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## LBCC WORLD CHAMPION IN LATVIA CHOIR GAMES

On July 10 the LBCC choir left Albany as regional champions and returned world champions.

James Reddan, director of choral activities, led 34 singers on July 18 as they competed in the eighth annual World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia. Attending for the first time, they brought home three awards.

The newly crowned champions competed among 500 choirs from 73 countries for their title and embarked on a long journey to get to Latvia. The planning started a year ago.

The trip was self-funded and each student had to pay \$3,500.

Reddan and his students spent the months prior working at the concession stands for Oregon State University sports games. Through a sponsorship deal with OSU they received a portion of the sales to subsidize the trip.

The choir performed concerts on the LBCC campus with ticket sales applied to the trip. They also recycled massive amounts of bottles and cans. Students' families donated as well as the LBCC foundation. It was a group effort.

To qualify for attending the 2014 Games in Latvia, the choir competed in the 2011 American International Choral Festival in Reno, Nev., and placed with all silver diplomas. The organizers were the same for both the festival and the world games, so they earned an automatic invitation.

Before reaching their final destination of Riga, they performed twice on

their historic tour of medieval towns and churches in the Baltic region of Europe. Those performances were educational and were not part of the competition.

"Getting to perform in marvelous historical venues and move the audience that is completely unfamiliar with our work was a highlight of each performance," said Reddan.

Each performance was packed with locals.

One venue was in the 900-year-old St. Nicholas church in Tallinn, Estonia. With high vaulted ceilings and arches, and its walls of stone, the church opened on a Monday specifically for their performance.

"It was there that I really understood how beautiful choral music can be. It felt to me that choir music was meant to be sung in that kind of environment, where the sound continued for ten seconds after the group stopped singing. I have never heard anything more beautiful," said Melinda Ehlers, an alto in the Concert Choir.

In Tallinn the students had a walking tour of the city, the biggest in Estonia, with a history dating back 5,000 years. Its cobblestone streets and massive stone buildings, many erected during the Crusades, still exist today. The choir took advantage of the acoustics the city streets provided and had two impromptu performances to promote their formal ones.

In Helsinki, Finland, the group also toured the city, its marketplaces, and cathedrals. Immersing themselves in local culture, they had a group dinner, eating reindeer and salmon.

"Every place we visited was just as curious to our culture as we were to theirs," said Katharine Dunigan, a soprano in the Chamber Choir.

When the choir finally arrived in Riga, they were welcomed to the country in The Parade of Nations in preparation for the competition. The parade was

when my heart stopped. I started to tear up, and I realized we were the winners before they even said our name. It was and will be one of the most memorable experiences of my life," said Dunigan.

The competition scoring focused on several criteria: how in tune the choir sang, how true they stayed to the composer's intent, and overall score for sound and artistic impression. The scores were then averaged for each category and by each of the five judge's individual scores.

"To place high, all five have to agree on where you should be," said Reddan.

"I could tell how much heart was put into the performance from the whole Chamber Choir. I believe the judges also saw how much we put into it. I believe that's why we won. They saw our love for singing and knew we meant it," said Dunigan.

The Chamber Choir had the second highest overall score in the entire competition, and was only four points away from a perfect score. The program book was 450 pages long, listing each song performed in the two-day showcase, so competition was plentiful.

"All of the performances moved me literally to tears. They performed their hearts out on the world stage, and they belonged there. They earned everything they got," said Reddan.

His advice to his students was to do the best they could in that moment.

"If you walk off that stage doing the best you can, then you've already

won. They only know you for 15 minutes in time, so make it count."

The challenge of an international singing competition is to communicate the song through body language and emotion. The singers must tell a story, feel it and understand its history. When singing in a foreign language, which some songs were, they had to learn its translation in order to convey it.

"A singer is always an actor. You have to act the part," said Reddan. "Your body is your instrument."

After a 10-day whirlwind adventure, taking two days to get home, sleeping on a ferry across the Baltic Sea, then on planes and buses, the group arrived home in the early hours of July 21.

"These are the types of experiences that will prepare [the students] to function in a global world," said Reddan. "This is what it means to make the world your classroom." ♣

STORY BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH



PHOTOS COURTESY: JAMES REDDAN

The choir visits a historic rock church in Helsinki, Finland.

broadcast live on Latvia TV. Reddan was the flag bearer representing the United States, so the LBCC choir was the first to march of the 26 attending U.S. choirs.

"While we were parading down the street with 73 other countries, people were shouting out to us that they loved the U.S.A. and wished us much luck. I have never experienced anything like it before and will never forget the amount of support and kindness we felt being welcomed by what seemed like the entire city of Riga," said Ehlers.

The competition had three categories: the Chamber Choir performed for Musica Sacra a Cappella, placing second; they also competed in open competition for Mixed Chamber Choirs, placing first; and the Concert Choir performed in the Musica Contemporanea category, placing fourth.

"Every time our group wasn't called I got more and more excited and nervous. Then the screen said, 'The Open Mixed Chamber Choir winners go to...' That's

# ROCKET WOMEN Build and Launch at NASA

LBCC students Ashley Trout, Ariel Stroh, and Hazel Betz were accompanied by Parker Swanson, instructor in computer systems, to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia for the "Rock On" conference June 21-26.

The "Rocket Women" were joined by about 65 other students and instructors from the U.S. and Puerto Rico to build the "payload" for a rocket that was assembled by NASA engineers. The rocket launched 117 miles into space—right in front of their eyes—taking only 173 seconds.

"It was really cool! We were only 150 yards away from the rocket. The rocket was several hundred feet in the air before the sound even hit us," said Trout.

"It was the thrill of a lifetime. A breathtaking moment to count down 'til the rocket launched, and then to watch each part of the rocket disconnect, since it was a two-stage rocket," said Stroh.

The mission of the launched satellite was to measure carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere.

The conference was by invitation only in which selected schools and students were chosen. LBCC is an affiliate of Oregon Space Grant Consortium (OSGC), an educational outreach of NASA. The OSGC is a network of students, universities and professionals that participate in cooperative education and training of NASA's next generation.

In February Swanson received an email that there were three slots left for the 2014 S.T.E.M. conference, focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math. Two of the available slots were reserved for a female. He sat down with colleagues and together selected sophomores Stroh, majoring in engineering, and Betz, majoring in physics.

The third spot was left open for applications. Trout, who graduated this June with an Associate of Applied



COURTESY: NASA

Science in Mechatronics and Industrial Automation, was selected for the final spot. Thus they dubbed themselves the "Rocket Women."

"I was in complete shock when I was told that I had been selected to go on the trip. Never have I ever been able to go on an extravagant trip like that one before," said Stroh.

The three Roadrunners were joined by three students from Oregon State University, three from Oregon Institute of Technology, and four mentors. Oregon was represented by the largest group of people from one state.

"This is one of the most exciting things that's happened to me in a long time," said Swanson.

At the conference, the attendees were split into 21 groups. The "Rocket Women" were one group.

Each group was assigned to make their own package of electronics also called a payload. It took two days to build the payloads and one day to assemble them together. NASA engineers integrated the 21 payloads together with a half dozen other more advanced packages into the rocket canister and launched on June 26.

For Trout, the trip to Virginia was the furthest she had ever traveled.

"It was definitely a learning experience. It was definitely out of my comfort zone. We were all kind of excited and terrified at the same time."

According to Trout, NASA representatives told "Rock On" attendees that they were the largest group of previous conferences, and they finished several hours faster than any group before them.

"It was a wonderful one as any group activity. You may disagree with your partners and have different ideas, but we always found a way to agree on the correct way of doing things. Parker made a wonderful mentor, always around whenever we had questions," said Stroh.

The two-day building session required a lot of soldering, computer programming, working with micro-processors, testing, and teamwork.

"It's competitive, it's a design competition and we were prepared to compete," said Swanson.

The payload from the rocket descended from a parachute into the Atlantic Ocean. It was recovered by a NASA boat and returned to Wallops for disassembly. Each team retrieved their electronics package and the



COURTESY: PARKER SWANSON

Hazel Betz, Ashley Trout and Ariel Stroh.

data it collected in its SD chip. The "Rocket Women" will continue to analyze their data.

Swanson's hope is LBCC will return to the conference next year as second-year attendees. Next year his students will propose a science experiment, make the measurements for it, and build the prototype to get qualified by NASA to attend again.

"It's not the end, it's just the beginning of LBCC rocketry," said Swanson.

What's next for the "Rocket Women?"

Trout is undecided whether to focus on green energy with an emphasis on wind turbines or to enter the field of aerospace after her experience at NASA. From the press received about her trip to the Wallops Flight Facility she was offered a job with Georgia Pacific but has not yet accepted. She would like to apply for an internship at NASA.

