STORY BY CALEB CLEARMAN

ADAM MOORE



In a little town in Oregon named Stayton, a 6-year-old kid by the name of Adam Moore decided he wanted to play basketball. His parents signed him up for the local YMCA team and the rest is history.

Now 20 years old and a sophomore in college, Moore is the leading scorer for the LBCC RoadRunner's basketball team.

Growing up, his father taught him how to be the player he is today.

"After every single game my dad had some advice he had to tell me. With all his advice, I have become the player I am and always wanted to be."

Adam played other sports in high school like football and track, but he realized his sophomore year that he wanted to devote his time to two things; his education and basketball.

Adam's competitiveness and his drive to be the best player on the court is what motivates him day in and day out.

"God has given me tremendous gifts, and I want to use them to the best of my ability."

It may have been the athlete inside him or the fact that growing up Moore played with people bigger and better than him, but one day something just clicked.

"I knew I had the potential to be better, so I took matters in to my own hands. I worked harder each and every day to be better than the person in front of me."

In his freshmen year the RoadRunners won one league game. It came the last game of the season against Lane Community College, and for Moore, it meant a lot to get at least one win in league play and it was their last chance.

"Winning was the greatest feeling, and nothing could trump that."

Adam has become a captain and a leader of the team, He plans to continue his college basketball career at a four-year college, not just for basketball, but for a college degree as well. A good education is still his main focus. 📍

STORY BY COOPER PAWSON



STORY BY
**RICHARD
STEEVES**

FLAGGED: OFF THE FIELD ISSUES

The NFL is America's most popular and profitable sport. The average team is worth \$1.43 billion, but even with all the NFL's billions of dollars, they can't hide from the legal issues that have been flagging the NFL this season.

There has been a media circus this entire season. Unfortunately the circus has centered around the now infamous Ray Rice video. Other stars of the media circus included super stars such as Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy, arrested on domestic violence charges, and 2012 league MVP and Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, arrested on child abuse allegations.

All three star players are currently suspended or without teams to play for due to the allegations brought against them. These types of off the field legal issues are a long-standing problem within the NFL's culture, and the issues start well before players ever reach the league.

Football is centered on winning. Yet there is also a culture that promotes and sometimes glorifies violence. It's the "win at any cost attitude" that fuels the violence on the field.

Football players have become America's modern-day gladiators; filling stadiums with bloodthirsty fans, much like gladiators filled the Roman Coliseum. The same win at any cost attitude and demeanor that gladiators fought with has inherently found its way onto the football field, and not just NFL fields.

The winning mantra starts at a peewee level and intensifies into high school and college play. Most players top out at the high school level, never reaching the college or pro ranks.

Regardless of the level of play, winning is expected from coaches, fans, and programs at every level. In the instances of colleges and high schools, entire towns surrounding communities and fan bases become invested in their team. This pressure of winning leads to off the field issues at every level.

Some of the most egregious and violent off the field issues have occurred at the high school level.

As reported by the New York Daily News in March of 2012 in Steubenville Ohio, two football players were convicted of raping a 16-year-old girl. The players raped the drunken teen while three other boys watched and took video and pictures. It wasn't until a barrage of social media, and naked photos of the girl circulated around her high school, that anything came of the crime. The boys weren't charged with anything until ten days after the crime took place, perhaps because the police were

suspected of a cover up. Cover up aside, even with the photographic evidence some citizens stood behind the rapists.

CNN reporter Jacinth Planer covered an even more violent incident when four members of the Shenandoah Valley Pennsylvania High School Blue Devils got into a drunken brawl with a Latino man. The four teens ganged up on the man and severely beat him. The man died due to the injuries he sustained. Despite the severity of the incident, a large majority of the town supported the high school football players.

In the Steubenville and Shenandoah cases, the football players were committing extreme acts of violence. Members of both communities stood behind the young football players, supporting them regardless of the severity of their crimes. Both cases were suspected of police involved cover ups.

Even with both communities facing accusations of police cover-ups, convictions were secured in both cases. Convictions were made possible when other football players turned state's witness. In the Steubenville case, the teens that videotaped the rape, "Were granted immunity to testify and their accounts helped incriminate the defendants," according to Fox News. The three boys, two of them football players, didn't stop the crime from occurring. They instead decided to film the deplorable actions of a teammate and take pictures.

