

# The Daily Barometer

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Greek council members discuss plans to host a safe in-person fall recruitment for students looking to join a fraternity or sorority. **6**

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## STUDENTS ARE BACK AT OSU AFTER A YEAR AT HOME

By **KELSY VALENTINE**  
*News Reporter*

Students are now officially back on campus, but in-person class and activity guidelines made in response to COVID-19 will introduce many changes to the Oregon State University community.

Among the many differences students may see fall term is the mandate requiring all students, faculty and staff to wear masks while inside any buildings on the OSU campus.

"Individuals, regardless of their vaccine status, are required to wear a mask or face covering except under a handful of specific circumstances, one of which is when speaking to an audience, such as providing a lecture or instructing a lab," Steve Clark, vice president of University Relations and Marketing, said.

All other individuals in the audience will be expected to wear their face masks at all times.

To contribute to physical distancing, the university has also tried to schedule classes in the most spacious rooms, but Clark said there is currently no six-foot distancing requirement in classrooms.

Another difference pertaining to fall term concerns students who test positive for COVID-19. According to Clark, students and employees will be notified of any university outbreaks of the virus.

"Students who test positive for COVID-19 will

need to isolate for 10 days, plus an additional 24 hours after symptoms have improved," Clark said. "This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated students."

However, when merely exposed to COVID-19, vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals have different requirements they will need to follow.

"Close contact is considered being within six feet of someone [with COVID-19] for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period," Clark said.

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14 days and be tested. Fully vaccinated individuals, when exposed, will not be required to quarantine.

"But they should closely monitor their symptoms and be tested for COVID-19 within three to five days after exposure," Clark said. "They also should consistently wear a face covering when in public settings for a full 14 days."

OSU, however, is one of the best-prepared universities in the nation for a safe environment, according to Regan Gurung, the associate vice provost and executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, director of the general psychology program and professor of psychology.

"We are doing all [that] science urges and will continue to monitor the situation," Gurung said. "This may mean changes around the corner if warranted. Be prepared to be flexible."

Aside from classes, social events and activities will be of to

**STUDENTS BACK**  
*Continued on page 2*

## COVID-19 rates increase, Benton County officials urge residents to get vaccinated

By **ELIJAH DODD**  
*News Contributor*

COVID-19 rates in Benton County had been dropping since January. After a period of decline, infection rates are on the rise again—in part due to the new Delta variant.

As of the week of Sept. 13, Benton County has 190 current infections and as of Sept. 19, has seen 4,501 cumulative cases.

Rocío Muñoz, a health equity and communications representative from the Benton County Health Department, recommends taking more precautions in order to keep up with the rising infection level.

"As schools plan for the school year, it is important to remember that COVID-19 continues to change with new variants and our knowledge of mitigation efforts grows over time," Muñoz said. "For these reasons, the guidance and public health measures for responding to COVID-19 also change."

"With the Delta variant circulating in our community, it is smart to mask up in public settings and in private when families are with people from different households," Muñoz said.

The Oregon Health Authority has responded accordingly to the rising infection rates.

As of Aug. 17, the Benton County Health Department has issued Order #D2021-063, which requires masks or face coverings to be worn in-

**COVID-19 UPDATE**  
*Continued on page 18*



Use a QR code to view updated COVID-19 case rates in the City of Corvallis and Benton County.







JAKOB JONES | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Andrew Nolke poses in front of Sackett Hall as his parents take his photo on Oregon State University's move-in days. Many parents helped their kids move in to their new dorms to get ready for the school year.

**STUDENTS BACK**  
*Continued from page 1*

ferred in person too, and they will continue to emphasize public health measures such as mask-wearing.

"The university knows that many students are excited to return to on-site and in-person learning and to be able to attend cultural, social, athletic and community events in person," Clark said.

Dining halls and dorms on campus have also been updated by University Housing and Dining Services to minimize the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

"The UHDS facilities team has increased airflow in all our facilities as much as possible, and custodial staff continues to use the appropriate cleaning and disinfectant products to kill the vi-

rus if it is on surfaces," Brian Stroup, director of operations and facilities for UHDS, said.

Stroup added that dining halls are following the appropriate health and safety guidelines as defined by the COVID Safety and Success Policy and local and state health authorities.

Dining halls will continue to operate mostly as normal throughout the fall term and students will be able to eat in dining halls, take their food to go, order express mobile pickup or request robot delivery.

"We will keep the dining halls open as we continue to provide this essential service for students living on campus," Stroup said. "Any alteration of dining center hours might more likely be caused by staffing challenges."

With the return to in-person classes, mental health issues such as depression and anxiety as

well as stress are also expected to decrease.

"Mental health issues have been on the rise for the past few years even before the pandemic," Gurung said. "Going back to face to face may actually help as it is what most of us are used to... and there may be added motivation and excitement."

However, this transition may still prove stressful for some students. Transitions always take time, according to Gurung, and can provide more risk to certain students, especially for those without good support systems.

"If your mental health is interfering with your work, share that with your instructor and ask for flexibility," Gurung said. "The amount of flexibility given will vary from person OSU instructors have been very supportive and should be seen as a valid resource."

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**COVER:** An incoming student carrying a suitcase and entering a dorm during Oregon State University's first day of move-in on Sept. 19. The incoming class will be the first group of freshman to experience in-person learning since OSU announced in-person plans for the 2021-22 academic year.



# Faculty, staff serve as pillars of strength for students as in-person classes return to OSU

BY TREVOR HORN  
News Contributor

With the start of fall term, thousands of people are finally able to learn, live and teach at Oregon State University.

Triumphantly returning alongside the students are hundreds of their professors, who braved the trials of the past year alongside their students, hand-in-hand.

"I'm really looking forward to those more informal conversations you have with students, and getting to know them in a way that isn't as easy on remote learning as it is in person," Sarah Wright, a senior instructor and program lead with the College of Education, said.

Colleges are cultural melting pots of the youth, and when that pot boils over, it's on the shoulders of the professors and faculty at OSU to ease their students back into a community of respect and empathy.

