

## WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

The men's and women's basketball teams tip off new season with pre-season games  
▶ Pg. 12-13

## NATIVE CULTURE

Native Americans share history and thoughts about maintaining culture in today's society ▶ Pg. 8-9



# The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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## a time for kids

The son of LBCC computer technician Vern Smith helps decorate the Christmas tree in the courtyard along with several other children from the Family Resource Center Monday. All children under 12 are invited to the 33rd annual Children's Winter Festival, which will be held this Saturday in the College Center. Activities for children include Irish dancers, cookie decorating, international holiday games, and of course, Santa. Holiday pictures with Santa will be available for \$1. Admission to the party is free, but participants are asked to bring canned food donations. This event is being sponsored by Student Life and Leadership. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the SL&L office in the Student Union.

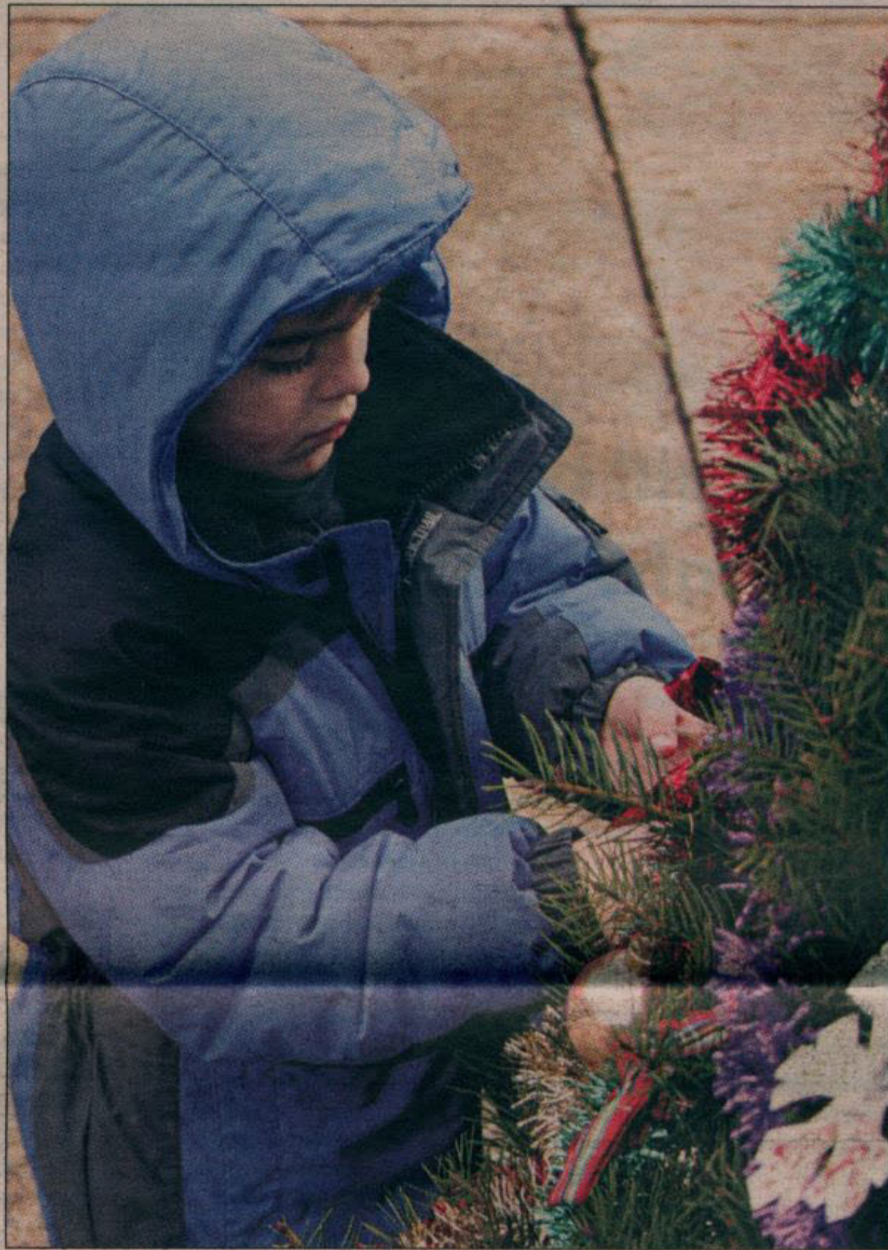


photo by Jeremy Hennig

## Popoff calls it quits after 17 years

Adam Peoples  
The Commuter

Although Financial Aid Director Lance Popoff announced that his 17-year stay at LBCC was coming to an end last June, he has continued to work through fall term to help smooth the transition of command to the new director, John Snyder.

"I've been training with (Snyder), getting him prepared to do my job," explains Popoff.

Retirement presents a unique situation for Popoff. "It's a source of anxiety. It's a big change—a huge change for me," he noted. "I'm looking forward to having time to do whatever I want. I've been working non-stop for 34-years."

Among his plans are to take his younger son visit his elder son, who is teaching abroad. Popoff's daughter is attending California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In his 34-year career Popoff has worked for Pacific University, Lewis and Clark College, University of Oregon and Western Oregon University and finally LBCC. His roles have covered administrations, work study programs, associate, assistant and director of Financial Aid, and chair of the scholarship committee.

LBCC was a distinctly different experience for Popoff, coming from four-year universities to a community college. "There is a big difference. It has a lot to do with the student body and the climate." Popoff believes LBCC caters to a wider variety of students and students' needs.

Popoff's last day will be Dec. 31. Speaking on the possibility of returning to help, Popoff says he would "be available and love to do it. It just depends on what needs to be done."

Over the course of his time at LBCC, Popoff has seen the financial aid program evolve in a multifaceted manner. File cabinets and data punch-cards have been replaced with computer automation. "Now virtually everything we do is electronic," says Popoff.

The state of financial aid itself has changed with time. "Reaganomics" gave way to a "dot.com" driven surplus and back to a post 9-11 military expenditure

▶ Turn to "Popoff" on Page 4

## Students must go off campus for flu shots

Brent VonCannon  
The Commuter

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu strikes 10 to 20 percent of the U.S. population each year, killing about 36,000 and putting 114,000 victims in the hospital.

The flu is a contagious disease caused by the influenza virus that attacks the respiratory tract in humans. Most people with the flu will recover in one or two weeks, but some may develop life-threatening complications like pneumonia as a result of the flu.

The flu season is something LBCC students and staff should be concerned about, according to Leta Friedt, a registered nurse with the Linn County Health Department. Friedt heads the LBCC on-

▶ Turn to "Flu" on Page 4

## Winter registration underway

Michelle Bertalot  
The Commuter

With the changing of the temperatures follows the changing of terms for LB students.

The usual "cascading" registration will be used for winter term, which begins Jan. 5. Registration started yesterday at 7 a.m. for those with 120 credit hours or more. Today, starting at 9 a.m., students who have earned between 50-59 credit hours will be eligible for registration.

Open registration will begin Dec. 8 for new students to LBCC. "Anyone who is not fully admitted or never attended LB before can start registration this next Monday," John Snyder, LBCC registrar commented.

Students should register as soon as possible to ensure they get into the class

they want and to avoid waitlist status.

"At the end of the first week for fall term, there were 330 classes with students on waitlists," Snyder explained.

It is also important for students who are receiving financial aid to register for classes early. If a student needs a certain amount of credits in order to receive their financial aid, it will not be activated until

they are registered for the specific amount. This makes it a challenge to buy books for classes or other supplies with the financial aid money.

Keep in mind sometimes classes get dropped when there are not enough students enrolled in the class. For example, the "Hackers, Crackers and Spies" class that was going to be offered at the Benton Center in Corvallis was canceled. "There was only one person registered so the class was canceled," stated Moira Walton, a Benton Center employee.

**"Anyone who is not fully admitted or never attended LB before can start registration this next Monday."**

▶ John Snyder

### WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 50 low 36  
WEDNESDAY

high 53 low 46  
THURSDAY

high 51 low 42  
FRIDAY

high 49 low 39  
SATURDAY

high 49 low 38  
SUNDAY

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Commuter

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# OPINION

**Send letters to The Commuter:**  
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## Freedoms given with Bill of Rights are used by hypocritical right-wing groups

**Laurent Bonczijk**  
 The Commuter

One of the biggest attractions that America holds for me is its Constitution, and most particularly the Bill of Rights. It is, in my modest opinion, one of the best crafted, most thoroughly thought out and written pieces of law on earth. Its historical influence is no doubt as great as the 1215 Magna Carta. So why do special interest groups continually try to undermine and modify it?

I am talking about right-wing Christian groups, such as American Family Association's continual attempts to breach the wall between church and state set by the First Amendment. Their attacks vary from displaying or attempting to display reproductions of the Ten Commandments on government properties, to changing the wording of national mottoes and through attempts to require prayer in school or at school events.

It is hard for me to understand the rhetoric of those groups. Their biased argument is that this nation was founded on religious belief and that therefore the state should endorse them. The fallacy of this argument is that the first people to immigrate in this country, the pilgrims, did so because of their fear of persecution by the government of Great Britain, whose reigning sovereign is the head of the Church of England, also known as Anglicanism, or the Episcopal Church.

Their true intent is to limit freedom of religion by having the government endorse Christianity as the official religion of the United States. One among many of their latest attempts is S.1558, a bill that aims at

preventing any federal court lesser than the Supreme Court to make decisions on matters pertaining to the national motto, the Pledge of Allegiance and displays of the Ten Commandments. This bill claims to "restore religious freedom." I fail to see restoration of religious freedom in the endorsement of the Christian faith by the government. Remember: The words "under god" were not added to the Pledge of Allegiance until 1954, after hard campaigning by the Roman Catholic Knights of Columbus, a catholic organization open to men aged 18 and older. The original 1852 version reads, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." (My flag was changed in 1945 to ensure immigrants were thinking of the right flag.)

Another of their pet projects is school prayer. Their once again biased argument is that students are not forced to join in. The same people who claim that parents should be allowed to teach their children about religion and the making of life and matter want to take that right away from parents who chose to teach their children other traditions than the Christian one. Their argument is that students are allowed to leave the room, ignoring the fact that it makes them the center of attention of the class, therefore preventing them from fitting in, one of the most important matters for school children.

Again the right-wing Christians are displaying their policy of double standards, attempting to paint themselves as the oppressed minority, holder of the truth, when their actual goal is the pursuit of a political agenda for the endorsement of Christianity by the government of the United States of America.



**LAURENT BONCZIK**  
 EDITORIAL

**It is hard for me to understand the rhetoric of those groups. Their biased argument is that this nation was founded on religious belief and that therefore the state should endorse them.**

▶ Laurent Bonczijk

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Reader concerned by failure to print announcement

To the Editor:

I came into the office of The Commuter last week (Oct.19) with an announcement that I was hoping the paper could print. It concerned a basketball team that the community of Albany is trying to put together for the high school age girls, grades 9-12. This league would be through the Boys and Girls club. I know this campus has moms, dads, older brothers, sisters, cousins, friends, etc. who may know girls that are interested. We need to have 34 to form a league by Dec. 2, as of today I have 15.