These boys got off scotch-free. The video and pictures alone should have been enough to convict all parties involved. The fact that three boys didn't stop the rape and found it morally sensible to document the crime is disturbing. The fact they got away with their crimes adds to the brutality of the rape committed in the first place.

Proof of college football players being treated with favoritism isn't hard to track down. The case of University of Missouri star running back Derrick Washington is as bad as it gets, and the gross negligence by school officials helps explain the cavalier attitude of one of their most despicable players.

Accused in three separate incidents, Washington faced allegations ranging from assault, rape and sexual assault. The way the school handled the situation could be characterized as gruesome as the original crimes themselves. School officials, including coaches, counselors and staff members, knew of the allegations and did nothing to report them.

Universities at any collegiate level are required to initiate a Title IX investigation into any such allegations. The first allegations surfaced in 2008, but Washington

wasn't formally charged until 2010. Washington continued playing football while Missouri staff members hid his dirty accusations.

The SEC is the biggest and most competitive conference in college football, and with Washington on the field Missouri had a better chance of winning; but how much dignity are they willing to sacrifice?

The ACC is no stranger to backhanded dealings either. Heisman Trophy winner and BCS National Champion Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston has had just about as much success on the field as he has had controversy off the field.

He has racked up a total of seven off the field issues, ranging from multiple theft charges, vandalism and rape.

The rape allegations against Winston are very similar to Washington's case. The alleged rape was committed on Dec. 7, 2012, and on Dec. 2, 2014 nearly two years to the day of the incident, Winston was acquitted of rape charges.

There is no excusable reason for Florida State not to have taken action sooner, other than if Winston would have been suspended last year he wouldn't have won the Heisman and the Florida State team wouldn't of won the national championship.

With all of Winston's off the field issues he has only missed one game on the football field. Florida State is more concerned with winning football games than the respectability of their university.

If they would have acted with swifter and stricter discipline actions perhaps Winston wouldn't have amassed seven recorded incidents. I can only speculate that the seven reported incidents are the only one's that Winston has been caught doing, or reported doing. Who knows what else he's gotten away with.

Florida State and the University of Missouri may succeed on the football field, but colleges and universities who condone and help hide such behavior are setting these men up for failure in life.

Winston is no doubt headed to the NFL and these disciplinarian attitudes towards football players displayed by Florida State and Missouri only set players up for more off the field issues. If players can get away with it at a high school or university level, then how do we expect these young men to act when they reach the pro's?

It's clear with all of the off the field headlines plaguing the NFL this season that these problems start well before players reach the highest level. ♡

FOLLOW RICHARD @RSTEEVES84

JULY



July 17
Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is shot down over Ukraine killing all 298 people on board.

July 17
After a confrontation Officer Daniel Pantaleo puts Eric Garner into a chokehold violating NYPD policy, resulting in Garner's death. A federal judge rules the death penalty in California as unconstitutional.

July 7
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania approves a preliminary settlement between the NFL and lawyers for 4,500 former players over damages caused by concussions.

July 27
In American baseball, the National Baseball Hall of Fame inducts six new members: Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, Frank Thomas, Bobby Cox, Tony La Russa and Joe Torre.

July 20
Monty Python performs their last ever comedy show.

According to the Labor Department, the U.S. economy added 298,000 jobs in June 2014 and the unemployment rate falls to 6.1%, its lowest since September 2008.



July 29
According to the World Health Organization, the death toll from the Ebola virus in West Africa reached 672, with the total number of infected patients at 1,323, making the outbreak the worst since the virus was first identified almost 40 years ago.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge goes viral and is credited to much of the \$115 million donated in 2014.

GROWING FARMS

The OSU Extension Small Farms Program is pleased to offer the Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management workshop series this year in Linn County.

This workshop series introduces farming principles and practices to beginning specialty crop and livestock farmers. Growing Farms is geared to farmers in their first five years, who want to understand the opportunities and risks of farming. Topics include strategic planning, farming operations, marketing, production systems, farm finances, and managing liability. The course will consist of online, classroom and field instruction. Participants get information necessary to design a whole farm plan, and meet other new farmers, experienced

farmers and agricultural advisors.