"[Going back to in person] is definitely going to create a different environment," Linda Bruslind, a senior instructor of microbiology said. "I think there's going to be some excitement, but there is also going to be some anxiety about the change in situation. Everyone needs to be open and honest with one another but patient as well."

Like her colleague Wright, Bruslind is equally as elated to getting back into classes.

"I really miss seeing the students in person," Bruslind said. "It's just not the same... I look forward to my students being able to do hands-on lab work again. For everything that can be offered virtually, once again, it's a poor substitute for actually working with a microscope yourself."

Although the new school year brings the promise of in-person learning again, Wright doesn't see why everything has to go back to normal.

"I do think we need to, as instructors and as students, know that the world has changed and we are going to keep the good," Wright said.

The primary good Wright detailed is the increased accessibility students now have with their professors. With the addition of a simple Zoom call to a professor's repertoire, there is

less of a reason for any student to have a question go unanswered or an essay go unedited.

"I do think that students sometimes worry about emailing and trying to Zoom with the

instructor or teacher, and all the instructors I know want that—and I want that, so don't be afraid to reach out and ask to Zoom and have a meeting with your teachers," Wright said. "I

don't know any instructors that wouldn't do that for a student."

Although the professors are excited to get back in front of a blackboard, not every teacher has elected to return fully in person this term, like Professor of integrated biology Michael Blouin, who will teach his general genetics class remotely but hold thesis seminars for graduate students in-person this term.

"Last spring, when [the administration] gave us the option of either staying remote for the fall or moving to a classroom I decided to stay remote because I wasn't convinced the pandemic was going to be over, and apparently I've been proven correct," Blouin said.

"I've adapted my class to online, it seems to work pretty well and I'm going to be doing that for one more quarter until we can get this pandemic behind us... Don't get complacent about the virus, and don't take your cue from what everyone else is doing."

After seeing the struggles that her students faced, Bruslind said she's excited to interact with them during the fall term and interested to see how it goes.

"With all these different populations and people coming from different places mentally and emotionally, I think that's going to create a lot of variability in the interactions we have, far more than I have experienced before," Bruslind said.

Wright said she continually encourages her students to always look for the positives in whatever situations they may face.

"You get to move into the dorms, there are classes you can go to in person," Wright said. "Be thankful and appreciative of the things you do get to do. Even today, it felt great to see people on campus, walk to Dutch Bros and get some iced tea, see other students, having students move into the dorms; it's really exciting, that's the best part of school. Fall is wonderful."

As the leaves change from green to all the hues of autumn, when the days get cooler and the evenings grow long, all the certainties of fall are undercut by the uncertainty of our time.

"Living day-by-day, week-by-week, do what you need to do," Wright said. "You can't have everything planned out... embrace that, don't resist the uncertainty... who knows what the term has ahead for us, but we'll get through it."



ASHTON SUTTON | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK



Oregon State University students returned to campus Sept. 22 for in-person classes and activities. Faculty members express what they look forward to once classes start after a year and a half of remote learning.



# SEPT-OCT 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<p><b>27</b> Interfraternity Council Fall Recruitment Day 3 Various Locations</p> <p><b>Its A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Auditions</b> Withycombe Hall, Main Stage 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Interfraternity Council Fall Recruitment Day 4 Various Locations</p> <p><b>Town Hall Series on Leading Strategic Change in Undergraduate Education</b> Virtual Event 11 a.m. - noon</p>	<p><b>29</b> Orange Media Network Open House Student Experience Center 4th Floor 5-7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Part-Time Job Fair</b> Student Experience Center Plaza 11 a.m.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Dam Fit Class Fall 2021 McAlexander Fieldhouse Turf 12 - 1 p.m. &amp; 5 - 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lead Climbing in the Gym Fall 2021</b> Dixon Recreation Center Climbing Center 7 - 10 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b> OSU Drupal 7 Basics Remote Workshop Virtual Event 10 a.m. - noon</p>	<p><b>6</b> Getting a Dam Job: What Careers Exist Memorial Union 109 12 - 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>American Strings: An Evening With the Shook Twins</b> Student Experience Center Plaza 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>10</b> 5K Fun Run/Walk Fall 2021 Avery Park 11 a.m. - noon</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> Tech Talk Tuesday: In Pursuit of Reliable Autonomy in the Open World Virtual Event 11 - 11:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>Fall Engineering Connections Fair</b> Virtual Event 4 - 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Fall Virtual Civil and Construction Engineering Fair Virtual Event 12 - 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Becoming a Lawyer Career Panel</b> Virtual Event 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> Beaver Music Preview Day LaSells Stewart Center 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b> OSU Drupal 7 Basics Remote Workshop Virtual Event 10 a.m. - noon</p> <p><b>OSU-Cascades &amp; COCC DPP Presentation</b> Virtual Event 5 - 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Fall Virtual STEM Industries Fair Virtual Event 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>
<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Drop-in Resume Reviews Bexell Hall 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Getting a Dam Job: Networking &amp; Job/Internship Searching Strategies Memorial Union 109 12 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b> 2021 Fall Virtual Career &amp; Internship Fair Virtual Event 12 - 3 p.m.</p>
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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	EVENTS INFORMATION
<p><b>30</b> <b>Mike O'Malley's Fall Community Gathering</b> Joyce Collin Furman Hall 4 - 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Multicultural Greek Council Meet &amp; Greet</b> Virtual Event 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Beaver Community Fair</b> Memorial Union Quad noon - 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Most Oregon State University virtual and in-person events require registration in order to attend or participate. All October events and event descriptions, as well as registration information can be found on the OSU Events Calendar website or on the Oregon State University Alumni Association website.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Use a QR code scanner or Snapchat to view the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life's recruitment events</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Use a QR code scanner or Snapchat to view Oregon State University's Events Calendar in full</p> </div>
<p><b>7</b> <b>Getting a Dam Job: Winning Resumes &amp; Cover</b> Memorial Union 109 5 - 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Meet the Historically Black Fraternities &amp; Sororities</b> Memorial Union 109 6 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Fall Preview Day (OSU-Cascades)</b> Edward J Ray Hall 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	
<p><b>14</b> <b>Labratory Biosafety/Bloodborne Pathogen Training</b> Virtual Event 12 - 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Getting a Dam Job: Virtual &amp; In-Person Interviewing</b> Memorial Union 109 5 - 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Anthropology Lecture Series: Dr. Anne Pasek</b> Virtual Event 12 - 12:50 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	
<p><b>21</b> <b>2021 Black and Orange Awards</b> Virtual Event 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Yuji Hiratsuka: An OSU Retrospective</b> Memorial Union Concourse Gallery 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Corn Hole Tournament Fall 2021</b> Dixon Recreation Center Lower Gym 6 - 11 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Wilderness First Aid Fall 2021</b> Dixon Recreation Center Upper Classroom 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>28</b> <b>Business GOLD Social Hour</b> Nines, a Luxury Collection Hotel &amp; Virtual Option 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>3v3 Basketball Tournament Fall 2021</b> Dixon Recreation Center Upper Gym 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.</p>	