Stroh is working on a double major in Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering. Her plan is to work with robotics after graduation and invent a device that will somehow better every day life. No matter how big or small her invention, her goal is to make a difference in someone's life.

Betz will continue towards a degree in Physics, learning about a topic she came to LBCC knowing little about. She enjoys learning about how computers and technology work and getting to play with the stuff that runs the modern world.

For more information on program opportunities at LBCC contact Parker Swanson at [parker.swanson@linnbenton.edu](mailto:parker.swanson@linnbenton.edu).

STORY BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH

# VOYAGER CLUB GOES TO COSTA RICA

Dr. Robert Harrison, social science instructor, and LBCC students Ashley Warren and Katie Hundemer took a trip to Costa Rica June 16 to 25 as part of the Voyager Club on campus.

The Voyager Club is open to students and civilians with a passion for travel, culture, and worldly exploration. Providing educational tours abroad and in the U.S. and teaming up with a travel company called Explorica, the cost of the trip included airfare, transportation, hotels, guided tours, three meals a day, and a lifetime of memories.

This year's extravaganza was a tour of Costa Rica, including a visit to the country's capital, San Jose. Seven others, including students from Washington State University and Albany residents, joined the club to meet a larger group totaling 46. They would spend the next 10 days together.

On the agenda was a trip to an active volcano, Arenal via Poas, and a visit to the tropical beaches and rainforests of Manuel Antonio National Park. Excursions included kayaking, hot springs, river rafting, and horseback riding.

"This has probably been the most educational trip we've had," said Dr. Harrison. "A lot of my trips have translated directly into my classes. I find, as a teacher, having been to these places makes it more exciting to talk about in class."

One of the activities they embarked on was planting avocado trees in the Santa Elena Biological Reserve. The avocado tree is a favorite fruit of the quetzal bird, and planting them is part of a conservation attempt of the bird's migration path and preservation of the forest ecosystem.

The avocado tree takes 50 years to bear its first fruit. Dr. Harrison is optimistic he will return back to their

fruiting trees one day.

"I'm going to go back. I'll be 105 years old, but I'm going back."

For Warren, a club member for two years and Psychology major, the town of Santa Elena won her over. She recommends future visitors to Costa Rica stop and get to know the locals.

"Everyone I met in Costa Rica was very nice and genuine, but the way I was made to feel in Santa Elena was wonderful. There are some exceptionally nice people in that town that will open their doors to you with comfort and joy."

During leisure activities, such as river rafting, the guides would pull over and show the group wildlife and plant life in and around the water. Even their tour bus driver would teach them about local culture and its history while en route to destinations.

"The guides are the key to these tours," said Dr. Harrison. "We had great guides."

To prepare for the trip abroad, the Voyager Club had several meetings with guest speakers that talked about the country from personal experience. One of these speakers was a student that lived there on an exchange for four months. Another was a bird watcher sharing expertise and another was a Spanish teacher coaching the group in language.

"This trip gave me a sense of independence. I learned how to be more independent because when I was exploring Costa Rica, some places the people didn't know English. I had to use the little bit of Spanish that I knew and learn how to communicate with them when I was lost or needed baños (bathrooms)," said Warren.

While people at home in the States were watching the World Cup, the group saw first hand futbolmania in Central America as they watched locals

viewing the games.

"We saw a crowd erupt and explode with excitement," said Dr. Harrison.

For Dr. Harrison the highlight of the trip was visiting an elementary school in Monteverde and bringing them school supplies.

"The guys played soccer with the boys, and the women played games with the girls. They knew a lot of American music so that was a connector immediately between us and the kids."

Warren's favorite activity was their kayaking trip in Lake Arenal, near the active volcano and the Monteverde cloud forests.

"We started by partnering up and getting settled into our kayaks. Then when we were all snuggled in our life jackets and helmets, our tour leader set way to an island in the middle of the lake. When we were on the island the tour leader let us swim around in the lake for a bit before we made our way back. Our tour director told us that we were the very first group to not flag down the boat to carry them to shore. We were truly Voyagers then."

Past adventures of the Voyager Club have been to France, Spain, Greece, Italy—even Barak Obama's inauguration in 2009. Next on the list is Cuba for the 2015-16 school year.

Dr. Harrison is committed to helping students who want to come on future trips with fundraisers and financial aid possibilities. In the past, some trips have been taken by students for credit; therefore certain financial aid applied.

Contact Dr. Harrison at [harrisr@linnbenton.edu](mailto:harrisr@linnbenton.edu) for club and travel inquiries.

STORY BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH

# FAMILY FUN: BENTON COUNTRY FAIR



Lyric Young poses in front of her ice cream trailer.

the grandparents are all in one spot.”

Wunder and his managing board started planning for the fair two months ago. They coordinated agreements with hundreds of vendors in food, exhibits, concerts, carnival games and rides.

“It’s like a small city,” Wunder said.

He spends most of the fair weekend answering questions and bringing vendors supplies on his golf cart.

“I help my vendors because the vendors are what makes people happy,” Wunder said.

Lyric Young makes fairgoers happy, too. She is an LBCC student who sells ice cream at the fair. Her grandparents used to take their Umpqua ice cream trailer around to fairs. This summer, Young and her second cousins are running it.

On Thursday they sold 120 milkshakes, 100 kid cones, and even more regular ice cream cones. The most popular flavors are chocolate, peanut butter, and strawberry cheesecake.

And if they have time the cousins can make themselves milkshakes.

“I don’t like the heat but people are really nice. Maybe it’s the atmosphere,” said Young.

Wunder thinks the fair atmosphere is special.

The fair is shrinking, he said. The competition is growing. This same weekend in Sweet Home the Oregon Jamboree is drawing immense crowds. But, he argued, families would be glad if they chose this fair.

“They should come to see the kids and their animals,” Wunder said.

Elcesa Baker has been in 4-H for seven years. Raising

Franklin, her sheep, is Baker’s 4-H project for the Benton County Fair. Her mother, a former Future Farmers of America champion, inspired her and her sisters to begin raising animals.

“Mom always is there helping,” Baker said.

Joanna Bucho also does 4-H with her family. Five of her siblings show pigs with 4-H. This year she brought Fitzsimmons to the fair. She named the pig after a Marvel movie character. He was born in February and is still small, she said. A full-grown sow is much bigger, “They’re like dinosaurs. It’s kind of scary.”

The Buchos and their neighbors raise the pigs together. They have 11, and every morning three of the children take the herd for a walk. The family trains them to obey the touch of a stick because animals are controlled without leashes in the show ring.

Wunder’s goal this year was making sure the 4-H competitors had morning showers.

Baker camps at the fairgrounds and wakes up at 5 a.m. to change the sawdust in Franklin’s pen, refill his water, and feed him. She and her fellow competitors wanted showers when they woke up, not three hours later when the water crew used to come.

“I’m always looking to fix problems and make the fair better,” Wunder said, “I sleep out here during the fair. If I had to go home I would worry about this place.”

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
**MICHAELA WESSON**

## STUDY ABROAD *LBCC Explores Programs*

History classes in Greece, art classes in France — LBCC explores the possibility of study abroad programs — if students show interest in involvement.

Last fall Ian Priestman and Dr. Robert Harrison met with LBCC President Greg Hamann about the steps needed to bring back a study abroad program for students. It’s been five years since the college had a program of its own.

Priestman, an LBCC Business Management instructor, who is originally from England, understands the benefits of an exchange program. In 1994 he came to the United States via an exchange scholarship from Fulbright, an international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government.

“I see how exciting exchange is first hand. It changed my life.”

This summer Priestman went home to England and visited Hull College in Yorkshire, from which he got his scholarship, and discussed the possibility of working with them to host programs for LBCC students. They are optimistic and interested.

It will be a long road to organize the return of a program. Hamann has asked Beth Hogeland, executive vice president of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, to look into the logistics of bringing a program back.

“I do find the ideas around exchange students and foreign travel programs very interesting, and I am generally supportive; but they need to have a place within the college’s curriculum for them to be most effective,” said Hamann.

The reason the previous program was terminated came from the lack of student participation. Only about three students a year were enrolling, Hogeland noted.

The program is expensive in comparison to local studies and was not cost effective in terms of tuition and the instructional cost to operate the program.

“For us to create and maintain a study abroad program



COURTESY: BOLIVIA STUDY PROGRAM

we would have to feel sure that enough students to support the classes would enroll every term,” Hogeland said. “Think about our on-campus classes, which range in size from about 24 to 38 students. This is the number of students we are talking about needing every time we offer a class.”