That is why, last week, I went to The Commuter with my request to run an announcement, but I was told that it sounded like an advertisement. It is not, it is a public service announcement. They said they would get back to me, but no one did. The announcement was not political or salacious, or personal and this is a community newspaper, is it not? Since this is a community event, why not run it?

If you do know of any high school aged girls who are interested in participating at all skill levels welcome. South, West, private school, home school, whatever... Please give me a call (924-9126) and let me know. Leave a message.

Dawn Crawford

## Accuracy important for reporting on ASG meeting

To the Editor:

I am responding to Rebecca Kendall's Commuter article dated Nov. 4, 2003 titled "ASG looks at improving services from Bookstore."

The information reported was a misrepresentation beginning with my name. Rebecca stated my name as Brenda Page instead of Brenda Pace. The ASG did not solicit my attendance, nor invite me to their meeting. In a recent conversation with Oren Hawksford, I asked if it would be possible to meet with the ASG Board to clarify Bookstore procedures and offer rational for the policies and procedures that are in place.

As far as a "list of books" needed for classes, as Rebecca reported, the "list of books" idea came up as we were discussing textbook buyback, not when we were discussing textbook information for classes. It was the recommendation of the ASG Board, that the Bookstore provide information to ASG when textbook titles will not be bought back during book buyback, so that students would know ahead of time to avoid standing in line. We currently provide this information on an easel outside the door of book buyback, but this was a great idea to reach more students.

Finally, I would recommend to Rebecca that when she is quoting someone, that the quote be accurate. The accurate wording should have been, "We simply don't have the physical capacity to store more than 500 reservations at this time."

I felt the meeting with the ASG Board was very productive from my perspective, and I look forward to future communications to enhance services for our students.

Brenda Pace

## The Commuter

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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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# OPINION

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## Same-sex partners should have right to legal union

**Michelle Bertalot**  
 The Commuter

The issue of same-sex marriages has become scrutinized after a controversial ruling on Nov. 19, 2003 by the Massachusetts Supreme Court. The court ruled that gay and lesbian couples may not be barred from the institution of marriage.

This ruling actually contradicts the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage federally as the union of a man and woman and excused states from having to recognize same-sex marriages legally conducted in another state. In translation, this bill meant that homosexual couples would remain ineligible for spousal benefits such as federal and state tax breaks, Medicare or Social Security, or any other federal programs that inadvertently benefited those who are married.

Minus the moral debate, the legal meat of this issue is equal rights and discrimination. First off, by denying gay and lesbian couples the right to marry, essentially our government is sending a message to the public that "hey, it's not okay to be gay." It intimidates those who are gay or lesbian from "coming out of the closet." It makes it not acceptable to have these feelings.

Let's face it: Gay and lesbian couples are being treated unfairly. Our government gives tax breaks, and other special privileges to those who are married, and not to those who are single or in gay or lesbian "life-partner" relationships. There are certain "powers" that a hus-



band or wife has when their mate is incapacitated such as advising what medical direction to take with their mate. Also, if something happens to the husband or wife, the mate automatically inherits all the other's private property, unless otherwise directed. These things may seem small, but they are just examples of how gay and lesbian couples are not receiving equal rights.

The top three reasons of opposing gay marriages, according to a poll by Pew Research Center for the People, are it is morally wrong (28 percent), against religious beliefs (17 percent) or that "marriage is between a man and a woman" (16 percent). From my

one woman. To me, marriage is something that is very sacred. It is something that should stay between a male and female.

I think that people involved in gay or lesbian relationships should be able to be together and have that recognized by their government, I just don't want it to be called marriage.

They should call it a civil union. Call it an alliance. Just don't take away any more of the word marriage's meaning. There is always a gray area to a black and white issue, it's just a matter of compromise and mixing the two colors.

standpoint two of the three make a horrible argument.

Because something is morally wrong to one person, doesn't mean it's wrong to another. For example, spanking your children may seem horrible to one parent, where to another, it may be an effective punishing technique. The same thought process follows with gay and lesbian marriages, it may be morally wrong to some, but to others it's their way of life.

Also, 17 percent of Americans say that it's "against religious beliefs." When did religious beliefs become a governmental issue? Does the U.S. Constitution not address the separation of church and state? It may be against someone's "religious beliefs" but, honestly, so what?

I stand in the 16 percent that say marriage should be between one man and

## President does public relations in Iraq for turkey day

**Tribune News Service**  
 For The Commuter

As gestures go, it was magnificent. But it was far more than a gesture.

More even than a mere morale boost. President Bush's secret surprise Thanksgiving visit to the troops in Baghdad was yet more proof of his personal commitment to our mission in Iraq and America's national appreciation of our military's courage and self-sacrifice.

It was a way to assure the men and women on the front lines in the fight for freedom that neither have they been

shunted aside by their countrymen nor will their country abandon the cause for which so many have already given their lives.

The president told the cheering soldiers, "We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq, pay a bitter cost of casualties, defeat a ruthless dictator and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins."

He had a message for the liberty-loving Iraqis, too.

"Seize the moment," he urged, "and rebuild your great country based on hu-

man dignity and freedom."

And just in case the world needed a bit more clarification, Bush declared that "we will stay until the job is done."

No sooner had the videos of the presidential visit been aired, than the constant carpers were dismissing the whole exercise in patriotism as a political ploy. Everything a president, any president, does echoes of politics.

But it is doubtful those pundits would have risked their lives to stand in a chow line and serve up corn and yams to the troops in a combat zone.

More than 60 soldiers were killed in

Iraq in November alone. Attacks against allied forces are averaging about 30 per day.

The thugs and assassins have the armament to bring down an aircraft. They would not have hesitated. They would have salivated at the chance to bring down the president's plane.

Our president is also the commander in chief of the armed forces. It is in that capacity that he sends our troops into harm's way.

This commander in chief has seen fit to visit them there. And for that he should be commended, not criticized.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Every conceived child has the birthright to a full life

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recent editorial. (Nov. 19, 2003) Yes, I agree abortion is wrong morally. One of the supreme social challenges in the American Society is not female fetus abortion, but the continuing society-wide libertine attitude toward male sexual intercourse on demand from all too willing (like-aged) females.

The resulting unwanted pregnancies are societally seen as the responsibility of young female Americans, rather than the result of culturally condoned male sexual aggression.

Last time I checked, a young woman's future need for a fetus abortion commences when a male's sperm is ejaculated into her vagina, not when a needed wrong clinical medical abortion is performed on her. If you will check with the genome researchers at Wayne State

University, you will learn that the genetic match between chimpanzees and homo sapians is 99.7 percent.

Yes, Erica, you, I and every human in the cosmos are animals driven by the lifecycle-programmed biological duties that are encrypted in our genes.

To wrap up your thoughts on the matter, get a hold of the annual reports of the National Center of Children's Health and Human Development and read the sociometric projections for the bastard children of the libertine American Society.

Every child conceived in America has the birthright, in my thinking, to a full future social, economic, intellectual unfolding of their lives.

The reports paint a shocking story of full-fledged life denied to over 40 percent of American children because they are sexually conceived too early in the life of their mothers and vanished fathers, or that the too early sex partners had not physiologically matured enough to have the genetic marker genes of full-fledged human maturation to pass on to their own children.

Donal Baarstad

### EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issues.

The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed. Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff or LBCC.

Drop letters off at The Commuter office, Forum Room 222. or email letters to the editor to: [commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu).

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## Flu: Shots available through health department, agencies

▲ From page 1

campus health clinic. The health department served 117 people at LBCC during the last peak flu season, Oct. 9 to Dec. 4 of last year, including 15 who received flu shots.

The LBCC health clinic is not offering flu shots this year as it has in the past. Friedt explains this is due to the wide availability of flu vaccinations through the health department and other health-related agencies. She also notes that the number of students receiving flu shots at the LBCC clinic was down last year.

The county health department runs clinics in Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home, and flu shots are administered at those locations.

For more information, the Linn County Health Department can be reached at 967-3888.

Though flu shots aren't offered this year, the LBCC clinic does offer services ranging from immunizations, such as the measles, mumps and rubella (German measles) combo and hepatitis. Testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, physicals and reproductive health services and consultation is also available.

The clinic is located in Tadena Hall every Wednesday through Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will also be open

during winter and spring terms. Services are free or low-cost.

Anyone can be at risk of getting the flu, but complications are more likely to occur in the very old, the very young, and those with chronic health problems. The virus is more likely to spread in crowded places such as classrooms, traveling through the air from its release after sneezing, coughing, or speaking. A person can spread the virus before he or she starts feeling sick.

Flu symptoms mimic those of many other common ailments, so people with the flu may not be aware they have it. The CDC emphasizes that only a doctor can diagnose the flu. Flu symptom onset is usually sudden and is mostly likely to be contracted during the months of November through April.

Treatments for those with the flu include rest, drinking plenty of liquids, avoiding alcohol and other drugs, and taking symptom-relieving medication, either over-the-counter or as prescribed by a doctor.

The best prevention method is to get a yearly flu shot, which has been shown to be up to 90 percent effective, according to the CDC.

"I can't overemphasize the importance of yearly vaccination. That would be my advice," states Friedt.



**Home Sweet Home**

Construction on the new Sweet Home High School, which will include a new home for the LBCC Sweet Home Center, is well underway.

photo by Lewis Forquer

## Minimum wage to increase January 2004

**Rebecca Kendall**  
The Commuter

On Jan. 1 the minimum wage will rise 15 cents an hour to \$7.05 in Oregon and that's welcome news to Meta Mills, who works a minimum wage job in Corvallis. "I am actually really excited about it, it's like getting an extra Christmas present," Mills stated.

Oregon's minimum wage will become the fourth highest in the country. The highest is Washington's, which goes to

\$7.16 in January.

Students holding work study jobs at LBCC have already received the increase because the college decided to start paying the higher wage fall term instead of waiting till January.

According to Carla Raymond in the work study office, the change will not cost the school any money.

"They have the same amount they can earn, but are working less hours so they don't go over their award amount," Raymond explained.

## Popoff: Director sees many changes in students, rules

▲ From page 1

surge, an economic slump and exploding federal deficit. Popoff cites tighter federal funds, hikes in tuition and growth in student numbers as decisive elements in creating the economic situation facing today's students.

Policy changes have been an ongoing event within the system. Every few years congress reviews their choices and often makes changes. These, along with shifts in LBCC financial aid policy have created an ever changing environment. "What may have been a priority a year ago gets tossed in the trash and focus is (shifted) to newer priorities.

With computers and the electronic revolution, a double-sided sword has cut into financial aid application procedures. New technology has significantly reduced the work load for Popoff and other staff members. Though it has also bred a student who expects faster results. "This generation we're working with is used to ATM. When they want money, it's instantaneous," comments the retiring director.