# In-person recruitment events return to OSU's Greek community

Sororities and fraternities outline their plans for incoming and second-year students to finally experience Greek life on campus

By LUKE BROCKMAN  
News Contributor

After students lost them nearly two years ago, in-person Greek Life activities are making their reappearance on Oregon State University's campus, albeit with some "new normal" modifications.

Contingent with OSU's vaccination program and the university's policy on COVID-19 safety, fraternity and sorority recruitment events are set to take place in person this year—with a few virtual options for information sessions—in addition to in-person classes and other activities.

Maija Linh Pham, a START representative who also serves as vice president of finance and administration for the Collective Greek Council, can't wait to regain the interpersonal aspects of meet-and-greet recruitment events that were lost in the entirely virtual experience last fall. However, she's also confident in the ability to stay in person with the new protocols for stopping the spread.

"All of the Greek governing councils agree upon following OSU's rules—I mean, we are student organizations—but as a larger body of students across the board, we are making sure we are mindful [of the guidelines in place] so that we're not setting a bad example; making sure that we're not the ones ruining things for everybody," Pham said.

Julianne McKenna, the vice president of public relations for Collective Greek Council, said such mindfulness comes in part by the constant council meetings where the integration of COVID-19 safety guidelines has become second nature since the onset of the pandemic last March.

Greek Councils this fall are preparing for these status update meetings with regard to the ever-dynamic nature of the pandemic, how guidelines are being met within chapters, assessing what can be done better and reexamining updates from the county and the university. Read the joint statement from the fraternity and sorority Councils on COVID-19 safety on the website.

According to Sam Burgener and Brandon Hughes, the vice presidents of Recruitment

Marketing and Programming for the Interfraternity Council, a factor to consider with this year's Greek recruitment is the overflow of second-year students interested in Greek Life after a year where the activities and benefits of joining were neither safe nor certain.

Not only are there incoming students gearing up to join, but Burgener and Hughes said

there are even more interested students who were deferred or chose not to join due to the pandemic.

Burgener and Hughes are also confident in the acknowledgement and ability of the Greek Councils to take COVID-19 safety seriously and uphold protocols, despite the expectation of hundreds more new recruits than average.

"We're already seeing it with our summer

recruitment," Burgener said. "A lot of chapters are having a lot larger numbers, already... I really think we're going to have a pretty large number [of recruits], like we haven't seen in the last five years or so."

**GREEK RUSH**  
Continued on page 8



ALLEN BERNARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Members of the Kappa Delta sorority at Oregon State University prepare for fall 2021 recruitment by showing off their pride during spirit week. Recruitment will take place in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic and Greek Life organizations say they are following and upholding the necessary protocols regarding COVID-19.





SOLOMON MEYERS | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Student Research Consultant and Circulation Desk Representative Jady Pando in front of the Valley Library on the Oregon State University Corvallis, Ore. campus. With the school year coming into full swing, finding a study spot may be difficult, but students can rest assured that the Valley Library will always have a spot for them.

# OSU community members recommend study spots on campus

By **KIMBERLY CLAIRMONT**  
News Contributor

For many students, finding the perfect study spot can be a challenge. Oregon State University students and staff suggested a variety of places students can work efficiently on campus while observing health and safety protocols.

Noisy dorm rooms and crowded coffee shops don't necessarily provide the best environment for students to work after classes end and buildings on campus close.

Luckily, OSU has a number of study spaces available to students on campus, whether they are located in the Memorial Union, the Valley Library, academic buildings or residence halls.

According to Rhyan Becker, the MU Student Advisory Board chair and guest services scheduler, there is a range of options students have when looking for places to study inside the MU.

"The MU has so many study spots that fit so many different student needs. We have private student study rooms, the main lounge with comfy chairs and couches, JavaStop and the Commons with food and so many other spots that are sort of tucked away," Becker said.

Exploring campus to test out all your study spot options can be fun to do throughout a student's time at OSU, according to Becker.

Mallory Schiebel, a third-year kinesiology student at OSU, said the MU is her top choice

when looking for a spot on campus to study because of the relaxing ambiance.

"On a sunny day you can sit on the balcony by JavaStop upstairs and study overlooking the quad... They even put up lights inside around Christmas time which further enhances the study experience and makes the MU feel so homey," Schiebel said.

The MU's main lounge is often accompanied with the sound of classical music. Students on campus have the option of playing the piano in the lounge for their fellow students to enjoy any day of the week.

"I specifically remember one time pretty early on freshman year, I was studying there and a student started

playing the piano and the atmosphere was so welcoming and peaceful and it made me feel so connected to campus and definitely helped me further enjoy my study experience," Schiebel said.

While the MU's architecture and comforting feel attract the attention of many students, the Valley Library is another fan-favorite among OSU community members.

Library Technician Kristin Swetland said the library's study spaces can accommodate all study styles and also provide services and supplies for students.

Swetland listed many different spots within the library, saying, "There are quiet and individual study spaces, loud and group

study spaces, spots by windows, spots by bookshelves, large tables, individual desks, soft furniture, study rooms and computers."

For students looking for a quieter study space, the first and sixth floors of the library are designated quiet floors and often the best places to take your study materials.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 protocols, some changes have affected the library's ability to ensure complete silence on the first floor, according to Swetland.