The classes could vary depending on area of study. Business Studies, History, Art History, Ecology, and Horticulture are a few examples of current programs at LBCC that would benefit from opportunities to study abroad.

The expense of international studies falls heavily on students. They generally pay travel, tuition and living expenses. Other factors are the currency exchange rates in the country of study and transferrable credits internationally.

But opportunity is there for students determined to partake. There are private companies available to help with ground work, fundraising, scholarships, and potentially financial aid.

Kim Sullivan, the previous study abroad program coordinator, still helps students with interest despite

the formal program being canceled. A member of LBCC’s Admissions Office, Sullivan works with students who can be part of a degree partnership with Oregon State University to get connected to resources and programs there.

“One of our goals for students is for them to become more culturally literate and appreciative of diversity,” said Hogeland. “What we have done instead is connect students interested in studying abroad with the programs offered through OSU and Chemeketa Community College. This seems to have worked well.”

Priestman and Dr. Harrison, who teaches history and social sciences at LBCC, are marketing the potential for a new program and doing presentations for faculty on campus to get the word out to students. Their goal is for study abroad opportunities to not just be for particular departments but campus-wide.

“I’m committed to helping students as much as I can. We’re not OSU, but we should do better recruiting students for abroad studies,” said Dr. Harrison.

In the meantime, LBCC is open to supporting faculty who want to offer classes in another country. Such classes are designed as a sort of cultural emergence course.

“When enough students have been interested in a class in a particular country, we create a section of a class to be taught by one of our instructors in that country. The classes tend to be intensive and short term,” said Hogeland.

These courses may include a few weeks stateside preparing, then time abroad visiting museums or historic sites, followed by a few weeks of cultural debrief upon return.

For more information or to express interest in involvement in an LBCC study abroad program, contact Ian Priestman at [priesti@linnbenton.edu](mailto:priesti@linnbenton.edu).

STORY BY **ALLISON LAMPLUGH**

# POETRY CORNER

## "Opportunity"

I learned something a few years  
back that changed me.  
Opportunity rarely knocks--  
I have to do the knocking.  
And so I did, on a late summer day,  
ever so lightly,  
trembling at the thoughts,  
the maddening,  
circling,  
swooping in  
thoughts.  
You can't.  
It's too late.  
You're not good enough.  
Who are you kidding?  
But when I knocked you let me in,  
and when I gave voice to the  
thoughts

you had answers  
I had never heard before.  
And so I knocked some more.  
On the doors  
of learning  
and of discovering my voice,  
of literature  
of humanity  
of meaningful work  
And of poetry  
Its risky, this knocking  
I never know if the door  
will open  
or what the person on  
the other side will say.  
But I'm better at it now.  
Thanks to you.

By Ruth Krueger

## "The peak"

As I walk through the mist the fog is so thick trees  
look to be only shadows in the distance  
The gentle sway of the trees speak to me, we share  
words with the birds  
The dripping of the misty dew is louder than the  
roaring of the ocean  
The sun breaks though upon mounting the peak,  
Its warmth welcomes you to see the natural beauty  
that hides in front of us everyday  
To the west the rolling hills meet the ocean and to  
the east brother and sister mountains great you  
With open Arms. Life as it's meant to be lived as if  
you were the first to witness it.

By Kent Elliott

## "Off Boylston"

nameless Boston alley  
the salty urine seeped  
into pavement, dumpsters ripening  
in a radiant summer day  
we ramble along revelring  
in the insignificance  
that suburban streets don't offer  
Faneuil Hall  
we are 3 years removed  
from shoplifting  
riding the T to ride the T  
or walking miles  
because we've no money  
but plenty of time  
to drink  
PBR or Sam Adams  
but mostly PBRs  
by the case  
and whiskey  
by the handle  
and smoke cigarettes to stand  
outside

while rats scramble  
underfoot through bushes over sidewalk  
back again,  
smoking cigarettes  
looking for Orion  
but I don't know the constellations  
of my ancestors  
Incandescence fluorescence and neon obscure  
history  
breaking the modern myth  
our survival depends on the compression of information  
because a past too compressed  
is lost  
the booze and powdered drug  
push our slumped shoulders back  
we march up the highest hill  
city lights fade  
I lay face up  
acknowledge the sky's lost history  
smash bottles as I descend back to urban insanity

By EAMPH the first

The Commuter would love to see more student submissions.  
To submit poems or border artwork, come in to the commuter office at Forum F-222 or  
email us at [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu).



# MIDSUMMERS ART

Albany represented its artistic values while celebrating the second annual Midsummer Arts on Aug. 2.

Midsummer Arts is a free local festival that celebrates creativity, hard work, and a rich local art scene that has steadily grown in our community. Originally it was the brainchild of Michael Winder, a member of the English department instructional staff, with the help of LBCC co-workers and the community.

A new addition to the annual event took place at the corner of Ellsworth and Second Street on Saturday in the Little Red Daisy Coffee Shop. Members of the LB English Department, students, and members of the general public gathered to share their stories, poems, and songs.

Karelia Stetz-Waters, English department chair at LB, rallied the troops as the event organizer. She also performed two pieces from her personal collection for the crowd and officially broke the ice.

“We would like to have fun, share our work, build friendships, support the Midsummer Arts festival and support a local coffee shop,” she said.

As each performer took the stage, the crowd roared to life with cheers and applause. The writers were riveted to each other’s words while they took turns whisking the room away to different worlds with each story told.

Crash MacMillan took the stage like others that afternoon. He smiled ear to ear as he looked out over the brimming coffee shop.

MacMillan told a story about his feelings and the way they have affected his life. He went on to tell the group how feelings of people affect everyone in some way or another. He talked to the group about something that mattered to him. He kept it simple, and they listened.

“I don’t consider myself a writer. I don’t use fancy words, and I don’t put them in a fancy order. I just say what I mean, and I say it with feeling. I’m not a writer, I’m a talker. I love to talk, and I feel like I’m good at it. The real driving force behind my poetry is that I never say anything I don’t mean, and I’m never more honest than when I’m reciting spoken word in front of a microphone,” said Macmillan.

Another performer made a splash with her art on that extra hot summer day.

Ruth Krueger performed a piece of nonfiction that took an emotional toll. As she fought back tears along the way, she shared a story about a loss in her life that has had lasting effect on the dynamics of Krueger and



Talent brimming at the Red Daisy coffee company.

her family. Her story highlighted the purpose of the exhibition and defined the sincerity that was on display in each performance that Saturday.

“These types of events allow us to slow down and remember the importance of community. It’s all about belonging, of being a part of something bigger than ourselves. Often times it is someone else’s writing read out loud that brings the insight or perspective we might be looking for in our lives. And it’s just plain fun,” said Krueger.

The Midsummer Arts’ expansion this year incorporated parts of downtown, like the little coffee shop, and has been a success in the eyes of Krueger.

“I see the event as a whole, moving forward and expanding over the coming years. Downtown Albany is a great place for the arts. I see the reading at the Red Daisy as continuing to grow, with even more variety of readers and material.”

All in attendance at the Little Red Daisy Coffee Shop greeted each other one last time before departing at the conclusion of the show. They congratulated one another and commented on each other’s works as they made their way to the exit.

The atmosphere of the room was heartfelt and sweet as one by one each artist trickled out of the squeaky front door of the quaint little shop and departed for the unknown. ♡

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CHRISTOPHER TROTCHIE

# LBCC FARMERS’ MARKET



Deep in summer, the Linn-Benton Community College Horticulture Club is the typical “busy bee,” growing organic produce and retailing that product at the Thursday Farmers’ Market in the courtyard.

The club grows an abundance of high-quality, organic produce on a small farm plot on the LBCC campus. The “insectary” farm has pumped out almost 600 pounds of produce in just over half of the school’s Summer Term. According to Horticulture Club Instructional Assistant Miriam Edell, the club expects to produce two tons of fruit and vegetables before the fall term begins.

To utilize the club’s efforts, a Farmers’ Market takes place on the LBCC campus every Thursday, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The fresh produce market consists of produce picked that day, and also offers students a half-price discount.

The LBCC Horticulture Club has five students presently, and they collectively work 80 hours per week to maintain the farm. The club draws its labor from work study and intern programs. Organic to its core, the club follows USDA rules regarding growing healthy and beautiful food.

“We want to grow high-quality produce and promote healthy eating habits,” said Edell.

Because the growing season occurs in summer and late summer, when LBCC typically has lower enrollment, the club is always looking for volunteers.

So far, the club has grown about one-quarter of its potential output, and a busy late summer season will still bring loads of fresh produce to campus. The focus is to retail the fresh food, every Thursday outside Takena Hall. The proceeds from sales go back into the club.