Popoff states during the fall term the financial aid office processed roughly 7,000 applications with 10 staff members. Though he feels the staff is reaching the peak of its efficiency, students still endure long lines at the office window. Popoff expects an additional staff member in January. "That will help," says Popoff. "Students will feel the difference."

The Financial Aid office also employs nine work-study students. They help with filing, procedural preparations, and at

times work with other students personally. "Without the work-study students, we would be really hard-pressed," comments Popoff.

Students have a part in their own delays. "Three out of four applications have to be reprocessed because of student omissions, information tagged for verification, and incorrect information," remarked Popoff. "If filled out correctly, we'd wind up being able to return most people's applications in two to three weeks."

He also gave an example of a student turning in an application to a variety of different

schools. Though the student uses this to explore education options, it means each school must process the application.

One obstacle facing Popoff and his crew over the years has been managing federal funds. The office is allocated a certain amount of dollars in aid to provide for students. Popoff's stance has always been to over-commit, because if anything was left over, LBCC's financial aid wouldn't be allowed as much the following year.

The office is also subject to audits and required to complete a lengthy annual report. The Fiscal Opportunity Report and

Application of Funds explains how past funds were distributed. Additionally, the report is used to make requests for the upcoming year's funding.

Leaving behind a legacy, Popoff will be remembered for many things. "One thing I feel really proud of is we are a financial aid (program) that tries to work with students and give them the most opportunities," said Popoff. He oversaw the automation and helped create one of the fastest application processes in Oregon state schools. His impact on the staff can be seen in the current distribution of responsibility within

the office.

He also shares a story, amusing in retrospect, that was a great concern when it unfolded. At the turn of the millennium, the "Y2K" phenomena created a "serious" tension within the computer-reliant office. The staff completed a demonstration using 100 fictitious students profiles showing the office as "Y2K compliant." "We got letters of commendation," remarked Popoff. He spared no time to add that in event of a power failure, the system would be rendered useless. "I still have a polo shirt that says, 'I survived Y2K,'" joked Popoff.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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



## A Pint for Life

Grace Goracke (left) was one of 74 students and staff who donated blood in last week's on-campus drive held by the Red Cross. Volunteer Delene Hoake (below) was there to help the two nurses on duty collect 62 pints of blood, only four pints short of the goal. According to Eric Vargas of Student Life and Leadership, 60 out of 85 pledgers showed up and 14 others walked in.

photos by Scott McClure



## ASG addresses parking lot safety, parent's concerns, holiday events

Timothy Woodruff  
 The Commuter

At the Associated Student Government meeting Nov. 19, concerns were also raised about the safety of the parking lots on campus.

Complaints were brought up about motorists driving too fast, ignoring stop signs and being careless.

According to the security department, two officers have come close to being injured by drivers at the college. In past years both pedestrians and vehicles have been hit. In those cases dealing with vehicles, the responsible party rarely left notes, or contacted the driver of the vehicle.

Nothing is set in stone, but the student government plans to hand out surveys about student's problems and concerns with the parking lots on campus to begin seeking solutions to the problems.

The student government also discussed the complaints students with children had with the inadequate facilities for chil-

dren on campus.

Thoughts were brought to light on the possibility of erecting a play area for children. Some parents have complained that the campus has no place suited for children, while other students sometimes complain of disturbance when parents bring their children to the Learning Center.

In other action, the ASG continued to discuss its proposal to create a new scholarship fund that would be financed through a raffle of reserved parking spaces on campus.

The proposal is being sent to the Scholarship Awards Committee and other involved groups on campus. Questions still linger as to what the requirements will be for such scholarships and which academic groups will be targeted.

The Associated Student Government hopes to hold a drawing in which the winners will receive front-row parking spots for a term, reserved exclusively for that student. The money from the raffle, as well as money from the ASG budget, would make

the upcoming scholarships possible.

With the approach of the holidays, the student government turned its attention to Christmas. ASG plans to set up a giving tree in Takena Hall so that students will have the opportunity to help the less fortunate.

Students will be able to grab cards, which include the age and gender of the child who will receive their gift. Then they will bring the unwrapped gift to the student government, who will then wrap it.

The student government is also working to create a positive relationship with Home Life Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been assisting adults with developmental disabilities since 1972.

On Jan. 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 24 students will split up into three groups. Each group will visit separate houses, sharing arts and crafts, puzzles, stories and games with the clients. Drinks and light snacks will also be served.

(Editor's Note: See Page 5 for related story on Home Life).

## College buying up Internet domain names to secure rights

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk  
 The Commuter

Linn-Benton website.

The domains considered by the college are www.linnbenton.net and www.linnbenton.tv, "given that we have a dedicated cable channel provided to us by Corvallis' Comcast cable system," says Sherlock.

"Most of the other variations on 'LBCC' or 'linnbenton' (.com, .org, etc) are already taken," he added.

The cost would be about \$35 per year or \$75 for three years, according to Sherlock.

Linn-Benton Community College is considering buying new domain names for the school's web site.



Joe Sherlock

The intent of college officials is to prevent confusion among those people who may be looking for the college's website and find something that sounds similar.

"I would hate for people to go there and think it's LB," explains Joe Sherlock, college publications and website manager.

Those different extensions would only be used as forward pages toward the official www.linnbenton.edu website.

Linnbenton.org, for example, is science instructor Dr. Raza Khan's website, not an official

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Editor-in-Chief: Michelle Bertalot  
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Sweet Home and Tangent

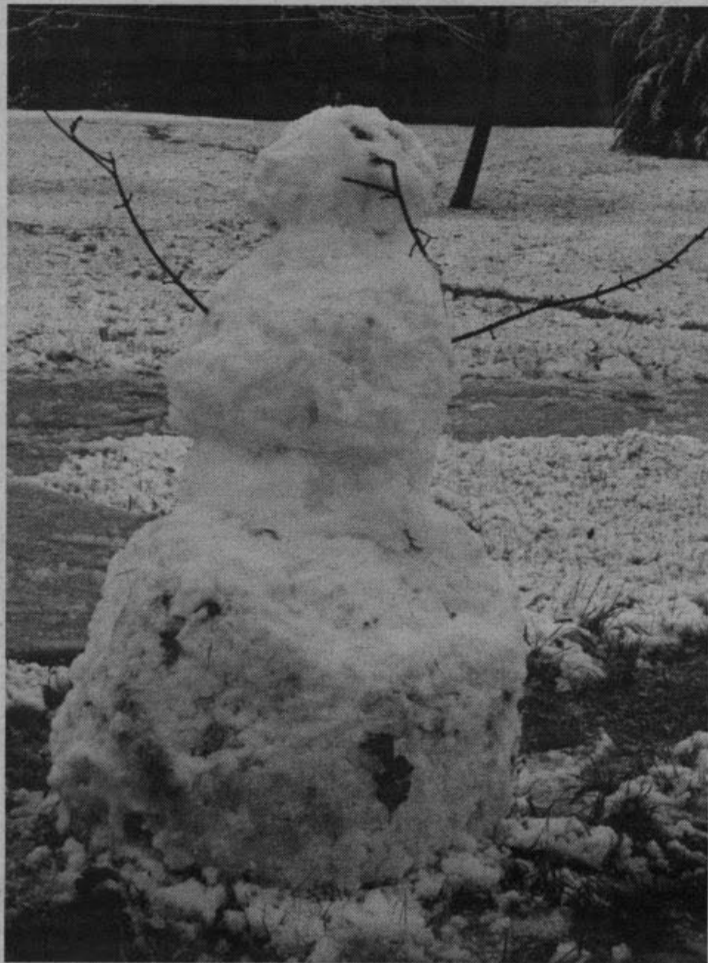


photo by Lewis Forquer

## First Snow

A snowman sits on the grounds of the former Lebanon Middle School, which was demolished after being condemned. Lebanon saw over 2 inches of snow on Nov. 19, prompting early release from some area schools for students. Below, the snow blankets the hills east of Albany, as a result of the season's first snow in the mid-valley.



photo by Scott McClure

## Home Life offers help to developmentally disabled

Carissa Marshall  
 The Commuter

The Home Life Program in Corvallis, a non-profit organization that provides integrated community living for adults with developmental disabilities, is seeking volunteers to work with their clients.

Home Life was established in 1972 by a group of parents who didn't want to place their children with developmental disabilities in state-run institutions when they reached adulthood.

In this environment, clients learn and practice living skills, which encourage happy, productive and independent lives.

Home Life began as one home and today has three: Mumford House, 25th Street House, and the Duplex House.

A supportive living program was also developed through Home Life which provides clients who live on their own with support.

The 25th Street Program provides 24-hour supervision with an emphasis on building daily living skills, recreation and leisure activities, and socialization skills. The Mumford Program is a subsidized home serving the needs of seniors with disabilities, also a 24-hour supervised home. The Duplex Program provides 24-hour supervision with dual diagnosis: A history of mental illness and developmen-

tal disability, emphasis on support for individuals to adapt to life's changes in a positive way.

There are 41 clients, ranging in age from 22 to 65. Roughly 38 percent are women and 62 percent are men. With the help of Home Life, clients practice social skills, assume responsibilities, work in paid employment and use public transportation.

They learn to be as independent as possible and contribute to the community.

**"Volunteering is a very empowering structure in people's lives."**

► Raina Wickham

Volunteers are welcome—the clients appreciate it tremendously and students can gain transfer credits through LBCC's Cooperative Work Experience Program, according to Volunteer Coordinator Raina Wickham.

"Volunteering is a very empowering structure in people's lives," explains Wickham.

Volunteers for Home Life may choose from a variety of activities, including acting as social mentors; teaching arts and crafts; providing life skills training; playing bingo or bowling; teaching sign language, reading or computer technology; fund raising; and providing one-on-one companionship.

Every 30 hours volunteered can earn one CWE credit. Internships are available in program management, office management, and volunteer coordinating. To volunteer or get more information, contact Wickham at (541) 753-9015.

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INFO

# NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE: YESTERDAY & TODAY



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF OREGON'S TRIBAL NATIVES AND THEIR BACKGROUND

Mike Johnston  
 The Commuter

The native people of Oregon date back as far as 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Scientists are even beginning to find evidence of natives arriving in the area prior to that time.

Most scholars agree that the first people to enter the Americas were Asian migrants who followed their food across Beringia, the land bridge that connected Siberia to Alaska during the last Ice Age, according to "Through Indian Eyes", a book by Reader's Digest. These people moved across the continent and began to find their homes anywhere suitable between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans.

Many tribes settled in Oregon. Among these groups were the Calapooia, Yamhill, Modoc, and Chinook (who were actually a variety of different tribes under one label.)

"Oregon is divided into major environmental zones," anthropology Instructor Michele Wilson commented. "You have the coast, inland valleys, the Lower Columbia, and the Great Basin too."

Wilson added that each one of these areas have differing environments and people culturally develop based on their adaptation to their environment. This made Oregon a land of many cultures.

In the Willamette Valley came the tribe of the Calapooia. Wilson said, "They had a broad geographic range. They can be designated to Eugene and Cottage Grove and a little north of that."