The Growing Farms workshop series will be held in four parts: Thursdays – Jan. 22, Feb. 5, March 5, with a full day of class and farm tours on Saturday, Feb. 21. The in-person classes will be held at the new location of the OSU Extension Linn County Extension office at 33630 McFarland Road in Tangent. Cost for the course is \$295 per person with a \$75 discount for a second person from the same farm.

Contact Melissa Fery or Amy Garrett at OSU Extension Service office in Benton County at 541-766-3556 for more information. ♡

OSU PRESS RELEASE

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Phlebotomy Program

Monday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to noon

Free Phlebotomy Program information sessions will be offered through Linn-Benton Community College for those interested in training to become a phlebotomist. All sessions will be held at the LBCC Albany campus, Calapooia Center, CC 210. No pre-registration is required to attend. Attendance at one of the information sessions is mandatory to register for the program.

Free Tutoring

Monday, Jan. 12

If you are enrolled in a credit or GED course at LBCC, you are eligible to use the Learning Center tutoring service. You can receive this free resource in the Albany Learning Center, the Learning and Career Center at the Benton Center in Corvallis, or the Lebanon Learning Center.

Tutor schedules will be available on Tutortrac beginning Wednesday, Jan. 7. Call 541-917-4684 for more information.



options
Pregnancy Resource Centers

**Pregnant?
Take control.**



Scan to schedule a confidential appointment and take control of your unplanned pregnancy.

867 NW 23rd St. Corvallis 1800 16th Ave SE, Albany possiblypregnant.org
541.758.3662 541.924.0160



DID YOU KNOW?

A giraffe has a tongue so long that they actually use them to clean their ears.

The Nobel Peace Prize was named after Alfred Nobel who was the inventor of dynamite.

Career Connections

CASE WORKER: Job ID: 918 Albany, OR Closes: Jan. 15 Part-time, weekends. Serve as a role model for residents and staff, demonstrating positive interpersonal communication skills and positive youth development strategies. Pay: \$9.50-\$11.50/hour

OUTREACH WORKER Job ID: 917 Albany, OR Closes: Jan. 15 Part-time, 20 hours/week. Provides support and assistance to youth drop-in center and street outreach to vulnerable youth populations. Pay: DOE

CERTIFIED MEDICATION AIDE (CMA): Job ID: 956 Albany, OR Closes: Jan. 16 Part-time or full-time. Administers and correctly documents medication and treatments. Pay: \$15-\$25/hour.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) Job ID: 955 Albany, OR Closes: Jan. 16 Part-time or full-time. Provides care for assigned residents by assisting them with activities that they otherwise could not perform alone. Pay: \$12.60/hr

PHLEBOTOMIST: Job ID: 957 Albany, OR Closes: Jan. 16 Part-time. Responsible for blood draws across campus, assembles equipment for blood collection, maintains integrity of supplies by regular audits of expiration dates of supplies. Pay: \$17.82/hour, DOE

For more information, visit Career Services in Takena Hall or www.linnbenton.edu/career-connections

AUGUST

August 7

ISIS threatens to kill all Christians in Mosul who won't convert to Islam. Nearly all of the city's estimated 60,000 Christians fled. President Obama announces in a press conference the authorization of airstrikes on ISIS as well as airdrops of humanitarian supplies. The mission becomes the return of the U.S. military for the first time since 2011.

August 5

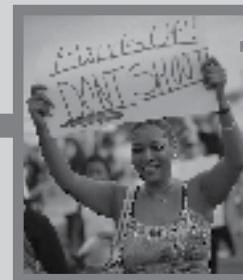
Maj. Gen. Harold Greene is gunned down by an Afghan soldier while touring a military training academy near Kabul, Afghanistan. He was the first General killed in battle since the Vietnam War.



August 3

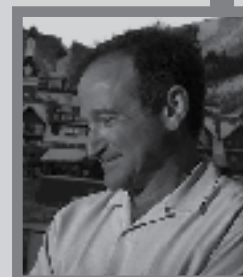
A 6.1 magnitude earthquake hits Ludian County, Yunnan, China. A reported 617 people were killed and 2,400 others injured.