"Normally I would say the first floor which is the designated silent floor, but right now there is a huge project being worked on down there making the floor only partially open and definitely not silent," Swetland said. "The best alternatives are [the] sixth floor which is designated [as] quiet and [where students can check out] a study room. Though the study rooms aren't sound-proof, they tend to stay quieter than open floors."

Student Research Consultant and Circulation Desk Representative Jady Pando said her favorite spots to study are the rotunda spaces—located on the second, fourth and fifth floors—because of the abundant natural light and gorgeous view from surrounding windows.

While the silent floors are often cherished by students looking to get away from the chatter-filled areas, library staff are looking forward to reestablishing a sense of community again. Over the last year, the library had closed off all floors except the second floor.

"I just can't wait to see folks in the library again; it's the community that brings it to life," Pando said.



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Oregon State University senior, marketing major and popular science minor Ryuta Harado studies quietly in the OSU Memorial Union. The MU and Valley Library are two favorites for students of the many study spots on the OSU Corvallis, Ore. campus.





ALLEN BERNARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Claire Baboyan, Kappa Delta president and Ryleigh Boyle, Kappa Delta vice president of recruitment are waiting to meet the new recruits and introduce them to their sorority. Greek recruitment is expected to have far more recruits than normal this year.

**GREEK RUSH**  
Continued from page 6

The permanence of in-person campus activity hinges on keeping case numbers in the community below dangerous levels. OSU administration has encouraged students to take individual responsibility for hindering

Burgener and Hughes said students who are wondering what to expect during recruitment this fall can look forward to a more normal social environment within the constraints of OSU's evolving COVID-19 guidelines.

Students should log into their student health portal and update their vaccination status, if they haven't already. More information can be found on the vaccination requirements program webpage. This step is important for the purposes of joining a chapter, for tracing any positive cases that may occur on campus and for the effort of Greek Councils to stop the spread of Delta variant.

Fraternity recruitment events are taking place from Sept. 22 until Jump Day, on Oct. 1, when new members officially join their chapters. Expect masks and COVID-19 tracing measures, but check the @osugreeks Instagram page for more possible updates about Jump Day.

Sorority recruitment will take place from Oct. 2 through 11. Find more information on Instagram, @osupanhellenic.

The Go Greek BBQ took place on Sept. 20 from 4-6 p.m. in the Memorial Union Quad. Masks and social distancing were practiced, as is the standard for all in-person gatherings in indoor and outdoor public settings.

If you missed this event, which was an opportunity to meet representatives from all five Greek Councils and network with the Greek community at large, resources for connecting with the various chapters, both fraternity and sorority, can be found at <https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/cfsl>, or on the Instagram account @osugreeks.

*"A lot of chapters are having a lot larger numbers, already... I really think we're going to have a pretty large number [of recruits], like we haven't seen in the last five years or so."*

*- Brandon Hughes, vice president of Recruitment Programming for the Interfraternity Council*

the spread of this virus, not only within the Greek community, but as a campus-wide body. Students can look up to their peers and superiors who are being responsible advocates for safety and community health.



ALLEN BERNARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Delta Chi members prepare for rush week and the influx of recruits in front of their house. They are excited to return to in-person events and activities with their fraternity brothers.



# Current OSU students urged to reach out to Alumni Association early

By KIMBERLY CLAIRMONT  
News Contributor

Leaders within the Oregon State University Alumni Association encourage current students to reach out to the board before they graduate in order to support their future endeavors.

While the OSUAA is known for accepting large donations from OSU's former graduates, they also provide more opportunities for current and former students to connect than just non-personal monetary donations.

The entire organization is composed of staff members and volunteers dedicated to finding ways for all 215,000 graduates to keep an emotional connection to OSU.

John Valva, the executive director of the OSUAA, said, "Last year, for instance, we set the all-time record for the [highest] number of alumni volunteers who were putting their time and expertise and offering their networks back to OSU."

Association members care deeply about helping current students make connections with former graduates who dealt with similar post-graduation obstacles before obtaining professional careers.

"The greatness of a university—particularly a public land-grant university—the greatness not only happens on our campuses, but it happens with the extension of the work of our graduates out there in their fields," Valva said.

The OSUAA connects graduates who have experience in specific post-graduation fields of

interest for current OSU students by holding numerous career panels.

"We ask those successful alumni—and I mean successful in a lot of different ways—to provide their expertise as to how they succeeded in their particular sector so that we can learn from it, and you and your fellow students can learn from them," Valva said.

Recent graduates and current students looking to pay it forward within the OSU community don't need to spend money buying an OSUAA membership to make an impact.

"We are interested and we offer to all graduates—and particularly new graduates—the chance to participate as either dues-paying members or just participants in our programs; you don't have to give us money to benefit from the programs," Valva explained.

OSU Assistant Director for Membership of the OSUAA Courtney Ball still recommends students acquire a membership post-graduation.

"After graduation, I would highly recommend it... By being a member we know the people who are actively seeking something from us, so we know who to engage with on a deeper level," Ball added.

Mamta Chowdhury, the early engagement director for the OSUAA, encourages students currently attending classes at OSU to get connected early.

"Just reach out and have that initial conversation and see what you can get out of it because there is always somebody in the OSUAA, in the OSU alumni network, who's willing to help, and it can be profound," Chowdhury said.

"So take that first step, reach out, have a conversation and see how we can be a part of your journey as a student [and] as an alumni," Chowdhury said.

Students with questions about programs and benefits offered to official members can visit OSUAA's website.

According to association members, every volunteer, staff member and OSU alum within the OSUAA constantly expresses their strong desire to be a part of every OSU student's journey before and after they graduate.

"That's where our passion is, and the reason we do this is because seeing a student's smile, seeing an alumni glow with finding another alum who thinks the same way or can help them—that's what really is our passion," Chowdhury said.



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Alumni Association Early Engagement Director Mamta Chowdhury in front of the Alumni Center. The Association provides graduating students with many resources, including connecting them with post-graduates who can provide their expertise.

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Maija Linh Teona Pham, OSU PERIOD club president in front of the Memorial Union.

## OSU clubs transition back to in-person activities

By CARA NIXON  
News Reporter

Associated Students of Oregon State University President Dhru Patel said one of the most difficult obstacles the pandemic created was disabling the club's ability to provide in-person resources.