The Calapooia and other tribes used their environment to develop a culture. Streams and rivers made fishing a part of their economy as well as the high abundance of plant foods like camas, the bulb of a wild lily. These people also depended on the abundance of nuts and

berries in the area.

Dear, small mammals and a variety of fowl were hunted to fulfill the nutritional need for meat. Around the Klamath Lakes even bears were hunted, but this would be done more for the prestige of slaying such a dangerous prey. Decoys, snares, pitfalls and other traps were

used to hinder their prey, while a spear or a bow and arrow was used as the primary killing weapons. In this region clubs were sometimes used, but not as much as tribes in other parts of the continent. Dogs were domesticated for use in tracking prey.

Generally, women would stay at the camp collecting berries and nuts while the men of the group were out hunting. But these roles were not specific. Men often helped gather food and told the woman about good patches of fruit they saw on their hunting

journey.

Seasonal rounds were kept. People moved with the abundance of foods. When the seasons begin to change, so would the diet. So, tribes moved every season to places that were before designated as good places to stay during that particular season. Camps were never maintained for long and few stayed in the same place for any significant of time. This system of seasonal rotation was a great way to conserve resources.

Like most of the natives in the Americas, the Oregonian natives did not believe in the ownership of land. Tribes had territories that were set usually by natural borders, such as mountains or rivers, but

they felt that the land was theirs to take care of, not theirs to abuse. If a tribe wanted to use part of another tribe's territory for hunting or gathering, they had to do no more than ask permission and it was usually granted.

The area was a peaceful one. Wilson states, "There were groups that were traditional enemies, but there doesn't appear to have been overt conflict, although there were disputes and some slaves were kept."

Wilson explained that slavery to Native Americans is much different than what people today know it as. If one owned a slave it was generally to pay off a debt or to keep a prisoner of war. These slaves were allowed their freedom after a given amount of time and were never treated harshly. Wilson clarifies by saying slaves were treated like "poor relatives."

Violence in the region came with the white settlers in the middle to late 1800s. White pioneers formed vigilante groups who took it upon themselves to rid the land of the natives who were seen as a nuisance. After years of warring, the natives were eventually placed into reservations.

But the native tradition carried on. Since there was no written language, survivors of the race had to hold onto the oral traditions of their forefathers. Stories of mysticism and magic continue to be told by the current population of Oregon's natives.

Originally the elders would be held as living encyclopedias of passed-down knowledge. Holding on to this knowledge is one of the great battles that Native Americans still fight.

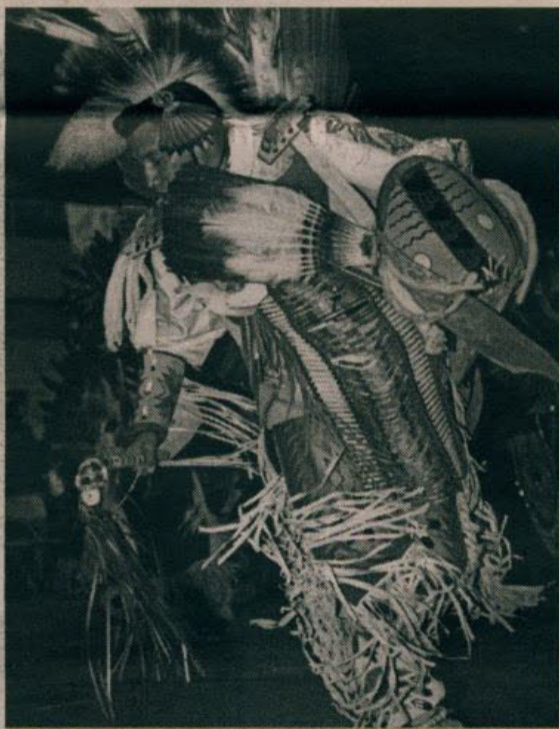


PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLURE



PHOTO BY PEGGY ISAACS



PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLURE



Expanded feature on selected topics, relating to student life and local issues.

# OCUS

## PRESERVING THE TRADITIONAL CULTURE WHILE ADAPTING TO MODERN TIMES

**Peggy Isaacs**  
The Commuter

What are some Native Americans doing these days? One Umatilla tribe is buying back their reservation with money from their casino.

This is what Patrick Luke, a fish and wildlife major at OSU, said about the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla-Walla Indian Reservation outside Pendleton, Oregon

The Wild Horse Gaming Resort does not give allotments to their members. Saving money to buy back the reservation is the only things on their minds. They want the land back

that their forefathers owned and lived on. This is only one of the many efforts the Native Americans are doing to preserve their culture.

Luke is also events coordinator for the Native American Longhouse at OSU. He says having powwows is another way the Native Americans share with "non-tribal folks." They express themselves and bring good feelings to share in a positive atmosphere.

The tribe shares dance, songs, crafts and drumming. They are trying to get people involved with



PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLURE

their culture so they "can grow and have balance."

Luke explains that a spring powwow is to "honor our creator for giving us our food for the year and to have respect for all living things."

The spring is when the first runs of salmon start and when roots are ready to eat after a long, foodless winter.

He states the difference between a powwow and a ceremony is that mainly a ceremony is not for the general public. It is to find solutions to problems and find answers to heal your inner self and your family by being sincere in your heart.

Luke hopes to "bridge the gap" and help others learn about their neighbors and get a better understanding of the people. He would like to schedule events that will implement new ideas and bring the reality of today's world to light in a

positive way. He explains his outlook on life as "culture on one hand and living on the other."

Luke welcomes people who are interested to come and visit the Longhouse to help break the bonds of stereotyping.

"Come see the native side and be in good spirits and sit to listen to the stories of our ancestors," welcomes Luke. The stories bring reality to life and show positive attitudes. They "help you to look into things instead of just getting by."

Future events include guest speakers, film festivals and to rent a van to take folks to the spring powwows.

Luke is planning to teach beading on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m., starting in January. He will teach both for personal use and to show how beading can be used for an event to raise money.

Luke has this message for the students at LBCC. He said, "Always be proud, know your family, know who your people are. Always have respect for your elders and for those who have gone to the creator."

For more information, contact the Native American longhouse at OSU, on the corner of 26th and Jefferson, call 737-2738, or visit their website: <http://www.osu.orst.edu/dept/munion/longhouse>.

***"Always be proud, know your family, know who your people are. Always have respect for your elders and for those who have gone to the creator."***

~ Patrick Luke



PHOTOS BY SCOTT McCLURE



PHOTO BY SCOTT McCLURE



PHOTO BY PEGGY ISAACS

**Editor-In-Chief:** Michelle Bertalot  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# NATIONAL NEWS

Current events from across  
 the United States and pertinent  
 international news

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

In need of some money? Check out the scholarships listed in the self-service kiosk in the Multicultural Center. Second floor Forum.

**Classifieds in The Commuter:** Our classified ads are free for students! Contact the Ad Dept. at (541) 917-4452 today.

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### WANTED

Photography student looking for people for portrait studies. Normal everyday portraits. Will trade photos for time. Please call Scott or Melissa at (541) 981-9091.

Club members needed for building and decorating a sculpture to race during Da Vinci Days. Contact Nick Marsh at (541) 924-5723 if interested give a call anytime or just leave your name and number.

Volunteers needed for the Childrens Winter Festival on Dec 6th in the Commons. Please contact Yu-Ping Hung @ 917-4963 for more information.

### FOR RENT

Need Instruments? Many local businesses can set you up! Talk to a music store near you about student rental rates!

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### HELP WANTED

**Student Trainee** (#2184, Oregon) Summer work experience program working with the government. They want students in soil science, soil conservation, ergonomics, natural resources, hydrology, wildlife, fisheries, or GIS minor and be either a freshman or a sophomore. See Student Employment in T101 for more details!

**Home Care Workers** (#2167, Linn & Benton counties) Sign up to care for disabled people; training will be provided. It takes 1-2 weeks for the application process, so you need to apply now. Please see Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for more info!

**Computer Technician** (#2190, Corvallis) If you are a current student of college computer degree classes, this great opportunity is open to you! It pays \$10.54/hr for 20 hrs/week and is a 9-month job. Sign up with Student Employment in T101 for info on how to apply!

**Computer Aided Notetaker** (#2196, LBCC) This part-time job assists disabled students in the classroom by taking accurate & comprehensive notes on a laptop computer. Work on LBCC campus and get paid \$8.17/hr. See Carla in LBCC's Student Employment (T101) for a referral.

Now hiring for W/S term workstudy position for The Multicultural Center. Pick up a job description and application in the Multicultural Center in F-220.

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## Accounts vary on Samarra firefight

**KRT News Service**  
 For The Commuter

SAMARRA, Iraq—The U.S. military and Iraqi officials gave sharply conflicting accounts Monday of a firefight on Sunday in the Iraqi town of Samarra, where the U.S. military Monday said it killed 54 Iraqis, not the 46 reported earlier.

The ambush, the conflicting accounts and the evidence that guerrillas were able to plan an ambitious operation in a populated area without anyone alerting the Americans all underscored the problem U.S. troops face in eradicating the guerrillas without alienating more Iraqis.

U.S. officials said Sunday's failed ambush on U.S. troops was bigger and better coordinated than other recent attacks on U.S. troops, which have been isolated ambushes using homemade roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and rifles.

U.S. military officials said the battle in Samarra began Sunday afternoon when dozens of guerrillas simultaneously ambushed two U.S. military convoys delivering bags of Iraqi currency to two banks east and west of the city.

"This was done in a concerted fashion," said Col. Frederick Rudesheim, who commands U.S. military operations in the city.

The attackers appeared to know the precise routes of both convoys, planting gunmen on rooftops and alleyways along the way.

They had also positioned armed groups



photo by KRT News Service

**An injured Iraqi lies in a hospital bed after being caught in the middle of a firefight between U.S. troops and supposed Iraqi insurgents in the northern town of Samarra. Villagers claim troops fired on civilians, but the troops say they were responding to attacks by guerillas.**

of 30 to 40 fighters at the banks and other ambush points. They erected a makeshift barricade to block one of the convoys.

Others were dispatched with Kalashnikov rifles and rocket-propelled grenades in cars to chase and attack U.S. troops, said U.S. military officials.

The guerrillas used mortars and roadside bombs in addition to small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

The attack, however, failed, despite its scale and high level of coordination. U.S. troops returned fire with small arms, 120 mm tank rounds and 25 mm canon fire from Bradley fighting vehicles, said U.S. military officials.

Iraqis in the town say the death toll was

much lower than reported by the U.S. military, although they also complained that the U.S. response was excessive.

At the main hospital, Iraqi officials said there were eight dead, including an Iraqi woman and a 73-year-old Iranian man. Among the 55 injured, they said, were elderly men, two women and at least 10 children.

"All the people injured and killed were innocent people," said Said Hassan Ali al Janabi, an information officer for the Samarra hospital.

U.S. officials said all the casualties were guerrillas. There were 18 wounded and 11 captured. Five U.S. soldiers received non-life-threatening injuries.