China's National People's Congress Standing Committee rules that the 1,200-member election committee would vote on candidates for Hong Kong's chief executive, and those garnering votes from more than half of the committee could run. The decision sparks protests that continued to intensify in coming weeks.



August 9

Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old teenager in Ferguson, Mo. is shot by a police officer.



August 11

Beloved actor Robin Williams, 63, commits suicide in his home while battling addiction and depression.

August 19

Members of ISIS beheaded American journalist James Foley, 40.

SEPTEMBER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

POKÉMON ALPHA SAPPHIRE

COURTESY:

VIDEO GAME REVIEW:

Pokémon: Alpha Sapphire

GAME SERIES: Pokémon

PRODUCTION: Nintendo, Pokémon, Game Freak

GENRE: RPG

RATED: E

RELEASE DATE: November 21, 2014

SYSTEM: Nintendo 3DS

REVIEW BY **MATHEW BROCK**

Get ready for another exciting adventure in the world of Pokémon! It's time to strap on your running shoes, stuff all your belongings in a backpack and head out alone into a world of exploration and mystery. Wait, you are ten right?

"Pokémon Alpha Sapphire" is the latest installment to the Pokémon franchise alongside its traditional alternate version: "Pokémon Omega Ruby." These games are remakes of the 2002 "Pokémon Ruby" and "Pokémon Sapphire" games. In a nutshell, it's the same as any other Pokémon game. Capture and train a variety of different creatures as you journey across the country and towards your ultimate goal of beating the most powerful trainer in the entire region: The Pokémon league champion.

This installment is mostly a reskin of last year's "Pokémon X and Y" games and uses a lot of the same assets and artwork. This isn't a bad thing. "Pokémon X and Y" were gorgeous games with full 3D models for each and every Pokémon and a few have even been updated since. Mechanically it's almost exactly the same; features like Mega Evolution and Pokémon Amie return as an important part of the game. You can also fulfill that childhood dream of having all three starter Pokémon at the start of the game using Wonder Trade or the Pokémon Bank, features which carried over from the previous title.

The important thing is that the game has a ton of extra content after you beat the main story. This was "Pokémon X and Y's" biggest weakness. It mostly includes features from the original "Pokémon Ruby and Sapphire" with a modern spin.

Pokémon contests have returned after being absent from the last few titles and have their own side plot this time, instead of just being there with no real reward or context like in previous titles. Secret bases have also returned and allow you to have a customizable house-like area, which can be shared with your friends via QR code. The game also has incentives to explore including the largest variety of Pokémon to collect in any game to date. This includes over 20 legendary Pokémon from previous games hidden around the region!

There's a lot to do in this installment and it's as fun as any other Pokémon game, but as is often the case with remakes, you can't help but compare it to its namesake.

The original "Pokémon Ruby and Sapphire" were known to be the most difficult and revolutionary games of the entire franchise. They added a ton of new features to the game, they had a huge amount of extra content to explore after you beat the game's main story, and were a real challenge to boot! I mean you could get your butt kicked in your very first trainer battle if you didn't level up beforehand. So, do these modern remakes live up to that legacy?

I say this with a heavy heart, but as someone who is a thorough fan of Pokémon games, I feel rather insulted at just how easy the game is. The gym leaders are all pushovers, the boss battles are mediocre, and I can't walk more than ten feet without an NPC coming up and healing my entire team without getting any say in the matter. There's nothing more disappointing than confronting the final boss and just pressing one button over and over until you beat them.

It's as if the game was made intentionally fail proof, perhaps for the sake of gearing the game towards children. Much of the dialogue seems repetitive or overly simplified as though I would forget what I'm doing unless they reminded me every five minutes. It could also be chalked up to poor translations or culture differences, since this is a Japanese developed game after all.

Despite the lack of difficulty, I still found the game to be very enjoyable. It was a real trip down memory lane as I relived many familiar moments, but in high definition. I will no doubt put in close to 100 hours into the game as I have nearly every other Pokémon game to date. If nothing else the game has also rekindled an urge for me to revisit many of the older Pokémon games in my collection to see if I can capture any more of that sweet, emotional ambrosia we call nostalgia. ♡

SEPTEMBER

September 2

ISIS releases a video showing the beheading of a second American journalist Steven Sotloff.