Examples include SafeRide, an ASOSU system that provides rides to students in Corvallis, Ore. and Student Legal Services, an ASOSU program that gives legal advice and representation to OSU students. SafeRide has been unable to operate during the pandemic, and Student Legal Services has had to conduct its services remotely.

"We've done a lot to be adaptable during the pandemic, and we're looking forward to the in-person transition," Patel said.

From student government to sports to social justice, OSU clubs have had to constantly adapt to the changes COVID-19 brought. Organizations like ASOSU are optimistic about returning to in-person, but now have new sets of obstacles to overcome.

Looking towards fall term, Patel said ASOSU's executive branch will have all in-person programming. SafeRide and Student Legal Services will operate in a similar format, while ASOSU's Congress will be more hybrid to be as accessible as possible to students.

"ASOSU is going to be operating in person, very consistent with the university's fall term Pathway," Patel explained. "However, we want to continue to remain adaptable so that we can remain an accessible organization to students that want to operate remotely as we go through this period of time."

Though ASOSU is excited about returning to in-person activities, Patel said there are health and safety concerns. However, with health and safety protocol in mind, Patel is confident about the transition.

"I think just not being able to be on campus for the better part of two years -- the transition back is going to be something where students have missed the campus culture, and ASOSU is going to try to help the transition go as smooth as it can be," Patel said. "We're also going to be an organization that provides programming so that students can enjoy their time on campus and be involved."

OSU sports clubs have perhaps had the

most difficult time adapting to the pandemic. Matthew Robinson, the external relations representative from Dodgeball Club, said COVID-19 made operating and recruiting for the organization complicated.

"We never really know what's going to happen," Robinson said. "Practice could get canceled at any moment based on whatever COVID-19 level we were at. And then recruiting was difficult, because not a lot of people were on campus."

During the pandemic, the Dodgeball Club practiced in fall term of 2020 and spring term of 2021, however, they were unable to meet during the entire winter term due to COVID-19.

This fall, Robinson said the club will be in-person, and this time, members will be participating in events like OSU Rec Night and the Beaver Community Fair, which they were unable to do during the pandemic.

Though practices will be in person, Robinson said masks will be required and health screenings will take place. Dodgeball Club is also unsure whether OSU will allow them to participate in tournaments as they have in years prior.

Unlike ASOSU and the Dodgeball Club, OSU's PERIOD chapter has never been in person. According to the club's president, Maija Pham, the club was formed during the pandemic in the fall of 2020.

OSU's PERIOD club is a branch of a national organization that seeks to end period poverty and period stigma via advocacy, education and service. Pham said setting up a social justice organization wasn't easy during the pandemic.

However, though they were unable to table, recruit or talk to people in person about their club, Pham said she thinks they managed well.

"We were able to have a steady foundation for members and still have educational events," Pham said.

This fall, the PERIOD club plans to host bi-weekly meetings, have service and educational events and perform outreach in-person. Pham said though she's nervous about what in-person operation will be like, she's confident the transition will benefit the organization.

"Being in person where people want to be in person—our people are very excited to be involved and be a part of some sort of organization and find that belonging," Pham said. "I'm confident in that."



# Fans are welcomed back to OSU sport venues at full capacity this fall

By THOMAS SALGADO DE ALMEIDA LEME  
Sports Contributor

Oregon State University has welcomed students back for the 2021-22 academic year, both in the classroom, and into sporting venues, such as Reser Stadium and Gill Coliseum.

While fans will now have the opportunity to attend OSU sporting events, because the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging on, there will be some restrictions.

"Upon entering the stadium, guests will be required to show proof of vaccination either by their physical vaccine card or a photo of their vaccine card," said Shawn Schoeffler, assistant director for Athletic Communications at OSU said via email. "If they are not vaccinated, they will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test—PCR or antigen—within three days of the event. Lastly, they will also be able to show proof of a positive test as long as the event is at least 14 days after the positive test and no more than 90 days."

Additionally, masks will be required as long as the state mask mandate is in effect. Social distancing will be enforced in concession lines, entry lines and other public spaces, but not in the stands themselves. This will apply to all of OSU's sports venues.

This is big news for OSU fans, who have not been able to watch their Beavers compete in person since March 2020.

But now, for the 2020-21 athletics season, there are no limits on attendance and most students are back in Corvallis, returning to in-person classes again.

While some fans are excited to be back on the stands cheering on their Beavers, others are concerned about the safety risk involved in all this due to the COVID-19 pandemic still prevalent in society.

OSU junior Jordan Peterson is excited to get back into the action and attend games.

"It was really disappointing, I don't have access to the games online so I felt completely disconnected from the teams and the sense of school pride that goes along with attending games," Peterson said over direct messaging. "I think anyone who would regularly go to sporting events pre-COVID-19 shares this pent-up eagerness to get back into the stands and cheer on our athletes."

Other students and fans are more hesitant to attend games because they think things are still not safe enough and they don't believe sports are worth the risk.

"We know that current variants, Delta specifically, are highly infectious and transmissible even by vaccinated people," senior David



ASHTON BISNER | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Fans cheering on the Oregon State Beavers as they face off against the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors on Sept. 11. This was the first time fans were allowed back inside of Reser Stadium since November 2019, when the Beavers defeated the Arizona State Sun Devils, 35-34.

Jarussi said over direct messaging. "Given this, it is probable that a non-zero number of people in attendance will contract and/or spread COVID-19. Assuming everyone in attendance is vaccinated, then the risk of serious complications among attendees is relatively low, but not zero."

Many students are still looking forward to go back to games despite the risk, such as OSU fourth-year student Payton Ford.

"It was definitely a bummer not being able to go to sporting events last year even though it was definitely the right decision," Ford said over direct messaging. "I am [at] high risk for COVID-19, but because of the vaccine and mask mandates, combined with being outdoors, I feel it's pretty safe going to games. It also helps that Benton County is still relatively safe COVID-19-wise."

Jarussi, however, is someone that thinks the risk is not worth it, no matter how small the potential consequences of even just one infection in a game are, which he believes is likely due to the protocols in place that could possibly falter.