"We understand there is a discrepancy," said Maj. Gordon Tate, a spokesman for the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

"We're confident of our assessment."

He said that individual commanders had counted the bodies of the guerrillas on the streets. Their bodies, he said, were likely recovered and buried quickly according to Muslim tradition. He added that he had no information on any civilians who were wounded.

At the hospital, they included a 7-year-old boy named Ali Abdullah Amin who was lying on a bed with a bloodstained bandage on his leg. He was walking with his father and older brother into a nearby mosque for the traditional sunset prayer when one of the many firefights broke out, said relatives.

## Cell phone cameras become hot item

**KRT News Service**  
 For The Commuter

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Nina Sanchez thought a guy in her class was cute and wanted her cousin to check him out.

Small problem: Cousin is in New York.

So Sanchez snapped his picture and sent it to her. And it took only a minute or two.

Sanchez, 20, of Pompano Beach, Fla., snapped the guy with a picture phone — a cell phone that captures your image, which can be sent to another picture phone or to a personal computer and spread by the Internet.

Smile! This latest techno toy might be taking your picture right now, even if you're sweating at the gym, screaming at your kids or sharing an intimate moment with your lover.

These palm-sized phones are so unobtrusive you might not know you're being photographed. As a result, privacy questions are popping up as picture phone prices drop and their popularity soars.

"Like any technology, it can be used appropriately or inappropriately," said David Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, D.C. "There's a

strong potential for abuse, but we'll have to see how people use it before making a blanket judgment on whether this technology is good or bad."

That better not take too long. In the quick-changing techno world, the next new thing is for sale before anyone can say "Cheese!" Just last week, Sprint Corp. announced it was adding a TV service for cell phones with real-time programming.

As for that picture phone: It's touted as a potential workhorse. Imagine real-estate agents zapping photos to busy clients or city inspectors instantly documenting dreary eyesores. Picture store clerks snapping a robbery in progress or victims capturing

their assailant.

But let's face it. The main reason people are grabbing up picture phones is pretty much the same reason they picked up a Polaroid camera nearly a half-century ago: Instant picture, instant gratification.

"It's just fun," says Sanchez. "I take pictures of something every day."

In two important ways, this techie toy differs from many conventional cameras: It's far-reaching and discreet. A picture phone image, available immediately, can be sent anywhere, anytime via e-mail or to another picture phone user. If you're so inclined, you can also print out a clear, clean image.

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 Stir Fried Vegetables  
 Turkey Rice Soup  
 Split Pea Soup

### Friday

Chef's Choice!



**Sports Editor:** Jacob Espinoza  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4453  
 commutersports@linnbenton.edu

# SPORTS

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

## Winter wonderland at Hoodoo

**Scott McClure**  
 The Commuter

If you are a snow-sports junkie, then you're in luck.

Hoodoo Mountain Resort, located about 75 miles east of Albany on highway 20, opened this last Friday, and so far this season, it has had about 5 feet of snow, creating a current base of about 30 inches.

If you've always wanted to learn how to ski or snowboard, then Hoodoo is the place, as its staff will take their time to answer your questions and to make sure that you're ready to hit the slopes.

There are lots of activities planned this season including a canned food drive for the Sisters Kiwanis this week. Four cans of food will get you a half-price lift ticket for an entire day.

The week of Dec. 8-12, is Campus Week. Students with a college ID card and 12 or more credits can ski for half-price to help ease the stress of all those exams. There is even a student discount on a season pass.

Dec. 19 is the first evening of night skiing

(Fridays and Saturdays except during Winter Break). And on Dec. 20, the Hodag Lift is scheduled to open, and the buses start running from Peak Sports in Corvallis.

Some of Oregon's other premium ski resorts include Mount Ashland, Mount Bachelor, and four separate areas at Mount Hood—Mount Hood Meadows, Cooper Spur, Mount Hood Ski Bowl, and Timberline Lodge.

And last, but not least, is Willamette Pass.

Mount Ashland is located about 240 miles south of Albany on I-5 near Ashland.

Mount Bachelor is located 22 miles southwest of Bend, and has 3,683 ski-able acres.

Mount Hood is about 61 miles east of Portland.

Willamette Pass is located about 70 miles southeast of Eugene on Highway 58.

There are several other ski resorts and sno-parks in Or-

egon to fulfill all of your winter recreation needs. From snow-mobiling, skiing or snowboarding to wildlife photography, there are an abundance of activities to keep you busy all winter long.

For more information, on the web, visit [www.skiresortsguide.com](http://www.skiresortsguide.com).

### HOODOO CALENDAR

#### Dec. 8-12: Campus Week

Full-time students (12+ credits) ski for half-price with a college ID card

#### Dec. 19: Night Ski Opens

#### Dec. 20: Hodag Lift Opens

Also, ski buses to Hoodoo start running from Peak Sports in Corvallis

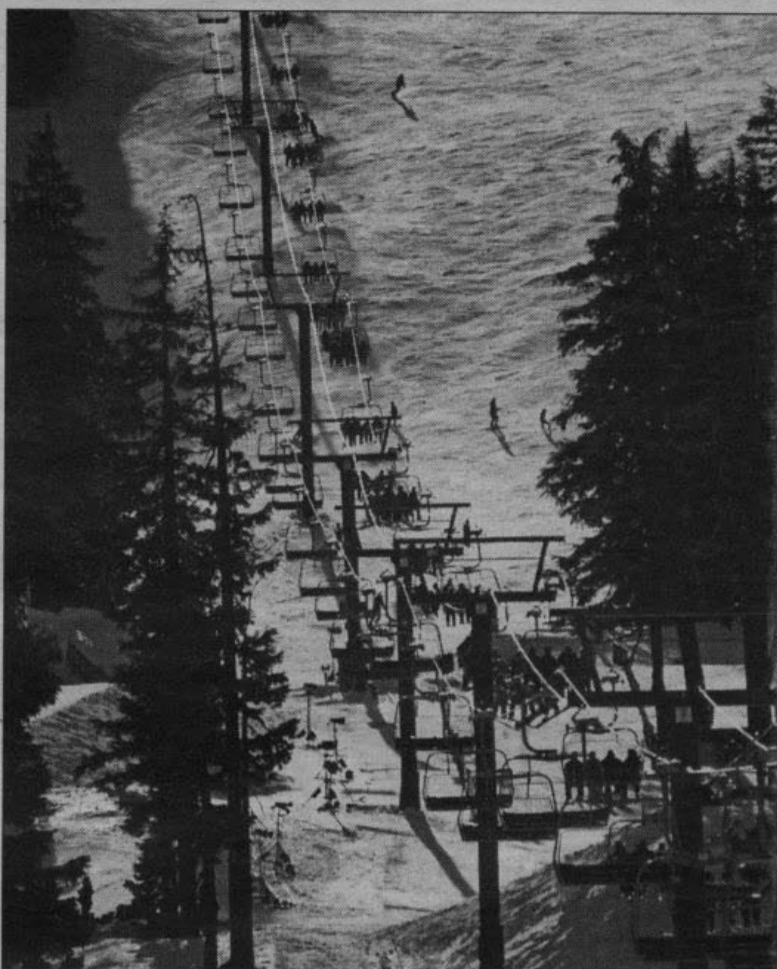


photo by Scott McClure

Hoodoo opened last Friday with about five feet of snow. They offer student discounts for those attending full-time.

### PLAYER'S DIARY

## Runner's World: Baseball looking up

**Kyle Koontz**  
 For The Commuter



Kyle Koontz photo by Jeremy Hennig

Last season our baseball team ended up in third place behind Mt. Hood and Lane, with only the top two teams going to the playoffs. We had a very good team last year with four of our six sophomores going on to play at other universities. We were very young last year, and now have more sophomores with more collegiate experience.

During the summer we had six of our players, including me, play on a wood bat semi-pro collegiate team in Portland called the Rangers. We ended up in fourth place out of 12 teams in the league. Some of our other players played on some of their hometown teams, working hard to improve their skills for this year.

This fall went very well. Our returning players are Travis Briederbock, Sean Barton, Michael Mythre, Jesse Thorpe, Neal Glynn, Sky Manon, Jeremy Robinson, Casey Nagels, and me. We all have improved and look to help the team make it to the playoffs this year.

Our freshmen look very good, making our team complete and are amongst the best in the league. We have all worked hard this fall lifting weights, running and improving our skills during fall ball. I can't wait until the season starts to see how we do.

We are more complete as a team this year, especially our pitching staff. Our pitching has players who are great starters, relievers and closers. Last year, we had just a few doing all the work. Our outfielders are outstanding. We have great hitting, good arms and are two-deep at every position in the outfield.

The infield, has returning 1st baseman Sky Manon, who hit well last year. We also have two returning second baseman, including Neal Glynn who broke his leg last season. He's

been working very hard to come back and I believe he will because of his work ethic and love for the game. At shortstop, we have Michael Mythre, who played first base, second base and pitched for us last year, doing a fine job. He has the ability to be an outstanding player with his work ethic and long hours in the weight room.

Third base is very young with Justin Nelson and Ryan Savage fighting for the position. Lastly, our catchers, Justin Nelson and Ryan Savage, who are both better than those we had last season. I look forward to pitching to both of them, as they both are very talented.

We look very good as a team this year, with talent through all positions. I think we will do very well placing in the top of our league. Our team is hard working and dedicated to winning no matter what the cost. The coaching staff, Coach Hawk and Coach Miller, are outstanding coaches who are dedicated to having the team play well and work hard. They have helped us all stay in line and focus on what is important, grades first and then baseball. I look forward to seeing what happens this season and am very excited about the talent and opportunities we have on this 2003-04 Roadrunner baseball team.

## Beavers hope to spoil Trojans' championship bid

**By Randall Mell**  
 Knight Ridder News Service

These are crazy times for Southern California football fans who spent the weekend scoreboard watching.

After a Saturday that fell mostly their way, the Trojans should hold firm to the No. 2 spot in the Bowl Championship Series poll when it's released this week. Still, it's too early for Trojan fans to book travel to the Sugar Bowl national championship game Jan. 4 at New Orleans, as No. 3 LSU still has hopes of squeezing out Southern California.

Not only that, the Oregon State Beavers hope to play the role of spoiler when they close their season against USC Saturday, before heading off to their own bowl date in Las Vegas. On Tuesday, OSU accepted the bid to play New Mexico in Las Vegas on Dec. 24.

On the other hand, fans of No. 1 Oklahoma may as well make their travel arrangements. Win or lose in Saturday's Big 12 championship showdown with No. 13 Kansas State, the Sooners are almost assured of a trip to New Orleans.

"Barring something unforeseen, I consider Oklahoma a lock to play for the national championship," said Chicago-based BCS analyst Jerry Palm.

Oklahoma's hold on the No. 1 spot in Sunday's Associated Press poll was noteworthy. The Sooners (12-0) have now held the top spot 95 times, tying Notre Dame for most ever. A victory Saturday will give the Sooners the record. Ohio State has been ranked No. 1 third most (73) followed by Miami (68) and Florida State (60).