To volunteer, or for any other Horticulture Club information, call LBCC at 541-917-4999 and check out the club’s Facebook page. ♡

STORY BY RONALD BORST



## DID YOU KNOW?

Mandarin is the world’s most widely spoken language. English comes in third behind Spanish.

# BARREL TO KEG RELAY



Team Speedy Gonzales checks into the relay.

The Pacific Coast Range was more alive than usual on July 12 because of the 101 total relay teams that worked their way through an 111k running course; eight walking teams also participated as they all navigated rural roads, weaving their way to the coast.

The Barrel to Keg Relay is a relay race that stretches the distance of the coastal mountain range between the Harris Bridge Vineyard in Philomath and the Rogue Ales Brewery in Newport.

One standout runner, Seth Paredes, accomplished the 111k event in a solo exhibition, while all who participated created awareness and raised funds for the local community outreach group known as the Community Service Consortium.

The cost of registration for team members was set up with an early entrance fee of \$55 per relay member before April 30. The price of registration reached \$85 in June and remained so until the day of the race.

This year marked the fourth time the Barrel to Keg Relay has provided members of the community an opportunity to show support for the cause CSC has taken on for the last 34 years.

The CSC was founded in July 1980 and has made its focus educating and advocating for people in need in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. As a member of a national network of anti-poverty organizations, the CSC’s business is informing members of the community as to what resources are available to individuals who are displaced from housing.

The Barrel to Keg Relay shows the kind of initiative that is needed to engage community members to solve community issues.

Jimm Mitts and his in-laws named their team “Speedy Gonzales.” Mitts and his entire team were at the parking lot adjacent to the downtown CSC location in Corvallis the Thursday before the race. Mitts gathered his team’s supplies including jerseys, individual numbers, and a bright red bag provided by race sponsors.

“We could not think of a better way to spend time with our visiting family,” Mitts said.

Stephanie Schmidt, community relation and development assistant at CSC, was at the CSC building parking lot making sure each team was able to find their appropriate bag. She explained to participants that the intent of the relay directly benefits CSC to help people in need.

This year 700 people helped them towards that goal. To get involved contact the CSC at [sschmidt@communityservices.us](mailto:sschmidt@communityservices.us). ♡

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CHRISTOPHER TROTCHIE

# The Commuter Presents

## Arts & Entertainment



### OUTDOOR MOVIE

In the cradle of two gorgeous rivers, the Calapooia and the Willamette, Movies at Montieth continues Albany's summertime tradition of family movies that are shown outdoors.

Montieth Park, at Washington Street and Water Avenue in Albany, is the new home to Movies at Montieth, formerly Movies by Moonlight. According to Albany Downtown Association Executive Director Rod Porsche, the new venue should substantially increase attendance.

"Our biggest night for Moonlight was 300. We expect much bigger crowds," Porsche said.

The movies series is over 10 years old, and this year,

along with a new venue, comes a new movie screen. The inflatable and very portable screen, measures 20 by 24 feet, and cost \$6400. It weighs 200 pounds and goes up in three minutes.

"The screen has a three-year lifespan, and we hope to take care of it and sell it later on," Porsche said.

Fundraising comes way of donations, member-based business, and from the events themselves. Because of the nature of this kind of endeavor, volunteers are a huge part of the movie night's continuing success.

Volunteers start around 5 p.m. putting up booths, signs, trash cans, and seating. They help sell concessions and T-shirts and the volunteers then become the clean-up crew. The volunteers' slow-time is when the movie is playing, making the job convenient.

Movies at Montieth runs on Friday nights through August. Coordinated with local business, the movies offer popcorn and refreshments from The Pix Theater, food from The Flynn Steakhouse, and ice cream from Baskin-Robbins. These businesses donate the profits from sales to the movie event.

"We want to do more of that," Porsche said, "We are committed to community sourcing and exposing local business."

The movies shown at Montieth reflect a family atmosphere and a

variety of films. The classics, such as Hitchcock and Spielberg, are frequently shown. Blockbusters like "Frozen," 2013's animated favorite, and Montieth's Facebook page vote winner, "E.T.," are revered by Movies at Montieth patrons. Porsche understands this and wants to keep a mix of family-friendly movies.

The movie night is loaded with concessions, raffles, contests, and activities for kids. The event usually starts around 7 p.m., with the movie showing around 9 p.m. "Blanket" areas are well marked and they fill up fast, so getting a spot early is a good idea. The park has great views from all over, so if arriving late, viewing will still be accessible.

Whether young or old, married or single, kids or no kids, Movies at Montieth is a great place to be on an Albany Friday night. 📍

#### MOVIES AT MONTIETH SCHEDULE:

**Aug. 15** "The Wizard of Oz" 9:00 pm

To donate or volunteer, call the Albany Downtown Association at 541-928-2469 or go to [www.albanydowntown.com](http://www.albanydowntown.com) or the "Movies at Montieth" Facebook page.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**RONALD BORST**



Crew sets up the inflatable screen.



COURTESY: MICHAEL WINDER

PLAY REVIEW:

**Little Red Robin Hood**

**DIRECTOR:** Michael Winder  
**STARRING:** Phoebe May, Dorrie Board, Tamara A. Alba  
**WRITER:** Michael Winder  
**FESTIVAL:** Midsummer Arts  
**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★

REVIEW BY MICHAELA WASSON

Robin Hood is wearing hunter orange for safety. She and her three friends are fighting the Sheriff for Sherwood Forest. The tiny redheaded girl, the numbskull peasant with a broom, the overly clever friar, and a second numbskull peasant are united by their belief—in scones.

“Little Red Robin Hood,” a community produced play, ended a successful series of performances at Linn-Benton Community College July 27. On August 2, the cast also performed an encore of their hilarious and adventurous piece at the Midsummer Arts festival in Albany.

“It’s kind of just a scaffold to hang jokes on,” said Michael Winder, writer and producer of the play.

Winder, who began the festival, knew he did not want to perform Shakespeare again. A friend suggested writing something adventurous, preferably with swords, possibly the story of Robin Hood.

The play took two months to write. Winder wanted his play to be different from the normal story, swashbuckling and very funny. He made Robin Hood a girl and the Sheriff eagerly planning a luxurious housing

establishment complete with lavender outhouses.

Winder tried some of the jokes first on his daughters, an eight-year-old and four-year-old. Finally, he gathered some theatre friends and had the first reading.

“I think it’s a one-of-a-kind show,” said Benjamin Sell, who played Friar Tuck. “I think its got something for everybody.”

Sell, who has acted semi-professionally before, actually looked forward to rehearsals of “Little Red Robin Hood.” It was a funny play and the cast improved on the jokes as they acted. In a normal production actors are not permitted to change the lines of a play. With Winder, both writer and director, the cast changed the script frequently.

“We left rehearsals sore,” Sell said, “not from sword fighting, but from laughing at each other.”

When the play came to the stage at LBCC’s Forum the audience agreed with the actors.

A solemn, blonde-headed eleven-year-old in a Spiderman shirt, Eric Sutherland decided he would tell one of his friends to come to the play, “It is so funny and so interesting to watch.”

Sutherland thought he would like to act as one of the Sheriff’s thugs. The peasants and thugs fought with swords, resplendent silver coated PVC pipes. When the black-coated bad guys ran from the stage for the first time the audience spontaneously applauded.

Sutherland has acted before. He recently graduated from the Takena Elementary theatre club. Winder is contributing all of his sales from July 27 to the Takena Elementary theatre club.

Winder teaches writing and literature at LBCC but considers his support of the arts to be very important. He acted in “Little Red Robin Hood” and as he stood on the stage he watched the audience. Most of the time they were laughing. The rest of the time they at least were amused. That was what he wanted.

Winder thinks enjoying the arts is healthy. He is planning his next play already, something Greek and approved by his daughters.

And, as Robin Hood herself said, “If we all believe in scones, we’ll succeed.” ♡



COURTESY: CHERNIN ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW:

**Dawn of the Planet of the Apes**

**DIRECTOR:** Matt Reeves  
**STARRING:** Gary Oldman, Keri Russell, Andy Serkis, Kodi Smit-McPhee  
**PRODUCTION:** Chernin Entertainment, Ingenious Media, TSG Entertainment  
**GENRE:** Action, Drama, Sci-Fi, Thriller  
**RATED:** PG-13  
**RUN TIME:** 2 hrs 10 mins  
**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★

REVIEW BY YULING ZHOU

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” is the sequel to 2011’s “Rise of the Planet of the Apes,” and let’s just say there hasn’t been any good animal-character based sci-fi movies until Rupert Wyatt and Matt Reeves brought the Apes to the big screen again.