"It is entirely likely someone truly innocent will die or suffer permanent health complications because of these events," Jarussi said via direct messaging. "I find it unjustifiable to risk being the proximate cause of another human being's death or injury for the sake of watching a game."

Both Peterson and Ford made it clear that despite how much they cherish being able to

go to games, they only do so because they think it is currently safe. If things worsen or protocols change, they would not feel the same way.

"I do feel safe going to games because the likelihood of any transmission occurring between masked, fully vaccinated people is very low," Peterson said. "If proof of vaccination was not required, I don't think I would attend very many games."

"I think for me the two things [that would make me reconsider attending games] would be either an outbreak of some kind at OSU, or possibly a lifting of the mask mandate depending on how many cases there were in the OSU community at that time," Ford said.

Fans such as OSU senior Annalena Hukari understand the effect fan support has on athletes and want to continue providing that support, however they aren't as confident regarding returning fans' safety.

"The Corvallis community has done an overall good job in curbing COVID-19 and the Delta variant as best as possible," said Hukari over email. "The vaccine rate is high and masking seems to be a pretty common sight. All of this has been because of following best practices and having limitations."

Allowing an influx of people at this time, as certain communities are being hit hard again, shows a lack of judgement and concern for the physical health of our community at large. Especially the most vulnerable community members, many of whom love to support the Beavers."

Jarussi agreed with Hukari in that it is better to have an overabundance of caution until things truly settle down, instead of risking a premature return to normal.

"There would have to be a prolonged period of time with no new variants and a well-defined set of safeguards that are proven to prevent large-scale public events from becoming superspreading events," said Jarussi. "Anything less than that would be imposing a very real risk of death or injury on some number of people in my community, and I personally cannot abide such a thing."

Hukari, who is still considering attending soccer games because their low turnout makes her feel safer, thinks that perhaps a compromise where only students themselves could attend games would be safer while still maintaining the social benefits of sports for students.

"[Sporting events] are such a joy, but they become less so if it negatively impacts the physical and mental health of the players, the school and the greater community by the introduction of sports tourists from outside of the area who may not fully respect the safety precautions that have kept this town's COVID-19 cases at bay."

Despite differing opinions on the matter, the fact is that games will be open to the OSU community at full capacity, and it is up to the individual on whether or not they decide to attend those sporting events.





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 @collectivegreekcouncil\_osu

## Interfraternity Council

**Wed, Sept. 22 - Fri, Oct. 1**  
 IFC is the governing council for traditionally housed fraternities. Fall Recruitment participation is FREE and registration is required.  
 @ifc\_oregonstate

## Multicultural Greek Council

**In-Person - Wed, Sept 29, 6pm**  
**Virtual - Thurs, Sept 30, 6pm.**  
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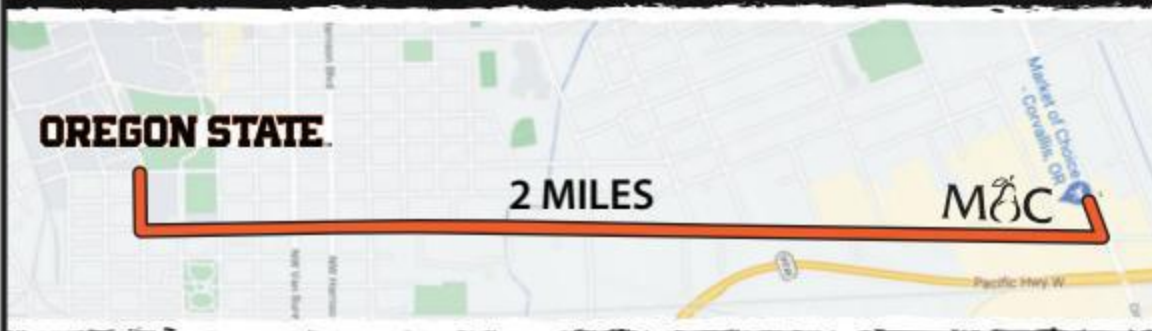
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# Carey transitions from competing at 2020 Olympic Games to competing at Gill Coliseum

## After dazzling the crowds in Tokyo, Carey hopes to impress OSU gymnastics fans and the world

By Riley Lecocq  
Sports Contributor

Since the Tokyo Olympics have come to a close, beaver gymnast Jade Carey has set her sights on getting ready to bring her unique skills to collegiate gymnastics.

The 21-year-old elite gymnast, Olympic gold medalist and now newest member of the Oregon State University Gymnastics team brings an exciting potential and a unique set of skills to the collegiate scene.

Carey, who originally signed her national letter of intent to attend Oregon State back in Sept 2017, had been a lock for the women's competition as an individual competitor representing the United States long before the Olympic trials that took place in June.

Prior to the Olympic Games, Carey had competed in several different world and domestic gymnastics championship tournaments. In 2017, Carey took home the silver medal in the vault and floor exercise at the 2017 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. And at the 2018 U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Boston, Mass, Carey was a silver medalist in the floor exercise, and captured bronze in the vault event.

In 2019, at that year's World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, Team USA had the most amount of points in the tournament, adding another gold medal to Carey's already impressive resume. She was also able to bring home the silver medal in the vault event at that same championship.

And in the 2019 U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Kansas City, Mo., Carey secured two more silver medals, finishing as

the runner up in both the vault and the floor exercise.

Despite all of these different medals from many different international and domestic championships, and despite all of these different accolades, there was only one tournament that Carey had been training for her entire career: the 2020 Olympic Games.

However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Olympics were pushed back until the summer of 2021. But nonetheless, the goal was still the same for Carey: Olympic Gold.

Fast forward one year later, in Tokyo, Carey proved to be a powerhouse for the United States, competing in both the vault and floor exercise finals.

"Winning floor at the Olympics felt like everything I have ever dreamed of. All the hard work has finally paid off," Carey said.

The Olympics, however, sometimes cause a lot of athletes to put a large amount of pressure on themselves. Athletes also face a variety of

adversity, whether it be before, during, or after the Olympic Games.

Carey faced some difficulty during the event that she was most favored to take home gold in, the vault event.