Even if Oklahoma loses next weekend, the Sooners have accumulated so much staying power in the BCS poll, it's unlikely they would drop lower than No. 2 when the BCS matchups are announced next Sunday, which means the Sooners will play for the national championship

even if they don't win their conference title.

The seven BCS computers love them so much, they should remain No. 1 even with a loss. So, the only question now is whether they'll wear red or white in the Sugar Bowl (No. 1 gets the first choice of uniform colors).

USC (10-1), which concludes its season Saturday hosting Oregon State, had some big games fall its way over the weekend in strength-of-schedule implications, the biggest being wins that sent Georgia to the SEC title game to play LSU. Now, if LSU beats Georgia, the Tigers still lose a little something. A Tiger win should drop Georgia from the No. 6 BCS poll spot, meaning LSU will lose the quality win advantage it gets from the Bulldogs being so highly ranked. In fact, if LSU whips Georgia so thoroughly that the Bulldogs drop out of the top 10, LSU will lose all of its quality-win component.

The outcome of the Oklahoma-Kansas State game affects the other BCS bowls more than it does the Sugar Bowl. A Kansas State victory thrusts the KSU Wildcats into the BCS mix, likely bumping Texas.

The Orange Bowl is hopeful of hosting Miami-Ohio State, with an eye still on Florida State. The Seminoles, suddenly a Rose Bowl possibility against Michigan, could still end up in the Fiesta Bowl against the SEC champ.

"There is still a lot that can happen," Orange Bowl Chief Executive Officer Keith Tribble said. "We're fortunate we have both Miami and Florida State in the pool. I've always said if we can have one of our great Florida teams, where there are a lot of local fans and local interest, and match them up with a team from another part of the country that will bring a lot of fans to South Florida and spend a lot of money in our community, that's good for us."

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# SPORTS

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

## NBA season is living up to the hype ... so far

**Jacob Espinoza**  
The Commuter

Over a month into the NBA season, few teams have managed to gain any sort of momentum heading toward Christmas.

The best record in the NBA currently belongs to the Eastern Conference's Indiana Pacers.

Though they get quality play from every position and acquired a veteran point guard in Kenny Anderson over the summer, it is hard to believe that they will remain on top of the NBA standings for long.

This is especially considering the Pacers began their week-long Western Conference road trip with an embarrassing 22 point loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Los Angeles holds the leagues second-best record, and the best record in the Western Conference. Los Angeles is by far the most talented team in the NBA, but time will only tell whether or not they will be able to remain motivated throughout the season, or simply allow their talent to carry them into a middle-of-the-pack playoff spot.

The Kobe Bryant saga has not seemed to take much of a toll over the team so far, but as the impending trial date draw closer this distraction shall remain. Luckily for L.A., the team is led by three of the NBA's most seasoned veterans, which should help the team work past this unfortunate obstacle.

Allen Iverson has jumped ahead of the league's scoring race, and his team has managed to stay on top of the Atlantic Division standings with a 9-9 record. Fellow Eastern Conference All-Star, Tracy McGrady, is second amongst

NBA scorers, averaging 24.8 points per game.

After getting some help in the back-court over the summer, Kevin Garnett played possessed throughout November. He is currently fourth in scoring and leads the league in both rebounds per game and double-doubles.

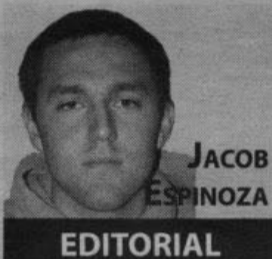
Minnesota has been a team on the brink for half a decade and KG will need to have an most valuable player-like season if he hopes to keep them within the elite of this year's ultra competitive Western Conference.

The Blazers have also managed to stay competitive in this year's Wild West. Portland is fortunate to have a plethora of players who can step up and play big on any given night, but it is unfortunate for the team that they don't have a single player ready to step up every night.

Zach Randolph seems ready to fill this role and all of Portland is behind him, but whether or not he is physically able to meet this challenge after teams begin focusing game strategies around his strengths and weaknesses is a question mark Portland will soon see themselves attempting to cope with.

However, Randolph has begun this season superbly. After finishing his sophomore season with an improved eight points per game, Randolph has opened the 2003-04 season averaging over 20 points and 11 rebounds per game.

Though he is not as physically intimidating as a Kevin Garnett or Rasheed Wallace, hopefully Randolph's heart and knack for the basket will be a solid stone for the Blazers to focus their team around.



JACOB ESPINOZA  
EDITORIAL

## Men take third in tournament

Runners open pre-season with 2-2 record after tournament

**Abe Choate**  
The Commuter

The Roadrunner men finished third out of four in the Skagit Valley Basketball Tournament over Thanksgiving weekend.

The two-day tournament, held in Mount Vernon, Wash. accounted for the Roadrunners' third and fourth pre-season games of the year as they prepare for league season to open in January.

On the first day of competition in Mount Vernon, the Roadrunner's sloppy offensive execution resulted in a 78-66 loss to the Wenatchee Valley Knights, who went on to win the tournament.

"We were not patient on offense at all," said Coach Randy Falk about the loss.

The loss put the Roadrunners into the loser's bracket against the Langara Falcons on the final day of the tournament. Falk said the team did a good job of settling down and executing better on offense against the Falcons, enabling them to come out on top 70-53. The win gave the Roadrunners third place honors at the tournament and a 2-2 pre-season record. Earlier in the month, the team beat Cascade at home and lost to Northwest Christian College in Eugene.

Falk said the team played good defense in both games of the tournament and that all the players did well. He said the team is coming together and heading in the right direction, adding "I anticipate that we will have a good year."

Bobby Shindler's play earned him All-Tourna-

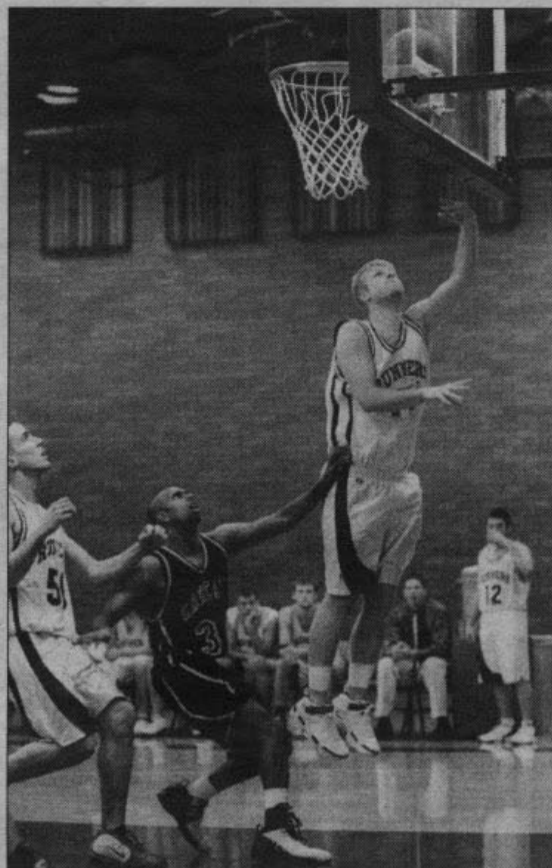


photo by Lewis Forquer  
**Trevor Abel, shown here scoring two of his seven points against Cascade JV, helped the Runners finish third in the Skagit Valley Tournament.**

ment team honors.

The Roadrunners will be in action at home against Northwest Christian College on Tuesday where they will try to avenge the loss in their season opener.

## Lady Runners are 2-0 after impressive victories at home and on the road

**Jacob Espinoza**  
The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Roadrunners opened up their season at home with an impressive win over Wenatchee Valley College's Lady Knights.

Linn-Benton opened up the game with impressive shooting from beyond the arc, hitting over 50 percent from deep for the first half, which helped them jump out to a 40-33 lead heading into the second half.

Play in the second half was fairly even, but Linn-Benton managed to maintain its lead

and earned an 88-82 victory.

Sophomores Marissa Higgins and Priscilla Hendrix dominated at both ends of the court. Higgins finished with a game-high 29 points and four steals. Hendrix added 27 points and led the team with 14 rebounds. Freshmen Debra Arlyn and Kendall Dionne both added 12 points.

Coming off of the big victory, the Runners traveled to Eugene to play the Northwest Christian College Crusaders. They played overconfident for the first half of the game and were tied with the Crusaders at half time.

"We kind of expected to come

out and dominate them," says sophomore guard Sharon Van Eaton. "When we started the first half out we were really dead and we weren't playing (at the level) we should be playing."

However, the Lady Runners stepped up their intensity and outscored the home team 49-19 in the second half as they closed out the 74-47 victory.

The Roadrunners delivered a much more balanced scoring attack in their second game of the season, with only three players scoring in double digits. Hendrix and Wolfram had 10, and Dionne led with 14.

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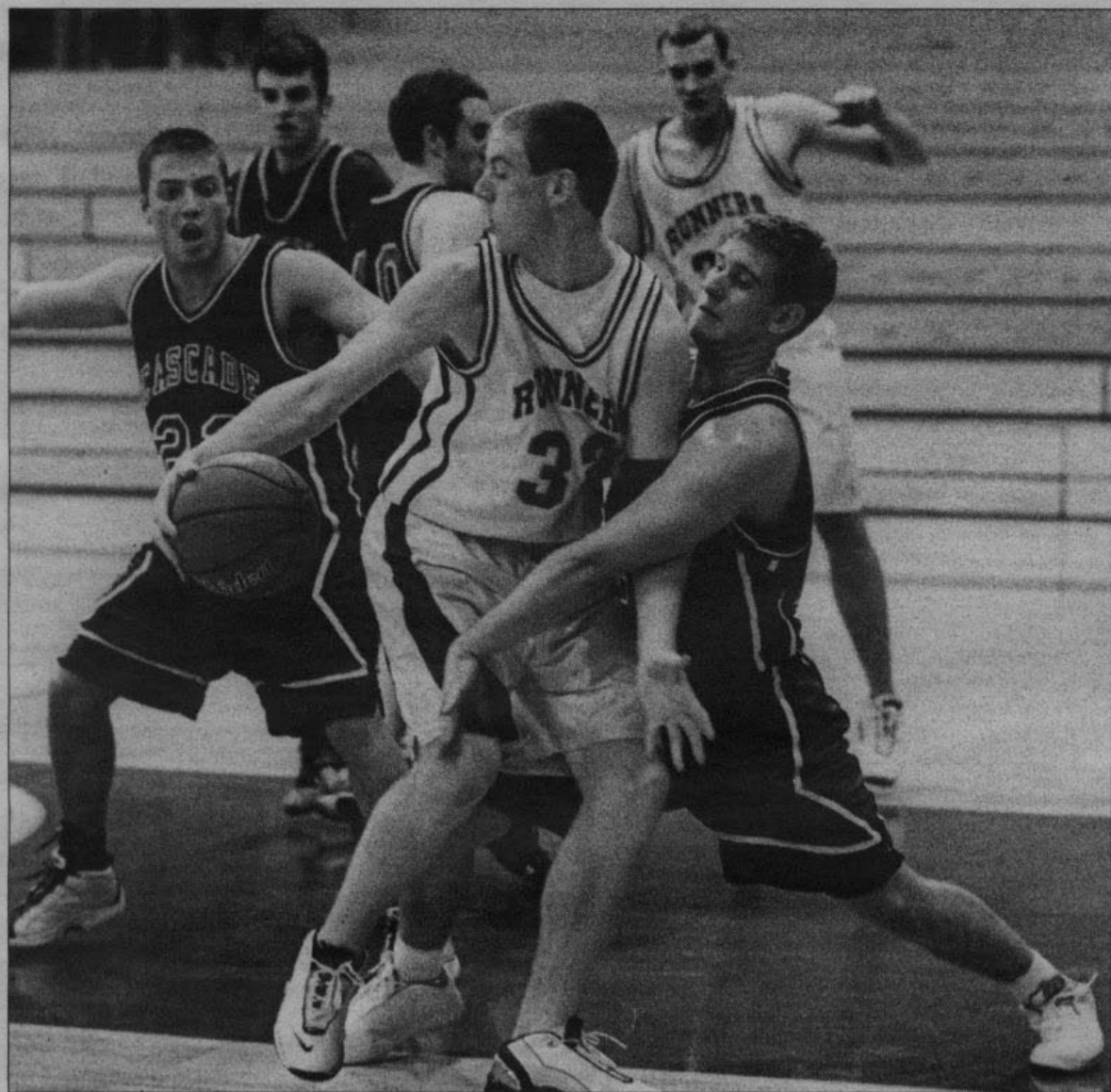
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**CORVALLIS SPORTS PARK**