The first film melted my heart with the relationship between Will Rodman (played by James Franco) and Caesar (played by Andy Serkis). Rodman saved Caesar and taught him sign language. Caesar grew and saved his fellow apes from Gen-Sys Laboratories and the San Francisco Zoo. As simple as the story sounds, the movie was a masterpiece.

The sequel made its release this summer as another must-see film. The latest addition to the franchise exceeded my expectations. “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” kept the hope of a coexistence between humans and apes alive, but an inevitable conflict boiled to the surface once again.

A blood feud between humans and apes exploded across the screen after an unexpected interaction caused dissension among the apes. This action-packed

adventure of apes versus humans depicts the struggle for each group to secure their independent futures.

Drug tested and mistreated, the apes were left with the impression that all humans are dishonest and brutal in the last installment. This time around, the field of play has been leveled between the two races via an interesting biological twist.

The friction between humans and apes climaxes as Caesar is forced to make a tough decision: let humans survive or commit to a war?

This film reflects issues that are imbedded in our society. All movies goers are confronted with depictions of tolerance, communication, ignorance, and dissension.

Eventually both human and apes realize how much they are alike and not above one another.

The character development, situation set-up, social construction of the apes’ tribe, and visual effects were amazing. Every emotion, every fold on Caesar’s skin, every move and expressions from the apes’ eyes are very well captured.

Every role had reasonable characters. Even Koba,

who became a complete human-hater, I still had sympathy for because of the cruel experiments humans did to him.

“It’s about going with the different sides of ourselves in having to come to terms with the animal in all of us,” said Matt Reeves during a interview with The Movie Times.

Then there’s Andy Serkis. He really fused himself into Caesar’s body because everything just looked too real. Even the director was touched by Serkis’s acting.

“I was drawn into it by the emotions between Andy Serkis and Caesar. Much of the movie was almost like a silent film. So little was said, and yet, you could feel what he (Caesar) was thinking. Everything seemed to come together like a blossom.”

No black and white and dividing line. The movie has really presented a social complication reflecting real situations. ♡

# HONEY BEE DECLINE IN THE U.S.

Products pollinated by honey bees account for one-third of the food world-wide. The United States has 26 million managed honey bee colonies that pollinate \$15 billion in crops each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Pears, apples, broccoli, carrots, onions, cherries, blueberries, pumpkins, and cabbage are all commonly used in our diets — and are just a few examples of food pollinated by honey bees.

Bees are a big business.

Scientists and researchers have been busy trying to identify why the loss of honey bees is so staggering. Their notable disappearance nationwide began in 2006 but has been declining for the last 30 years.

Oregon currently has an estimated 60,000 commercial colonies pollinating over 50 crops and bringing in an estimated \$500 million annually.

According to a study by Ramesh Sagili, OSU honey bee researcher, Oregon beekeepers lost 21 percent of their colonies last year. An acceptable loss is 10 to 15 percent. The nationwide average over the last decade is a 30 percent loss.

Colony Collapse Disorder, known as the inexplicable loss of worker-bees, is linked to several factors. Without the full bee-power of worker-bees, the queen and the brood cannot survive. A healthy hive has 60,000 residents.

## Varroa Mites

Arguably the biggest killer of the Western Honey Bee is the Varroa Destructor, a large external parasite that attaches to and sucks blood from the bee. As it feeds it infects the bee with disease. The infected bee returns to the hive and the mite lays eggs with the brood.

If untreated, the infestation can kill the entire hive.

“The big elephant in the room is mites. Mites are becoming resistant to the chemicals we use,” said Dirk Olsen, owner of Olsen Honey Farms in Albany.

It’s believed the Varroa mite was introduced to Florida by accident in 1987. The Asian Honey Bee and the parasite have a symbiotic relationship so it causes little harm. The Western Honey Bee, on the other hand, has a tragic relationship with the parasite and the mite has now spread across the nation.

Beeologics, an international firm dedicated to restoring bee health, believes that getting the mites under control will increase the health of hives in the United States by 70 percent.

## Loss of Habitat

Humans have been expanding to once natural areas and have changed the landscape dramatically. Whether by building dams, creating fields for agriculture, commercial construction, or homes, we are connected to the loss of habitat for honey bees.

Monocropping, the source of only one kind of food,

also has an impact to the overall health of a hive. Different pollens give the bees different essential amino acids. Honey bees will travel upwards of two miles from the hive to feed, but if the hive is in a location lacking diversity, the health of the bee declines making it more susceptible to disease.

“Bees can’t fight viruses like they used to,” said Olsen.

Willamette Valley honey bees, for example, have a lack of nectar available to them due to the loss of wildflowers, according to Olsen.

“For a hive to be healthy they have to eat multiple sources of pollen.”

Local beekeepers such as Olsen are feeding their colonies corn syrup to combat the deficiency of nectar. Olsen has an annual budget of \$250,000 in corn syrup for his 8,000 hives.

“Municipalities are getting involved now that they see the bees declining,” said Olsen. “Like letting the plants grow wild along highways for the bees to have.”

## Pesticides

Colony Collapse Disorder has been linked to the use of pesticides, specifically those in the class of neonicotinoids. Introduced in 1992, neonicotinoids seep into the stem, leaves, flowers, and pollen of plants on which honey bees feed.

“Neonicotinoids are causing a lot of problems,” said Olsen.

In a 2012 study at Harvard University, 94 percent of hives treated with neonicotinoids were lost.

While the neonicotinoids may be effective for farmers, the pesticide is destructive to the immune system of the bees. It causes them to be more susceptible to disease, including reduced resistance to Varroa mites.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced they will stop using neonicotinoids in the Pacific Northwest. The EPA, however, continues to use them despite warnings of CCD from the Department of Agriculture. Instead, the EPA relabeled packaging advising against use on flowering plants or those with leaves.

In June, President Obama directed the EPA and Department of Agriculture to lead a government-wide task force to develop a strategy to combat honey bee decline.

## Cell Phone Towers

In new controversial studies of the impact of cell



Honey bee hive at Olsen Farms.

phones to honey bees, researchers are gathering interesting data as well. Bees are sensitive to magnetic fields and are compromised by radio waves.

Swiss researcher Daniel Favre did a 2009 study placing cell phones around hives and placing hives around cell towers. His study, along with others similar, showed that honey bees are repelled by the towers and the use of phones.

It appears the radiation causes confusion and disorients the bees, leads to failed navigational skills, and results in much of the hive fleeing and not returning. Some colonies tested collapsed in as little as five days.

Favre has suggested that the placement of cell towers in the landscape may be interfering with the bee’s natural ability to navigate to the hive. If this is true, the estimated 200,000 cell towers in the United States could be a contributing factor to CCD.

People may be part of the problem but we are also part of the solution.