"I tripped during the run of my first vault and couldn't do the vault I was supposed to. In that moment, I knew my chances at a medal were over. It was very difficult but I walked back and completed my second vault," Carey said. "I cried, hugged my dad and he told me that I could turn the worst day of my life into the best day tomorrow."

Despite the disappointment of her performance in the vault finals, turning the worst into the best is exactly what Carey did.

JADE CAREY  
Continued on page 15



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

2020 Olympic gold medalist, Jade Carey, hosted a media event at the new OSU Gymnastics Practice Facility on Sept 10. Carey is beginning her freshman year as a kinesiology major and looks forward to continuing her gymnastics career as a Beaver.



JADE CAREY,  
Continued from page 14

**“Winning floor at the Olympics felt like everything I have ever dreamed of. All the hard work has finally paid off.”**

**- Jade Carey, Olympic Gold Medalist and OSU Gymnast**

The quick turnaround from the vault routine to the floor exercise, while difficult, is what led to Carey earning the coveted title of Olympic gold medalist.

Carey is capable of performing outstanding and difficult skills on the floor exercise, as seen in her worldwide performance, but also behind the scenes. Carey had tinkered with ideas of new and never done before skills many times before, one of which she competed in championships earlier in the season.

The skill is a layed out double salto with three complete twists. In other terms, Carey flips in the air two times while simultaneously making three full - 360 degree rotations with her body in a straight position before coming back into contact with the floor.

Although Carey did not perform this specific skill on the Olympic stage, the ability and drive to perform the skill holds promise and excitement for the variety of high level difficulty she could bring to the collegiate platform.

“I have always played around with big skills off of the trampoline [and] into the foam pit and this one just seemed realistic for me,” Carey said.

But performing a big skill like that is not easy. Most gymnasts spend several months, sometimes even years practicing and per-

**“I cried, hugged my dad and he told me that I could turn the worst day of my life into the best day tomorrow.”**

**- Jade Carey, Olympic Gold Medalist and OSU Gymnast**

fecting a certain skill, or sometimes multiple skills. But this didn't intimidate Carey.

She dedicated a good chunk of her time to practice and really honed in on those skills.

When she felt like the time was right, she submitted her skill to the Federation of International Gymnastics [FIG] to see where they would rank those skills. Carey was surprised with the level her skill received.

“We worked it step by step really hard until it was finally ready to do,” Carey said.

When we submitted the skill to the FIG, they said they would value it at the K level, which would be the highest level of difficulty skill in the book.”

Since these skills have helped her compete at world championships and win an Olympic Gold Medal, Carey is excited to see how those skills were fair on the collegiate gymnastics scene.

“I definitely want to bring some of my elite difficulty into my college routines. I can't wait to decide my college routines with the coaching staff, it's going to be a lot of fun,” Carey said.

The transition to collegiate gymnastics can be daunting for some gymnasts, but Carey is ready for the change, mainly due to the fact that she has already competed on some of the world's biggest stages.

Although Carey's skills on the floor exercise have already shown their strength, she also proved her less often discussed strength in the all around event, which is where a gym-

nast competes in all of the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise events in a single gymnastics meet.

This ability showed when she stepped into the all around competition for Simone Biles and placed eighth out of 24 of some of the best competitors in the world who qualified for the most sought after title in women's olympic gymnastics.

This all around ability comes as a huge asset to the Oregon State Gymnastic team which looks forward to a strong season, especially coming out of a year followed by the shortened 2021 season due to the pandemic.

When asked why she chose OSU Carey said, “I honestly love everything about Oregon State. The gymnastics coaching staff is amazing and the campus is beautiful. I am most looking forward to having that team environment. I'm so excited to be a part of such a special group of girls.”

Not only do the Beavers welcome an Olympian to their team this year, but also begin training in their brand new facilities, retiring the Gladys Valley gymnastic center on OSU's Corvallis campus, and moving to the new practice facility, located on 4100 SW Research Way in Corvallis, OR.

As Carey joins the highly capable and promising incoming freshman, the team looks more and more like one to watch in the 2022 NCAA gymnastic season.

Beaver nation waits to see what Carey's innovation within the sport of gymnastics, her perseverance and dedication, and the rest of



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

2020 Olympic gold medalist, Jade Carey, hosted a media event at the OSU Gymnastics Practice Facility on Sept 10.

## CAREY'S ROAD TO GOLD

**Sept 2017**

Carey brings home a silver medal in the vault and floor exercise at the World Artistic Championships in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Aug 2018**

Carey captures a silver medal in the floor exercise, and a bronze medal in the vault event at the 2018 U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Boston, Mass.

**Oct 2019**

Carey wins a team medal with Team USA, and secures two more silver medals in the vault and floor exercise at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Kansas City, Mo.

**Aug 1, 2021**

At the 2021 summer Olympic Games. Carey finishes in eight place in the vault event, scoring a total score of 12.416. Carey was one of the favorites to win the event.

**Aug 2, 2021**

After a disappointing vault performance, Carey wins Olympic Gold in the floor exercise, scoring a 14.366. on her routine.



# Benton County and City of Corvallis optimistic about student population influx

Local experts encourage mask-wearing and vaccination against COVID-19

By ASHTON MCCRACKEN  
News Contributor

As leaves begin to fall in Corvallis, Ore., preparing for fresh beginnings, thousands of students have arrived on campus to pursue new growth in their lives amidst a pandemic.

Students' arrival to Oregon State University has created significantly less community worry concerning the spread of the COVID-19 virus than the 2020-21 academic year.

Despite the coming addition of about 20,000 students to Corvallis, the city remains optimistic regarding the health and safety of people on campus and in the community.

Patrick Rollens, public information officer for the City of Corvallis, attributes this optimism to high student and community vaccination rates, enabling a safer return to the area.

While Rollens stated there has been regular discussion about the return of OSU students to campus, he said he is not aware of any specific

community concerns about students' impact on COVID-19 cases in the city.

Similarly, City Councilor Charlyn Ellis from

Ward 5, a region of Corvallis adjacent to the university in Ward 4, said, "So far, I have not heard any major concerns from Ward 5."