September 5

Representatives from the Ukrainian government, the Russian-backed separatists, Russia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe announce an agreement to cease-fire.



September 4

Comedian Joan Rivers dies at the age of 81 after complications during surgery.

Protests in Hong Kong intensify throughout September with tens of thousands of demonstrators shutting down the heart of the business district. The protests threaten the stability of the financial hub.

September 18

Scottish voters vote down the possibility of Scotland becoming an independent nation after 300 years as part of the UK.

September 8

TMZ released footage from an elevator camera shows Ray Rice punching his then fiancée. The Baltimore Ravens terminates Rice's contract as a result. Shortly afterward Rice is suspended from the NFL indefinitely.

September 12

NASA's Mars Curiosity rover reaches its final destination Aeolis Mons, a mountain that rises 5.5 km at the center of Gale Crater.



September 16

The United States decides to send thousands of troops to West Africa to build Ebola virus clinics and train health workers.

CREATIVE CORNER

"Pumpkin Pie Acrostic"

Pure autumn color bursts
under snow-white whipped cream.
Memories of Mama and family and noisy
people gathered to eat and laugh and
casually
kindle the ties that bind
intensify as the aroma of sweet savory
nutmeg crowds the kitchen and my beloved
parents' house becomes a home again -
in spite of the year's long
emptiness.

By. Danny Earl Simmons
First appeared in "Boston Literary Magazine"
- Fall 2012

"Consequent Composition"

For a poet to pen so careless a verse
just to let it run out and away,
and so in frustration and with a curse
got it stuck, and with what to say?

A scheme and a style, locked in for awhile
where the shape forces rhyming of lines
whose words (for the birds), cluster in herds
then for the freedom of prose, the poet pines.

Now what have I wrought? A disjointed thought
claiming nothing rhymes with a thing
I can't say what I mean in a line with a lien
so I sing of King wing-string's ring bling-fling. DX

By. Nathan Tav Knight

"The Monster in my mind"

Drifting into a wakeful sleep.
My mind taking on the form of my most haunting
desires.
I'm floating above my body.
Watching in my minds eye.
I do so many crazy unspeakable things.
They make my heart cringe.
In that wakeful sleep
I am hurting those that hurt me.
I am crazy in love,
showing my every inner whim and desire.
Never taking my eyes off of my main goal.

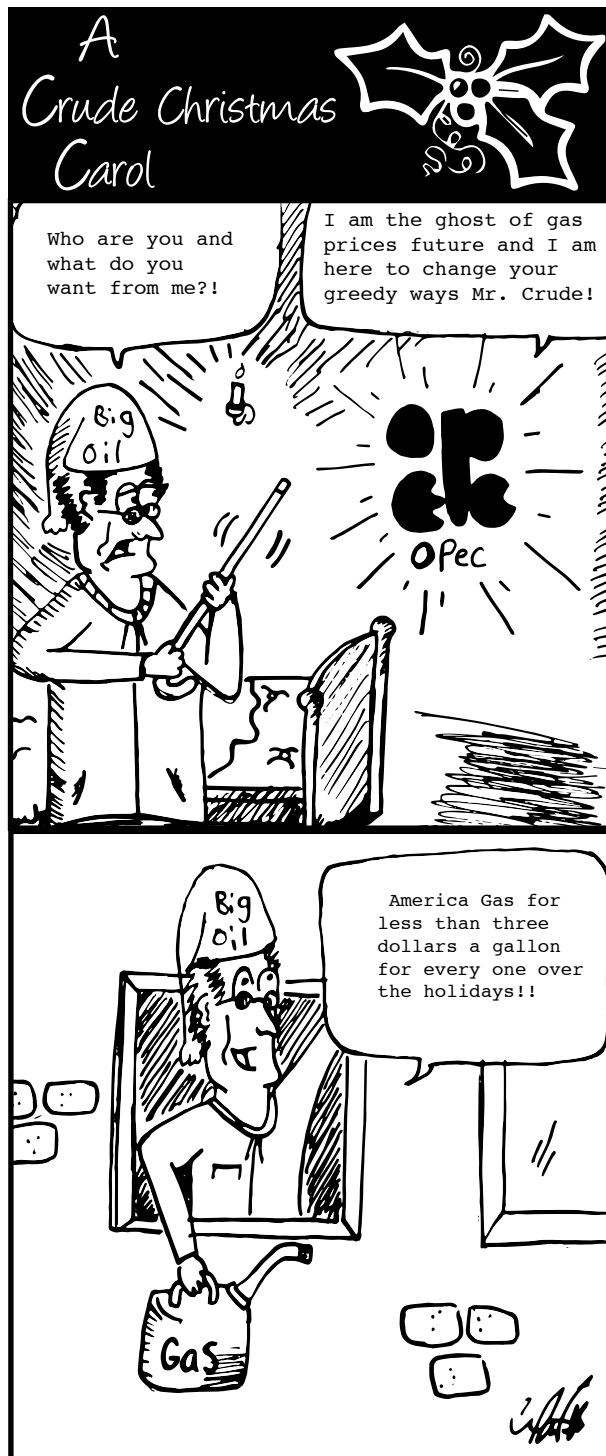
To be free.
To act and not regret.
To not care how others feel.
To be brutally honest.
To be rude and not care.
To not care how others see me.
To let those that are mean get what they deserve.
In my minds eye everyone gets what they deserve.
No mercy.
I don't care.
I am free.
I wake up from a haunting blissful nightmare.