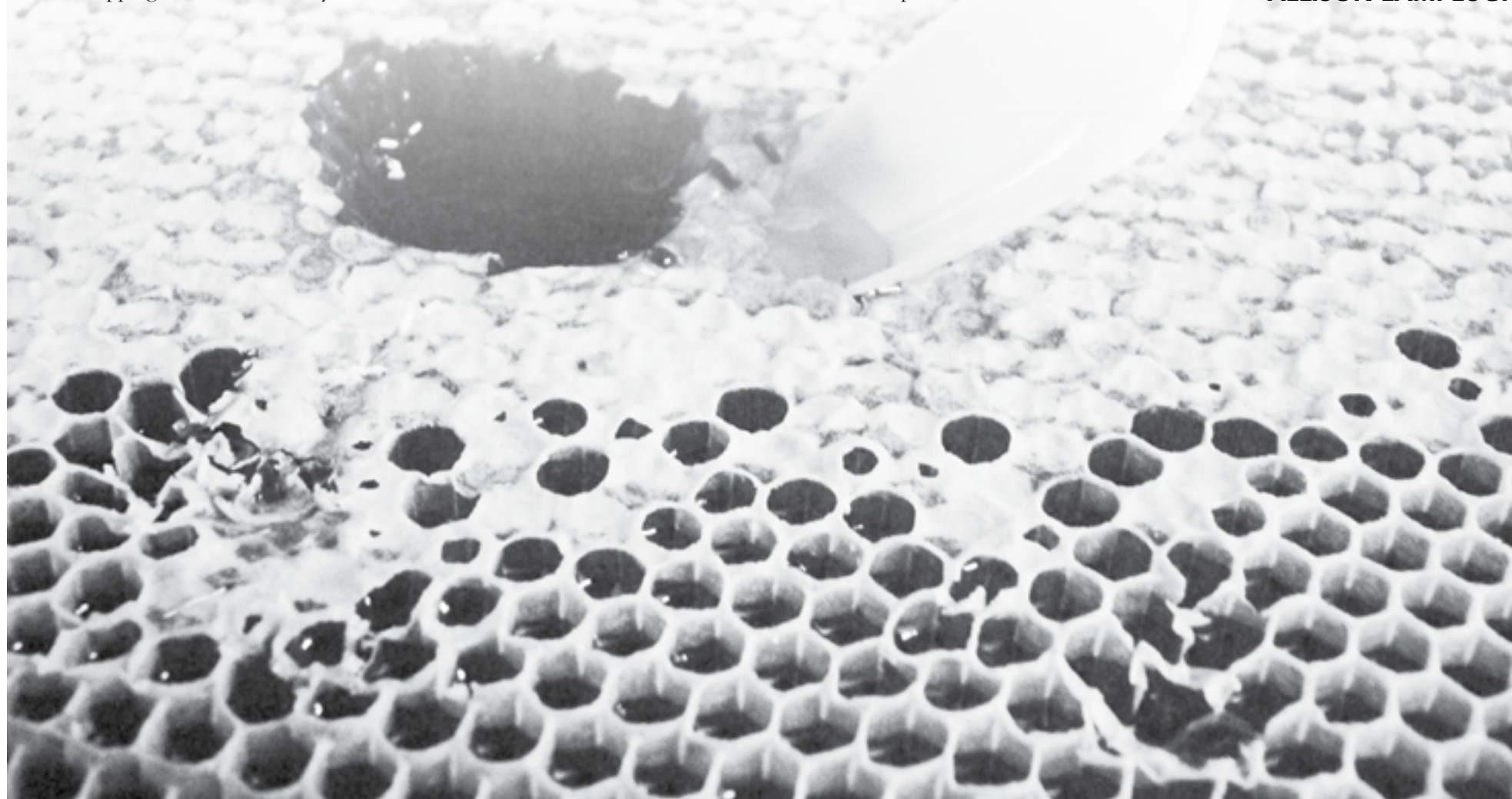
Regardless of what one chooses to believe is effecting the honey bee, the fact is that they are disappearing at an alarming rate. When a species is dying off it’s a sign that something in nature is out of balance.

Honey bees are essential to our diets and our economy.

Even a home gardener can help honey bees by being mindful of the chemicals used in their pesticides, by planting flowers and allowing wildflower growth, and by building a bee box.

“We have a history of taking care of bees for 7,000 years,” said Olsen. “There is a direct relationship between us and the bees. If all the beekeepers left, I think honey bees would die off.” ♡

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
**ALLISON LAMPLUGH**





# CALL TO OBAMA *Freedom of the Press*

The school board chairman did not want to give Sean Morgan the superintendent's evaluation. Morgan, a Sweet Home reporter, asked for the record at a board meeting last month. He left messages on the chairman's phone. Weeks later the chairman looked up the law. The public had the right to see the evaluation. He told Morgan he would talk.

When journalists take their role as government watchdogs seriously, clashes sometimes occur, even at the city level. A July 8 letter to President Obama, signed by 38 journalism organizations, said the government seems to be censoring the media, and that could harm democracy.

"Our number one function is to tell the public what the government is doing," Morgan said, "and if they are giving you static then you can't do your job."

The main claim of the July 8 letter is against the public relations officers, or public relations, of different federal agencies.

Marilyn Smith, the public information officer for the City of Albany, explained her job is to ensure that media coverage about the various agencies she works for is accurate and legal. Last Friday, a reporter from the Albany Democrat-Herald asked her for the disciplinary records of a public official. Giving him a document like that, she said, would break the law. Once a reporter came to the wrong conclusion about a board meeting, Smith called the editor and had a correction published.

Officials like Smith can be very helpful in the reporting process.

"I have a really good relationship with the city," Jim Day, city reporter for the Corvallis Gazette-Times, said. "I have never felt stonewalled."



COURTESY: LAST RESISTANCE

But the July 8 letter cited cases of federal PR officials who are overstepping their boundaries.

The Veterans Affairs Honesty Project, focused on the VA's relationship to the press during their recent scandal, found over 54 PR officials who routinely ignored media requests for information.

The Associated Press had no response for a June 9 article. Neither did NBC News, The Daily Beast, The Wall Street Journal, The Daily Caller, or The Tampa Tribune. The Pittsburgh VA admitted five veterans died from a disease contracted in their hospital and refused to answer questions from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Carolyn Carlson found 40 percent of public information officials in a 2013 survey admitted they blocked access to their agency when they did not like

what the reporter had written previously.

This would not be as big of a problem if journalists were always free to knock on an expert's door and ask them personally for an interview. The July 8 letter reported that even non-defense organizations have rules prohibiting employees from talking to journalists except through the PR officials.

"I would find that very annoying," Morgan said, "but at our level we would just go with it."

The letter went on to argue that this sort of information control makes the people distrust the government. A democracy is supposed to be run by the people. They should know what is happening.

Steve Lathrop, Democrat-Herald business reporter, does not have trouble with local government most of the time. He does remember when the police department sent their daily logs with information blacked out of them, for almost a month. And police records are public information.

"It's kind of stopped us from getting the whole story," Lathrop said, "If they are making decisions that affect the public, the public has the right to know."

Anyone who reads, watches or listens to the news places trust in their system that they are receiving accurate, truthful information. The call to Obama from journalists across the country is to bring awareness that at the highest levels the people are being fed information that is tailored to them, or worse, are being kept from information. The letter reminds that the First Amendment allows freedom of the press, for the people to be informed. ♣

STORY BY MICHAELA WASSON

# CONFLICT IN MALI CONNECTS WITH BENTON CENTER



PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER TROTCHIE  
Anthony Gordon shows off one of her pieces.

Anthony Gordon is using her artistic ability to inform individuals how events from across the world are affecting her here and now.

Gordon, a well known ceramic artisan in Corvallis as well as a Benton Center studio volunteer, has been involved with the Benton Center ceramics studio scene since 1991.

Recently, Gordon has responded to her feelings regarding events taking place a world away in Mali, Africa. Making ceramic sculptures that memorialize structures that are being destroyed by militants in Mali has been her way of confronting the issue.

"The adobe architecture in West Africa is stunning, an ancient aesthetic and skill, as illustrated by James Morris in his book of photographs, 'Butabu: Adobe Architecture of West Africa,'" said Gordon.

Gordon's effort is to raise both awareness as well as financial support for Ko-Falen, a Portland based non-profit organization that supports arts and crafts projects in Mali, by selling the art she has on display from now until Aug. 11 at The Arts Center located in Corvallis in the Corrine Goodman Gallery. She raises \$50 per piece sold for Ko-Falen. To date the sale of her art has raised \$200.

"The most important aspect is reaching out, across the unknown, to say I care about the destruction; helping other people be aware of this human tragedy, and being the means for a tiny gesture of sympathy," said Gordon.

The source of the conflict in Mali is centered on the Tuareg tribe and their aspirations to create a separate state in the northern section of the country. They aligned themselves with Islamic militants only to be cast

aside as secular by the their Jihadist allies soon thereafter.

Declaring Sharia law, the Muslim force then began destroying anything perceived as haram, which means forbidden. The group used weaponry acquired from the armories of deceased Libyan dictator Muammar al-Gaddafi in the destruction of 16 mausoleums of saints and scholars in their effort to secure their state.

"There is a long history of war in West Africa, as in so many places. Destruction of cultural symbols is common to all wars, I guess, and people of every religion have done such acts," Gordon said. "I am just moved by the beauty of the ancient shrines and mosques, and regret that they suffer damage."