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# SPORTS

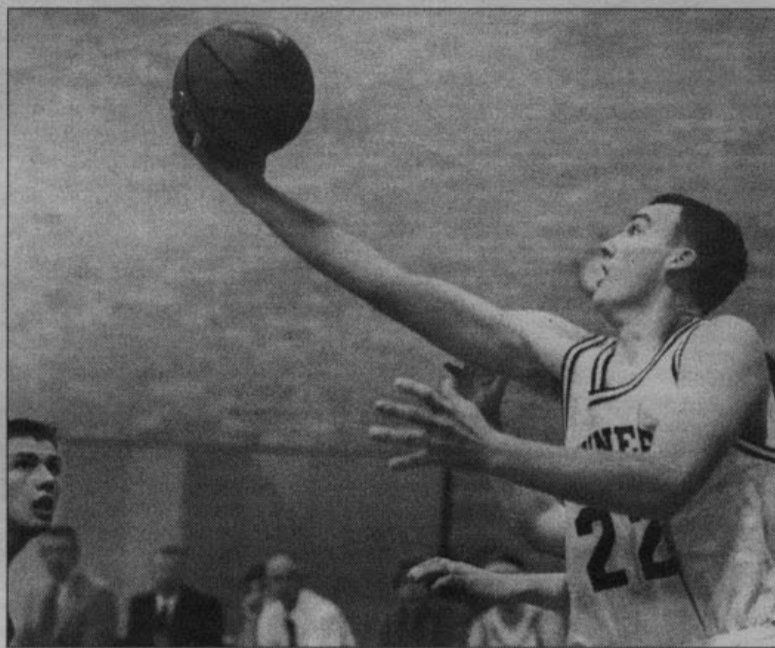
Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation



Ryan Schmidt looks for an outlet as Cascade JV defenders close in. Schmidt finished the game with 15 points and a game-high four assists.

## Everybody gets into the act as Runners roll in home-opener

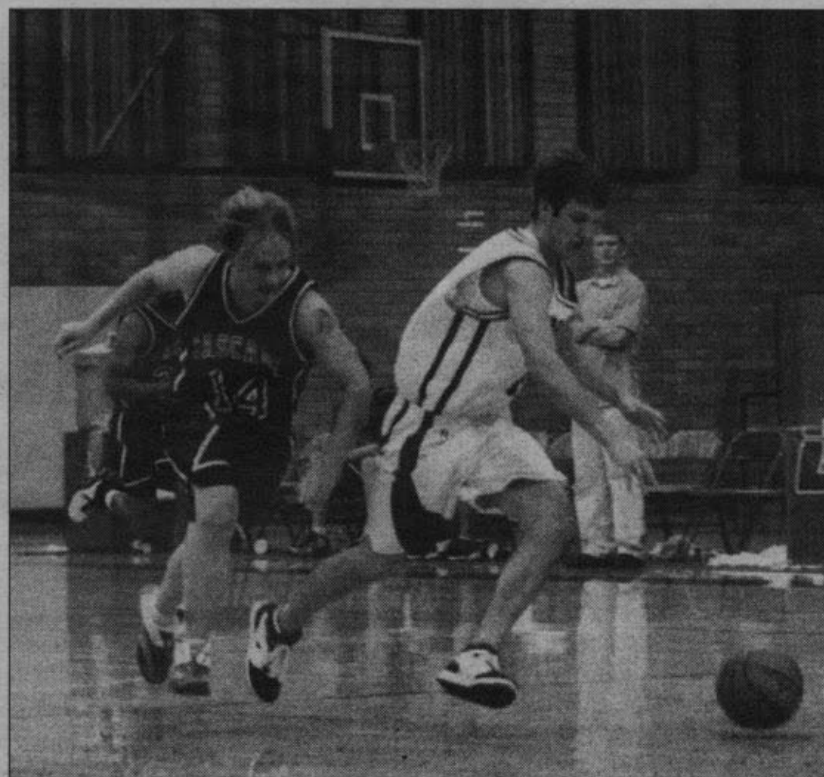
photos by Lewis Forquer



Mike Brazil shoots over Cascade defenders in LBCC's win in the Activities Center Nov. 24. Brazil was the second leading scorer with 16 and second leading rebounder with seven.



The scoreboard (left) reflects just how top-sided the Roadrunners' home-opener was Nov. 24 against the Cascade Junior Varsity team. Above, Bobby Schindler lays in two of his game-high 22 points.



Roadrunner guard Michael Blanc dribbles up the court in a fast break. Blanc led the team with three steals.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Information about plays, movies,  
 books, artwork and other entertaining  
 or artistic endeavors



photo by Jeremy Hennig

## Singing in the Christmas Season

Music instructor Hal Eastburn leads choir members through some Christmas songs during Monday's tree decorating in the courtyard. The Concert and Chamber choirs perform Thursday in Takena Theater in their annual Holiday

Treat Concert at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$8. On Dec. 7, the Chamber Choir joins the Community Chorale for a concert at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis. Tickets for this event are \$10.

## Buys reopens Troubadour music shop in downtown Corvallis

Peggy Isaacs  
 The Commuter

It's a home-town reunion in the newly-opened Troubadour music shop in downtown Corvallis at 125 SW Washington.

The original shop was located in an alley off of 2nd and Jefferson in 1970. In 1973, the shop moved to 2nd and Adams and the "people just found us, it was wonderful."

Kent Buys, owner of the shop and an English teacher here at LBCC, said he opened the original shop with his partner Larry Edgar.

Buys' musical interests started in Claremont, Calif. where he apprenticed with Charles Chase at the Folk Music Center, while working on his Ph.D.

"He changed my life," said Buys. Chase taught him management and instrument restoration. At that time, Buys was presented with this question, "Do you want to play music or do you want to make it possible for more people to play music?"

Buys realized then that he wanted to help people play music and came to Oregon to do that specifically.

He had friends here in Corvallis and worked as a supervisor at Children's Farm Home for two years until he

earned enough money to open the shop.

After he gained full interest in the shop he set about to design and restore a condemned building. This building now is occupied by the Old World Deli, Pegasus Gallery and the Toy Factory.

The old store focused on world cultures and international music, as well as the restoration of all types of string instruments.

A passer-by, JoAnna Karl, saw the shop and "just had to come in and check it out." She left with a kazoo, which Buys hands out to people who visit the shop.

As we stood there talking, Joseph Pusey and Kameal, the belly-dancer, walked in. They were frequent visitors of the last shop and are glad that Buys "finally" opened the shop back up. While looking at instruments, Pusey picked up a Taylor guitar and gave a sample of one of the things he does best, play music.

While the private piece was being played, Tom Demerest, a local musician, came in just to say "hi."

When Buys was questioned about his reasons for opening the shop again, he looked around, saw his friends and said, "for these folks."

He also stated that he didn't want to continue spending four to six hours a day behind the

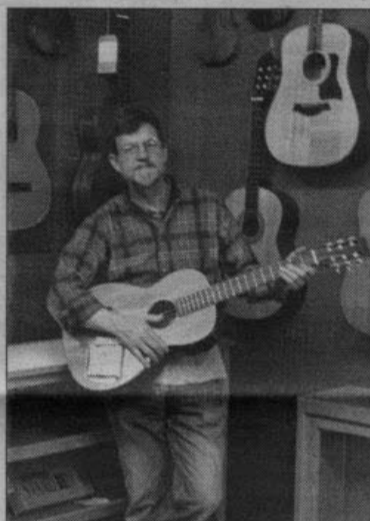


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Kent Buys, owner of Troubadour.

computer, preparing for class and grading papers.

"I have been opened for five weeks now and it's like old-home week, every week," Buys stated as Demerest wished him luck and success as he was leaving.

Buys is hoping to build a place where local artists in the community can come and be motivated in their music.

His mission is to "help people communicate wholeness and the music inside themselves with other people to help make the world a better place. Music is healing."

Buys also restores musical instruments. Roger and Missy Lasater came in to pick up an autoharp. Buys explained what he did to the instrument and

gave a demonstration of how it sounded.

Buys then had to try to give money back that the Lasaters had paid him for the work. Buys only charged \$40 for the restoration and Lasater was trying to give him \$75. "This happens all the time. People have been giving me more money than I asked for. It's crazy."

The Lasaters said their reason for the increase was to help out Buys and his efforts. "It's a labor of love," says Lasater.

Troubadour has just become the regional service and sales center for the Japanese guitars, Takamine.

The shop also carries Taylor and Martin guitars. Consignments are also accepted and broken or damaged instruments are bought.

Instruments are purchased and restored to give to needy children. Buys is asking for instruments now, so he can restore them in time for Christ-

mas.

The shop also has supplies, like guitar strings, picks, pitch-pipes and of course kazoos. There are various flutes by Richard Trojan being sold, as well.

On display are instruments like the Chinese bell tree that Buys is eager to demonstrate how to play.

Future plans at Troubadour are to have artist's presentations, twice a month, an artist gallery series that will showcase musicians and poets.

"There are so many living treasures among us," said Buys.

Passing on his knowledge about the restoration business to his 16-year-old son, Ryan, is one thing Buys is looking forward to.

If you have any old instruments that need to be restored, strings to buy, or just want to play music, stop in to the Troubadour. You might just leave with a kazoo. For more information call 752-7720.