By. Michelle Soutar

JK



CREATED BY:
**CAMERON
REED**



OCTOBER



October 31
A Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, breaks apart over the Mojave Desert soon after takeoff. Co-pilot Michael Alsbury is killed and pilot Peter Siebold parachutes out of the plane and survives.

October 6
British neuroscientist John O'Keefe, Norwegian scientists May-Britt Moser, and Edvard Moser share the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.



October 23
A man attacks a group of police officers in New York City with a hatchet, injuring two before being shot dead.



October 8
The first person diagnosed in the United States with Ebola, Thomas Eric Duncan, dies.

October 20
Oscar de la Renta, famed fashion designer and former designer for Jackie Kennedy, dies in his home of cancer at age 82.

October 24
Lockheed Martin announces that it plans to have a functioning prototype fusion reactor operational in three years.

Taylor Swift's album "1989" sells 3.66 million copies, making it the top seller of 2014.

NOVEMBER

PAGE 14

October 28
An unmanned Antares rocket carrying NASA's Cygnus CRS Orb-3 resupply mission to the ISS explodes seconds after taking off. The loss includes five thousand pounds of cargo.

BENEFIT FOR LINA

Benefit Concert for Lina DeMorais

Live Music: Big Outside
When: Jan. 10, 2015, 8 p.m.
Where: Squirrel's Tavern,
 100 SW 2nd St., Corvallis
Donations: \$5 - \$15

Brazilian born Corvallis resident Lina DeMorais has lived 18 years of her 27 years in the U.S. as a legal resident and this is her home. She is an LBCC student (Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society) and volunteers her time at Chintimini Wildlife Center working with injured wildlife, and with children in the camps and workshops hosted there.

On Aug. 26, 2014, while returning from visiting family in Brazil, Lina was detained by Houston

immigration officials and incarcerated for 28 days because of a misdemeanor charge from seven years previous. She had been cited for possession of paraphernalia (a glass pipe) in 2007. Lina remained imprisoned in Houston without charges and was denied release on bail, until immigration officials released her on parole on Sept. 23, 2014. Her green card and passport were confiscated and she is awaiting a court hearing where she will need to convince a judge why she should not be deported. With the current backlog in immigration court, it is not yet known when this will be. Meanwhile, she cannot legally obtain a job and the attorneys' fees continue to mount and will exceed \$20,000 before it is done. ♡

DEMORAIS FAMILY PRESS RELEASE



DID YOU KNOW?

The adult walrus eats 10,000 small clams a day and uses their whiskers to help locate them in the sand.

Diplomat Fidel Castro holds the world record for surviving the most assassination attempts at 634.

COMMUTER

WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOUR HAMSTER

The Commuter Asks, Please Recycle

THE COMMUTER

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

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.

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NOVEMBER

November 4
 Marijuana legalized
 in Oregon.



November 3

One World Trade Center officially opens, replacing its predecessor 13 years after the September 11 attacks.

November 9

Tens of thousands of people gather in Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall.

November 6

The title of the seventh installment of the Star Wars film franchise is revealed to be "The Force Awakens".