STORY BY CHRISTOPHER TROTCHIE



COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA: MILITANTS IN MALI AFRICA

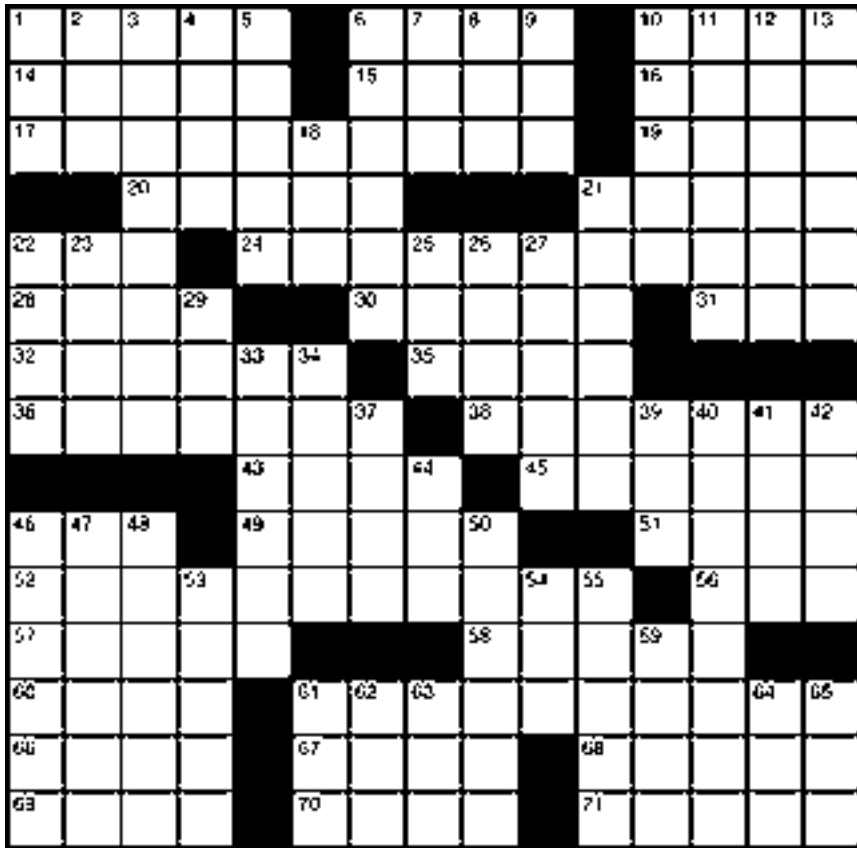


"The Hotel" by Anthony Gordon

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Famous Potatoes" state
  - 6 Speak drunkenly
  - 10 Addition word
  - 14 "\_\_\_ what?": "What next?"
  - 15 Adhesive strip
  - 16 Shopper's memory aid
  - 17 Porky's girlfriend
  - 19 Impressionist
  - 20 Very \_\_\_ yours
  - 21 Utter mess
  - 22 Tire inflater
  - 24 Feigns sleep, say
  - 28 Pitt of "Troy"
  - 30 Three-note chord
  - 31 Aboveground trains
  - 32 Per \_\_\_: for each person, as income
  - 35 Got one's uniform dirty, perhaps
  - 36 Runs away from military duty
  - 38 Israeli parliament
  - 43 "Exodus" author Leon
  - 45 Haughtily terse
  - 46 "From \_\_\_ Zinc": vitamin slogan
  - 49 Skimpy skirts
  - 51 Cut out, as coupons
  - 52 Either of two of the Inspector Clouseau films, with "The"
  - 56 Cooler cubes
  - 57 World book
  - 58 Like a lummock
  - 60 Lamb serving
  - 61 Yipping adoptee
  - 66 Pile
  - 67 Undersized 61-Across
  - 68 Sharp-crested ridge
  - 69 Novelist Ferber
  - 70 Twistable cookie
  - 71 Leavening agent



By Brom Hart

- 5 Admit (to)
- 6 Patronize, as a hotel
- 7 Spot for a cat, or drink like a cat
- 8 Wire service initials
- 9 Coffee order: Abbr.
- 10 Thinks ahead
- 11 Enzyme that breaks down fats
- 12 Handy
- 13 Plays the banjo, like someone "in the kitchen with Dinah"
- 18 Unwell
- 21 Wetter than wet
- 22 "The Alphabet Song" start
- 23 "Dies \_\_\_": Latin hymn
- 25 Mos. and mos.
- 26 Fancy tie fabric
- 27 "Growing" difficulties
- 29 Craps cube
- 33 Spades in a four-spades bridge contract, say
- 34 Sunlit courtyards
- 37 Ireland's \_\_\_ Féin
- 39 [error left as is]

**Last Edition's Puzzle Solved**



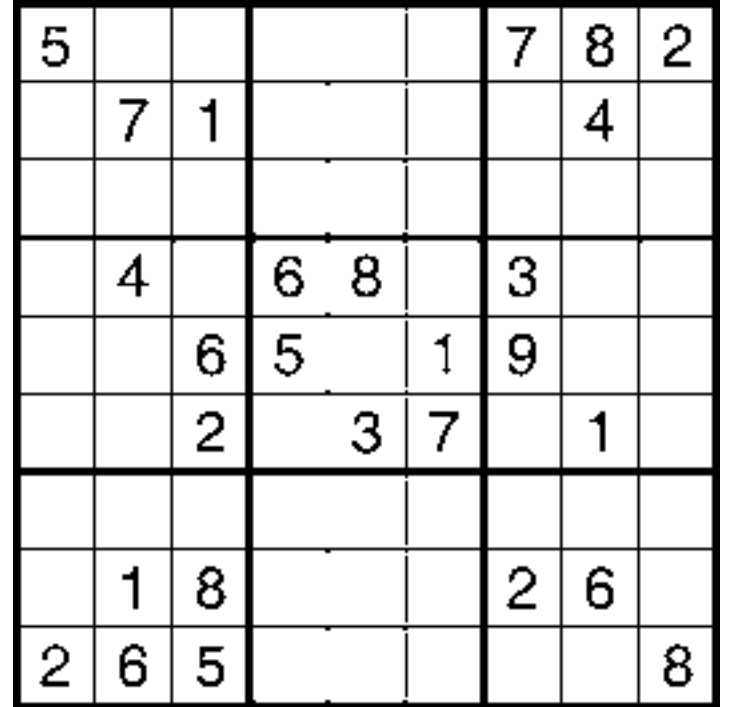
(c)2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

- 40 Soup legume
- 41 Many a DeMille movie
- 42 Use a keyboard
- 44 Command to Rover
- 46 Tribe for which a helicopter is named
- 47 Gave 10 percent to the church
- 48 Borrowed, as a library book
- 50 Japanese religion
- 53 Phi Beta \_\_\_
- 54 Put a stop to
- 55 Settle, as a debt
- 59 Chaste
- 61 NHL player, e.g.
- 62 "\_\_\_ Father, who art ..."
- 63 One in Quebec
- 64 Qt. halves
- 65 Nonetheless

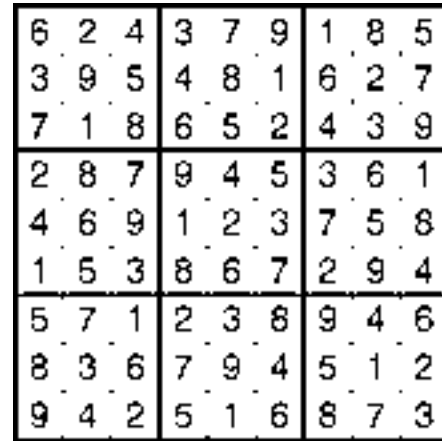
**SUDOKU**

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4



**SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S PUZZLE**



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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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**CAMPUS BULLETIN**

- Thurs., Aug. 7** Courtyard Farmer's Market 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Thurs., Aug. 14** Courtyard Farmer's Market 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Thurs., Aug. 21** Courtyard Farmer's Market 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Tues., Sept. 9** Activities Center: Home Volleyball Game 1 p.m.
- Wed., Sept. 10** Activities Center: Home Volleyball Game 6 p.m.
- Tues., Sept. 16** Activities Center: Home Volleyball Game 6 p.m.
- Tues., Sept. 16** Calpooia Center: Summer Blood Drive 10:30 a.m.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

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541.758.3662 541.924.0160

THE COMMUTER

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**Letters Welcome**

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

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Albany, Oregon 97321

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commuter.linnbenton.edu

**Phone:**

541-917-4451, 4452 or 4449

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# PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES EARN WHAT THEY DESERVE



COLUMN BY  
**COOPER PAWSON**

Every boss needs to decide how much to pay an employee. You may look at obvious factors like how crucial is this person to our business, or how much does their job make me in return, or how effective of a worker they are. When it comes to professional athletes, it can be a whole different ball game.

You now have to consider in advance what this person will be worth for the next five years, not just right now in their current state. Salaries could be from \$100,000 to \$100 million, so teams must accurately decide how much you want to pay each individual athlete.

Professional athletes are paid exactly what they deserve because they work harder and sacrifice more than most people think.

The majority of people think athletes are overpaid because they see huge contracts come out every year, but this only happens for the best of the best. It isn't everyday that someone in professional sports gets \$20 million a year all of a sudden. They worked for it.

In fact, according to an article in The Huffington Post, the highest average salary for any professional athlete is in the NBA, and it's just over \$5 million. According to the article, \$24 million is the amount the average player will make in a career. Just like the rest of the world, the more you are paid the more responsibility you take on.

When a professional athlete is paid more

than their teammates they're obligated to do more on and off the court. On the court they are supposed to score most of the points, play the most minutes, and win every game—even though it's a team sport. Off the court they are contracted into meeting with the media, making appearances to show support for a sponsor or their hometown, and find time to connect with their local communities in order to set a good example for the youth. Not to mention long hours of practice and living in hotels most the year.