### REVIEW

## Never a dull moment in 'Noises Off'

Mike Johnston  
 The Commuter

"Noises Off" is a hilarious, vibrant and loud production. The play, by Michael Frayn and directed by Shannon Wass, has been playing in the Albany Civic Theater. The production will continue with three more shows on Dec. 4 through 6 at 8 p.m.

The show is a comedy about a company of actors and their over-stressed director, Lloyd (Chuck Skinner), hastily throwing together a play. It starts with a rehearsal where none of the actors can seem to get any of their lines or cues right.

It continues in the second act with a behind-

the-scenes view of the production. Mishap after mishap, from drunk actors to attempts at love, foul up the play.

Finally in the third act the play is put on. And, of course, problems arise. Actors forget their lines constantly and characters appear off of cue or show up on the scene way too late.

Twists in the plot left me expecting that nothing should be expected. Characters like Garry (George Reuter) embody exaggerated character traits that pull the audience in. The second act is full of action where more than one thing is going on at all times. There was never a moment where I had nothing of interest to watch. I would recommend that everyone see this play.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Information about plays, movies, books, artwork and other entertaining or artistic endeavors

## 'WAR IS OVER IF YOU WANT IT' - JOHN LENNON

### ART HAPPENINGS

**Cozmic Pizza**  
 199 W. 8th Ave.  
 Eugene  
 (541) 338-9333

**Dec. 6 - Standing in the Middle**  
 Blues, folk, jazz and rock band  
 8-11 p.m.  
 \$5/\$4 Students

**Fox & Firkin**  
 202 S.W. 1st St.  
 Corvallis  
 753-8533

**Dec. 6 - Deep Woods Band**  
 Rock  
 9 p.m.  
 \$

**Linn-Benton College Tadena Theater**  
 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW  
 Albany  
 917-4561

**Dec. 4 - LBCC Concert Choir**  
 conducted by Hal Eastburn  
 Holiday Treat  
 8 p.m.  
 \$5

**W.O.W. Hall**  
 291 W. 8th St.  
 Eugene  
 (541) 687-2746

**Dec. 5 - NW Reggae Showcase - Zawadi, Little Big ManRock & Trio Grand**  
 9 p.m.  
 \$7 Door  
**Dec. 31 - Floater at the McDonald Theatre**  
 Hard Rock  
 \$16 Advance  
 \$18 Door



**Oregon Coast**

**Dec. 21-27 - Winter Whale Watch Week**

**Artists Against AIDS**  
 Robin Villareal reads from her work at Monday's annual Artists Against AIDS event at the Multicultural Center. The event, held to coincide with World AIDS Day, included presentations by writers and performance artists, as well as visual art. Posters on World AIDS Day created by graphic design students are on display around campus. The AHSS Gallery is exhibiting paintings and drawings by students and staff on AIDS during the month of December.



photo by Lewis Forquer

## Eugene band plays Irish 'foot stomp'

Peggy Isaacs  
 The Commuter

Toad in the Hole, an acoustically driven, poetically powered, madly melodic band out of Eugene, has been playing its brand of Celtic mayhem for the last couple of years in such local venues as AJ's in Corvallis.

At a recent performance at AJ's, the hard working, six-member band started the night with a bagpipe progression to the stage, reinforcing the traditional Irish pub feel that AJ's is known for, with its large numbers of imported beers lining the bar along with the best brands of Irish and Scottish whiskey.

When asked what kind of Celtic music they play, the band members responded with "off the board, surly Celtic, Irish foot stomp."

Matthew Hayward-McDonald is the singer and leader of the band, Jason Kelly plays guitar, John Dresdner is on stand-up bass and Joel Kenney plays percussions. The two female members are Kathryn Claire, who sings and plays a mean

fiddle, and Liz Myers, who plays the whistle, flute and bagpipes.

All members are native Oregonians and live in Eugene. The band was formed after Hayward-McDonald went to the Irish jam sessions in Eugene and met all the other members.

They decided to form the band two and a half years ago. They choose Celtic music because it was an "internal response to something. Deep inside your bones it strikes a chord." About their original music, Hayward-McDonald said, "The music comes from within us."

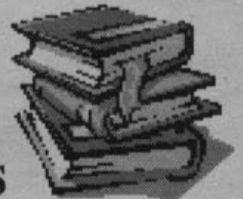
The message the band tries to convey would be to "look into the future, by looking back to traditions of joy and simple handmade music."

Their future plans are to tour the Northwest, write good songs and, as Claire chimed in, "to learn all the old songs too."

If Celtic music is your style, be sure to hear this band when they play in Corvallis again, or in Eugene.

The feeling of the high seas, sailors, beer and women in ports will be felt by all.

## Make the Learning Center Part of your finals week study plans



The Learning Center will be open extra hours:

Saturday, December 6th: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday, December 8th: 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesday December 9th: 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10th: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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## SHINING LIGHT ON THE HOLIDAYS

Information about local holiday happenings, community events and volunteer organizations

# Christmas display brings joy to community



photo by Jeremy Hennig

Georgina Elting, who has volunteered through Christmas Storybook Land for 19 years, brushes up a model of a church in downtown Albany.

Erica Hennig  
 The Commuter

Christmas Storybook Land, a holiday walk-through exhibit at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, has been a community tradition for 27 years.

The exhibit is set up to give the feeling of walking through a fairy tale forest. Live thinner trees, donated by Weyerhaeuser, provide the pathway, backdrop and a forest smell. Displays are set up at children's viewing level, which gives kids a feeling of being in a place built for them.

Over 100 volunteers create a display rich in tradition, while incorporating at least one new display each year. Storybook Land includes scenes from fairy tales and children's rhymes, stuffed animals, dolls and dollhouses. Holiday music plays throughout the exhibit.

Visitors can expect to see the original nativity scene, trains, Santa, and many other favorites. New to the exhibit this year are "101 Dalmatians" and "Monsters, Inc." displays.

"This year, my favorite scene

will be our new Monsters, Inc., as this has been a family project. We are doing this in memory of my grandmother, Jean Olivieri, who passed away this January 2003," says Trisha Pimm, volunteer and president of the organizing committee.

The event is organized by several families, some of whom have been volunteering for a number of years. Organizing volunteer work crews for Storybook Land is done throughout the year. The main set-up is started just a week before opening.

Storybook Land is loved by all ages, so many in the local area keep coming back to see it as adults.

"The most remembered scenes are Santa and the trains. Parents comment about the won-

derful gift that we give to the community each year. Our seniors that visit have fond memories of their childhood," explains Pimm.

"Santa and Mrs. Claus are available at the end of our simulated forest tour with a candy cane to take home," Pimm adds. She encourages parents to bring a camera to take pictures of their children, Santa and anything else they

### Christmas Storybook Land

Hours: Mon. - Fri., 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Address: Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd., Albany

Entrance is free.  
 Suggested donation is a can of food.

would like.

Pimm comments, "The best part of Christmas Storybook Land is seeing the joy that it brings to the children in our community and surrounding communities."

In 2002, the event welcomed 20,299 visitors.

## Local holiday gift drives focus on children and less fortunate

Erica Hennig  
 The Commuter

Linn Christmas Greeters Sharing Trees provide gifts for children and seniors in low-income families in the local community. The trees are decorated with red paper tags to identify the person's first name, age, clothing size and a few gift ideas. Those interested in buying a gift may remove a tag and follow the instructions printed on it. Tape the tag to the gift along all edges and return it to the same tree by Dec. 11. Presents are distributed on Dec. 14 by the Salvation Army.

The Linn Christmas Greeters also run an Adopt-A-Family program, which provides families with Christmas dinner and presents. Families receiving gifts must live in Albany, Tangent, Millersburg or Crabtree and provide proof of residence. For more information, call organizers Hazel Parsons at 928-5128 or Elaine Marshall at 928-8914.

Starbucks is teaming up with the Starlight Children's Foundation for their third annual Holiday Angels Toy Drive, to benefit children who are hospitalized. The Starlight Children's Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides entertainment and services designed to lift the spirits of hospitalized children and their families. New, unwrapped gifts are accepted at Starbucks donation boxes

through Dec. 24 and directed to hospitalized children in the local community. Suggested gifts include books, CDs, DVDs, dolls, nail polish, make-up kits, and hand-held games (with batteries included). Hospitals ask that no plush toys be donated.

Donation envelopes are available at the condiment counter. Checks, cash or credit are accepted by the Starlight Children's Foundation and are tax-deductible. According to starbucks.com, 276,304 toys were donated last year and the goal is to collect 330,752 toys this year. For more information, call 1-800-274-(STAR) or visit starlight.org.

Toys "R" Us is also on its third year hosting a toy drive. A Time for Smiles Holiday Toy Drive is presented jointly by stores and ABC's Good Morning America. Toys and cash donations are directed to Boys and Girls Club of America, community-based centers providing low-cost activities and programs for children and young adults. Donations can be made at the registers or online at toysrus.com. Toys purchased online from the toy drive "wish list" can be shipped directly to a Boys and Girls Club of the buyer's choosing, by selecting an address from the list at checkout. Funds collected, whether in-store or online, will be used to purchase toys for children through the Boys and Girls Club.



photo by Peggy Isaacs

Otley Tree Farm, located between Corvallis and Philomath, offers fresh "you cut" or "we cut" traditional Christmas trees. Australian pine, nobles, baby Norfolk and Douglas firs can be bought for \$10-12. Wreaths and fresh holly are also available.

## Otley Tree Farm is offering a taste of old fashion tradition

Peggy Isaacs  
 The Commuter

Heading down a country road to cut a fresh tree for Christmas is an idea that most of us would undergo if it didn't seem like a hassle. First of all a permit has to be acquired, then find a field, locate the tree, cut it down, attach it to the car and come home hoping that the tree doesn't fall off because of a limited supply of rope to secure the tree to the hood.

This year that invigorating smell can linger in your house all season with a fresh cut tree from Otley Tree Farm in Corvallis. Harry Otley, owner of the farm, will do all the work to make your Christmas tree hunting expedition a memorable experience.

All the customer has to do is pick out the tree. If cutting down the tree appeals

to the family, Otley says he will supply a saw for that special experience.

Walking around on five acres of land and with over 450 trees to choose from, locating the perfect tree is easy.

There are several types of trees to choose from, including Australian pine, nobles, baby Norfolk and the traditional Douglas fir. Prices can range from \$10-\$12.

Also available are wreaths and fresh holly.

Otley's is located at 7225 SW Philomath Blvd. between Corvallis and Philomath, right past 71st St., on the right and is open from 9:00 a.m. to dark.

The "cut your own tree" farms are becoming very popular today. This touch of an old-fashion traditional holiday can be found all over the Linn and Benton counties.

### Linn Christmas Greeters Sharing Trees

Main tree locations: Heritage Mall (near Claire's), LBCC main campus in the library, Albany post office, Two Rivers Market, Linn County Courthouse, Kmart, Albertsons and Pizza King

Deadline to return gifts: December 11

Contact: Hazel Parsons 928-5128 or Elaine Marshall 928-8914