November 12

China and the U.S. reach a landmark agreement on climate change. Including a commitment by China to stop its emissions from increasing by 2030.

November 16

The Russian Presidential Library announces plans to establish a Russian version of Wikipedia stating that it would provide more "detailed and accurate" information about the country.

November 19

NBC pulls Bill Cosby's new sitcom amid the many rape allegations against him.

November 17

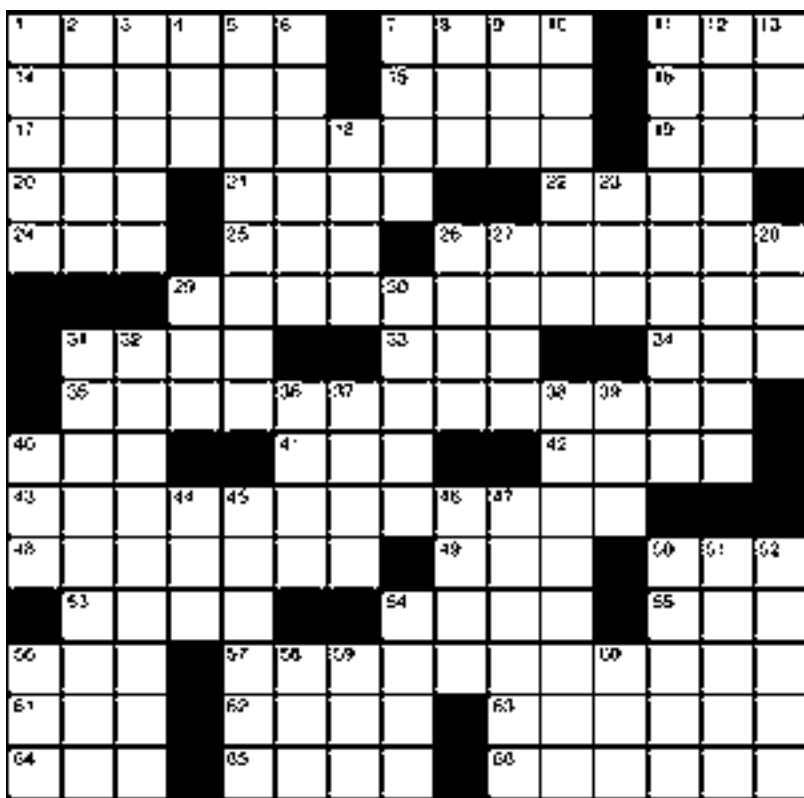
The Church of England adopts legislation paving the way for the appointment of female bishops.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Chess play
- 7 Antique cane topper
- 11 Home of the N.Y. Rangers
- 14 Fundraising targets
- 15 Wrath, in a hymn
- 16 Scarfed down
- 17 Annual Christmas party group
- 19 Small group
- 20 Brightened, with "up"
- 21 Bible book
- 22 "Let it be so!"
- 24 Thrice due
- 25 Wetlands protection org.
- 26 "Driving Miss Daisy" setting
- 29 Humor that won't offend
- 31 Long poem
- 33 One of two Pauline epistles: Abbr.
- 34 "___ for Innocent": Grafton novel
- 35 Pentecost, e.g., and what can literally be found in this puzzle's four other longest answers
- 40 Same old thing
- 41 "This American Life" host Glass
- 42 Run
- 43 Exercised caution
- 48 Theatergoer's option
- 49 Fla. NBA team
- 50 Maker of "3 Series" cars
- 53 "Beloved" author Morrison
- 54 Fromage hue
- 55 Yay relative
- 56 Part of a disguise
- 57 Singer with the debut solo album "Love. Angel. Music. Baby."
- 61 Loan letters
- 62 Lisa's title
- 63 Passes
- 64 Relaxing retreat
- 65 Against



By John Guzzetta

1/7/15

66 Winning run, perhaps

DOWN

- 1 Pens for Dickens?
- 2 Caine title role
- 3 Civilian garb
- 4 ASCAP rival
- 5 Grow
- 6 Jams
- 7 Social group
- 8 Org. co-founded by Gen. George Wingate
- 9 Knucklehead
- 10 Happen to
- 11 Got some attention
- 12 Flier that may have four lines
- 13 Prefix with thermal
- 18 "Right away!"
- 23 Key abbr.
- 26 "He makes no friends who never made ___": Tennyson
- 27 Grass-and-roots layer
- 28 '50s Dem. presidential hopeful