Their whole life is basically scheduled for them, they don't have a choice because it's apart of their contract. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure whatever they do in the offseason is more extravagant than any vacation you have had from work, but they completely deserve the freedom to do so.

In an article titled "Do Professional Athletes Get Paid Too Much Money?" by Senior Analyst Mihir Bhagat of Bleacherreport.com, Bhagat believes that professional athletes are infact getting paid way too much and he has some excellent points as to why he feels this way. He mentions that, "In today's society one should be paid according to the job's economic importance and their value to society."

I agree that people that make the biggest difference in this world should be paid more. Job titles from Bhagat's list included police officers, firefighters, doctors, and teachers. Yes, all of these occupations greatly improve our well being and our society as a whole, but is it the professional athlete's fault that these occupations aren't paid what they are deserved? Does the fact that teachers, police officers, and firefighters are underpaid have any connection to professional sports at all? No, not in the slightest bit.

Their situation is a different discussion. If you want to link the underpaid to the overpaid then let's look at some of the people in this world that make more than professional athletes.

According to Forbes, Ralph Lauren made \$66.7 million dollars last year and his net worth is over \$7 billion. What did he do last year to earn that much money? He went about his day while money piled in. Another example is Michael Fascitelli of Vornado Realty, which owns 100 million square feet of office space in New York. He made \$64.4 million in 2013. So if you think that professional athletes just play a game and

don't deserve the money, then why does a glorified apartment manager like Fascitelli deserve it?

They deserve it because they have worked their whole life, putting the time and hard work into every second in order to be where they are today. The same way Ralph Lauren worked his way from \$50,000 in 1976 to \$7.5 billion today. People should be paid what they are worth, no matter the occupation.

According to an article on forbes.com titled "How the NFL Can Reach \$25 Billion in Annual Revenues," it states that, "In 2011 the NFL signed rights deals with NBC, CBS, Fox, and ESPN that amount to \$42 billion in revenue." It will last until 2022. The renegotiation of these contracts will be five years short of the date that Roger Goodell, the commissioner of the NFL, has publicly set to make \$25 billion in annual revenues. So are athletes really getting overpaid or are they being paid their fair share of the money they create as the face of their leagues?

Another issue that Bhagat talks about is just that. At the very least, professional athletes that are making the big money, "Must grow up and prove to America that they can be positive role models for kids on and off the field."

Alex Rodriguez, a known steroid user in Major League Baseball, is an example Bhagat used stating that, "If Alex Rodriguez earns the same amount of money as it would take to feed the nation's poor for a year, he can't cheat and take steroids."

I agree, and for the majority, professional athletes are positive role models on and off the field. Players are seen every year hosting various camps teaching kids things like sportsmanship, responsibility, and maturity. For a lot of kids out there, sports are the only thing that stand between them and a life down the wrong path.

Professional athletes are living proof that no matter what cards you were dealt in life you have an opportunity, through hardwork and determination, to make something of yourself, to live out your dream, and most importantly, give back to your community. So to put every athlete in a group with the A-Rod's of the world, just isn't fair.

There are many factors to consider when discussing an athlete's pay. Most people don't truly realize how much a professional athlete sacrifices in order to play the game he or she loves. ♡

CALL TO WRITERS

## The Commuter Wants You!

Volunteer and staff positions at the newspaper are avialable.

Wordsmith's and artists of all types are wanted.

Whether a poet, fiction writer, news writer, blogger, opinion writer, comic creator, or photographer there is a place for you. We have positions open for editors and a web content manager. There is no minimum requirement for the time you choose to invest in the club. Depending on level of involvement, there are talent grants available to staff.

Our award-winning newspaper is a great way to build a portfolio for those seeking a career in journalism or photography. It's also a great opportunity for anyone to get involved with your community and school.

The weekly staff meetings are Tuesdays at noon for the remainder of summer term. The meeting is open to the campus and anyone is welcome to join. Your voice can be heard! Try us out and see if you want to get involved.

Applications are available in The Commuter office on the second floor by the Forum in room F-222. Inquiries can also be made via email at commuter@linnbenton.edu.

## OREGON'S FORECAST SHINING BRIGHT

Football is upon us and University of Oregon is keeping a lid on its preparation by having closed practices.

Collecting the information from spring football and from Media Day held on Monday, we can start to see the outlook for the team and how bright it will shine this coming year.

The best thing Oregon has going for them this year is returning Heisman Trophy candidate Marcus Mariota.

"I wanted to come back and get my degree, experience college for another year," said Mariota.

Mariota looked bigger and stronger at Media Day and commented on remarks to his size.

"That has been a focal point for me, being able to gain a little bit of weight will help with my college game."

Oregon was picked to win the Pac-12 conference in the preseason media poll, and there are high expectations that the Ducks will compete for a national championship this year.

"It's great to talk about on Aug. 4 but it doesn't matter, it's great for the fans to talk about. Do we want to be in that discussion? Absolutely," said Coach Mark Helfrich.

"We want to be part of the Pac-12 championship game. We want to be a part of the playoff picture. [We will] focus on taking it one day at a time and see where that takes us," said quarterback Mariota.

Helfrich also commented on the state of the college football playoffs and what needs to happen in the coming years.

"I think we still have a ton of heavy lifting, making every conference path the same," said Helfrich, concerning competitive balance between conferences.

Two big topics that were talked about coming out of spring football were the depth of the linemen and of the wide receivers.

Helfrich had a lot to say about the receivers on Monday.

"I don't think we have been this deep, certainly at receiver in a long, long time. I expect someone will rise to the occasion."

Four-year basketball star Johnathan Loyd joins a cast of new and talented players expected to have an impact this season.

"He hasn't played football in five years. There is rust, uncertainty, that makes him slower than he really is. Hopefully over the summer he has got some steel wool and scrubbed that off," said Helfrich.

One receiver that shined brightly during the spring game, redshirt freshman Devon Allen, went on to place multiple times and also win a national title in track over the summer.

"Devon got a little nicked up last fall camp. That's one of those guys that is not proven, but we are really excited about," said Helfrich.

While the receivers are looking as deep as ever, the linemen in this year's rotation are bigger than ever.

"Well, definitely, we didn't have to review the film. You could just look at them and look at the weights," commented Helfrich.

Coach believed that they gained size on almost every linemen without sacrificing any speed.

While there are many questions still to be answered before the first game, there were other up and coming Ducks to be heard about.

"Thomas is one of those guys that kind of dips his toes in the water and kind of goes, 'Ok, now I get it. Now I can cut it loose,'" said Helfrich.

With DeAnthony Thomas gone there will be many more touches given to sophomore running back Thomas Tyner.

"Thomas is definitely an incredible athlete. To be able to have that guy back will improve our offense," said Mariota.

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
**ANDREW GILLETTE**



Running back Thomas Tyner being interviewed.

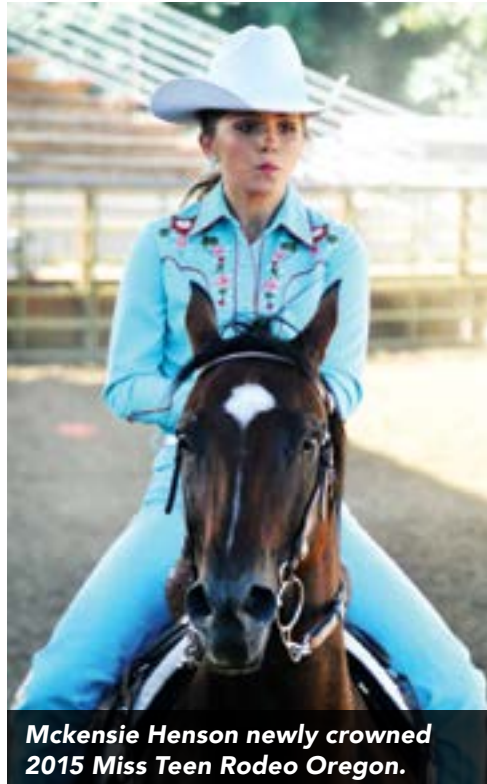
# TREVER COOLEY

## Philomath Frolic and Rodeo Photo Gallery

Trever Cooley, 20, was recruited from high school to play basketball at LBCC. He majors in criminal justice and plans to pursue a career in law enforcement. His passion is playing sports and photography so naturally he has combined them together to photograph what he loves. Cooley got serious about taking photos with a professional camera about six months ago, joining The Commuter in June.



2014 Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon Ashley Ferch.



Mckensie Henson newly crowned 2015 Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon.



Tony Buckman showing off during bareback riding.

# The Commuter

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