Last Edition's Puzzle Solved



(c)2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 3/21/14

- 29 Good, in Hebrew
- 30 Brilliance
- 31 Effort to equal others
- 32 Relative of a T-shirt launcher
- 36 Hill worker
- 37 Creamy spread
- 38 Flowing out
- 39 Tankard contents
- 40 Tach no.
- 44 Dark side
- 45 It's hard to untangle
- 46 Fifths on a staff
- 47 Knifelike ridges
- 50 Support
- 51 ___ ray
- 52 Chef's tool
- 54 ___ B'rith
- 56 Nintendo's ___ Mini
- 58 Finished on top
- 59 Dr.'s specialty
- 60 Distant

THE COMMONS Cafeteria

... MENU ...
1/7-1/13

Wednesday: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Turkey Cutler with Browned Butter Sauce, Squash Enchiladas*. Soups: Sausage, White Bean and Kale*, and Creamy Tomato and Parmesan.

Thursday: Swiss Steak, Hazelnut Crusted Salmon with Frangelico Beurre Blanc*, Macaroni and Cheese Gratin. Soups: Chicken, Bacon and Potato, and Vegetarian Lentil*

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Chicken Chasseur, Cajun Catfish Sandwich, Squash Curry with Brown Rice*. Soups: Chicken and Rice*, and Ginger Curry Carrot*

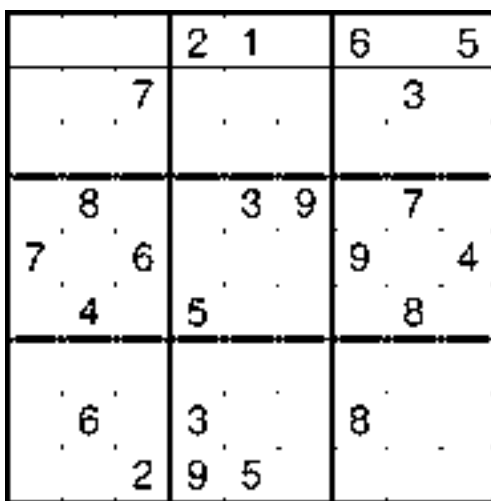
Tuesday: Chicken Pot Pie, Baked Salmon with Lemon-Caper Browned Butter*, Vegetarian Omelet or Frittata*. Soups: French Onion*, and Cream of Broccoli. Items denoted with a * are gluten-free

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

SUDOKU

THE SANDBOX OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:



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

SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S PUZZLE



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DECEMBER

December 1

Pro-democracy demonstrators and the Hong Kong Police Force clash outside the headquarters of the Government of Hong Kong.



December 3

A Staten Island grand jury decides not to indict Daniel Pantaleo, the police officer involved in the death of Eric Garner.

December 11

Hong Kong Police clear tents from the main protest area, ten weeks after they began.

The US Navy initiates the operation of laser weapons. The first use is to protect ships deployed in the Persian Gulf.



December 10

Ebola Fighters are named TIME magazine's Person of the Year.

December 13

In American football, Marcus Mariota of the University of Oregon football team wins the 2014 Heisman trophy.

December 16

For the first time, NASA emails a wrench to the ISS that was then fabricated on the ISS's Zero Gravity 3D printer.

December 17

Sony cancels the release of "The Interview", originally scheduled for Christmas 2014.

December 20

After shooting his ex-girlfriend in Baltimore, Ismaaiyl Brinsley shoots and kills two policemen execution style in Brooklyn, New York, supposedly in revenge for the deaths of two black men reportedly caused by police officers during the summer of 2014, Eric Garner and Michael Brown. The gunman is later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

December 21

China has detained more than 30 thousand people within two months for pornography and gambling.

The Commuter

YOU!

WANTS



SUBMIT YOUR:

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SPORTS

OPINION

SHORT STORIES

NEWS

POLITICAL

Send to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Must be a student. Submissions should be relevant to the school and community.
Please provide your name, email and phone number when submitting material.