Dr. Adam Brady, an infectious disease specialist at Samaritan Health Services, echoed the city's optimism.

"Vaccinations, in addition [to] the masking requirements from the state and Benton County, will go a long way in protecting everyone on campus and in the community from exposure," Brady said.

While representatives from the City of Corvallis are unaware of major community concern caused by students returning to campus, Xan Augerot, Benton County commissioner and chair, acknowledged the inability of children under 12 years of age to get vaccinated.



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Oregon State University students return to campus and Corvallis, Ore. residents and businesses respond to the influx of population in the city. Approximately 20,000 OSU students call Corvallis home each year.

POPULATION INFLUX

Continued on page 17

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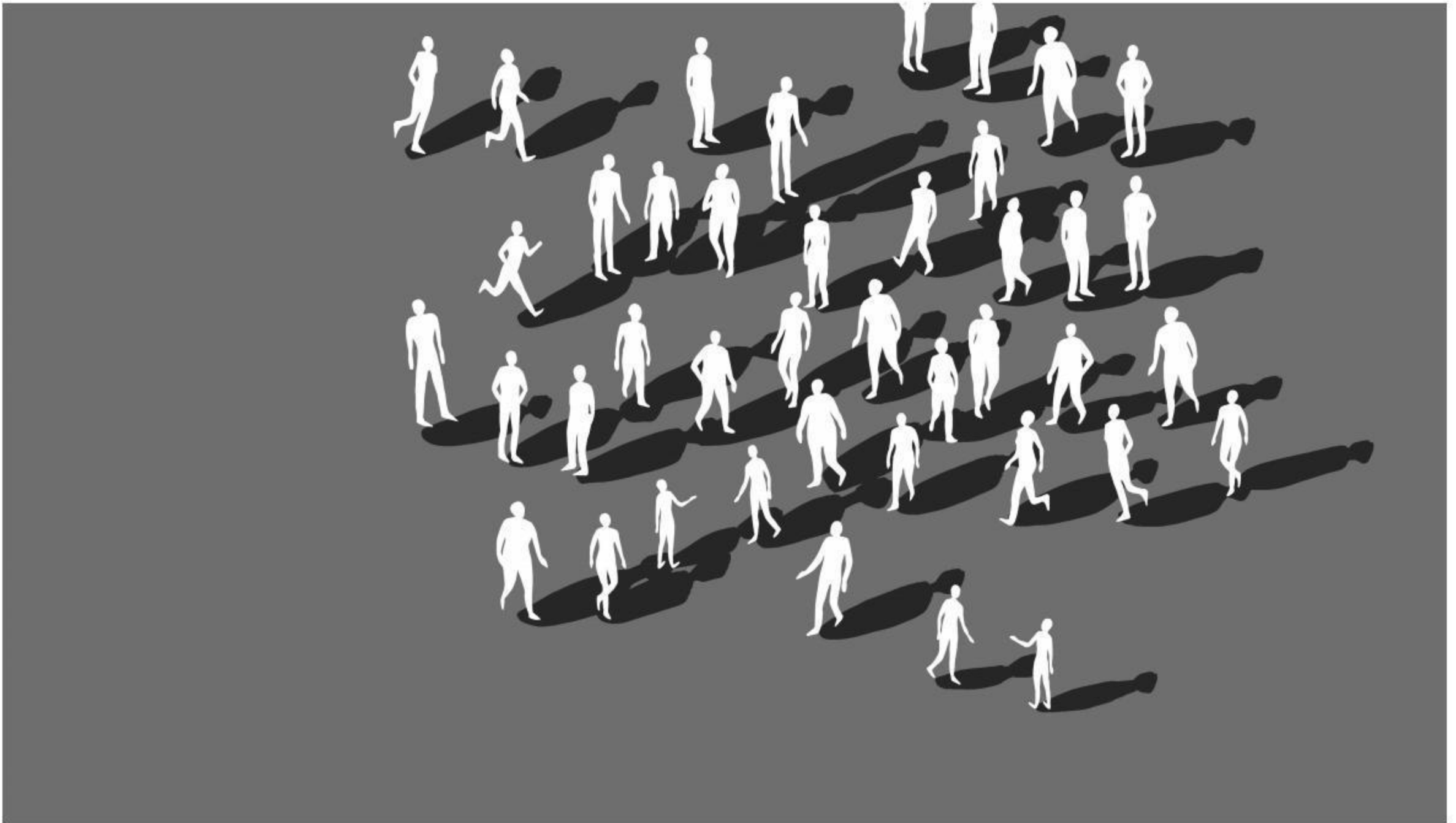
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Despite thousands of students flocking to the Oregon State University Corvallis, Ore. campus, the City of Corvallis and Benton County are feeling positive in regards to COVID-19. However, the city and county are continuing to encourage vaccination and masking.

#### POPULATION INFLUX Continued from page 16

Augerot said she hears “frequent” concerns from parents regarding possible exposure of their younger children to the virus in an area with a high influx of OSU students.

The Delta variant has further complicated health and safety measures as it is currently the dominant variant in the United States and among the most transmissible COVID-19 mutations.

Brady stated, “The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be highly effective at preventing serious illness from the Delta variant.”

However, case outbreaks resulting from the arrival of students to campus remains a possible threat to community health.

Rollens stated that the City of Corvallis communicates closely with the Benton County Health Department and receives regular COVID-19 reports and forecasts in order to be prepared for any scenario.

In addition to the health of the Corvallis community, Rollens emphasized the importance of local businesses to the city’s economy and their susceptibility to COVID-19 outbreaks and mandates.

Benton County is prepared for the possibility of an OSU outbreak as well.

Augerot explained the county government is “not inclined to shut things down,” but it will continue observing case numbers and will act with the goal of not overloading hospitals.

“Get vaccinated if you haven’t yet,” Brady

said. “No vaccine is 100% effective, but the vaccines available now are by far the most effective tool we have to prevent the spread of this virus.”

Public Information Officer for Benton

County Alyssa Rash added the importance of participating in safe activities, performing good hygiene and isolating if you are sick.

Rash stated, “Even if you are fully vaccinated, wear a mask when interacting with people

from outside of your household.”

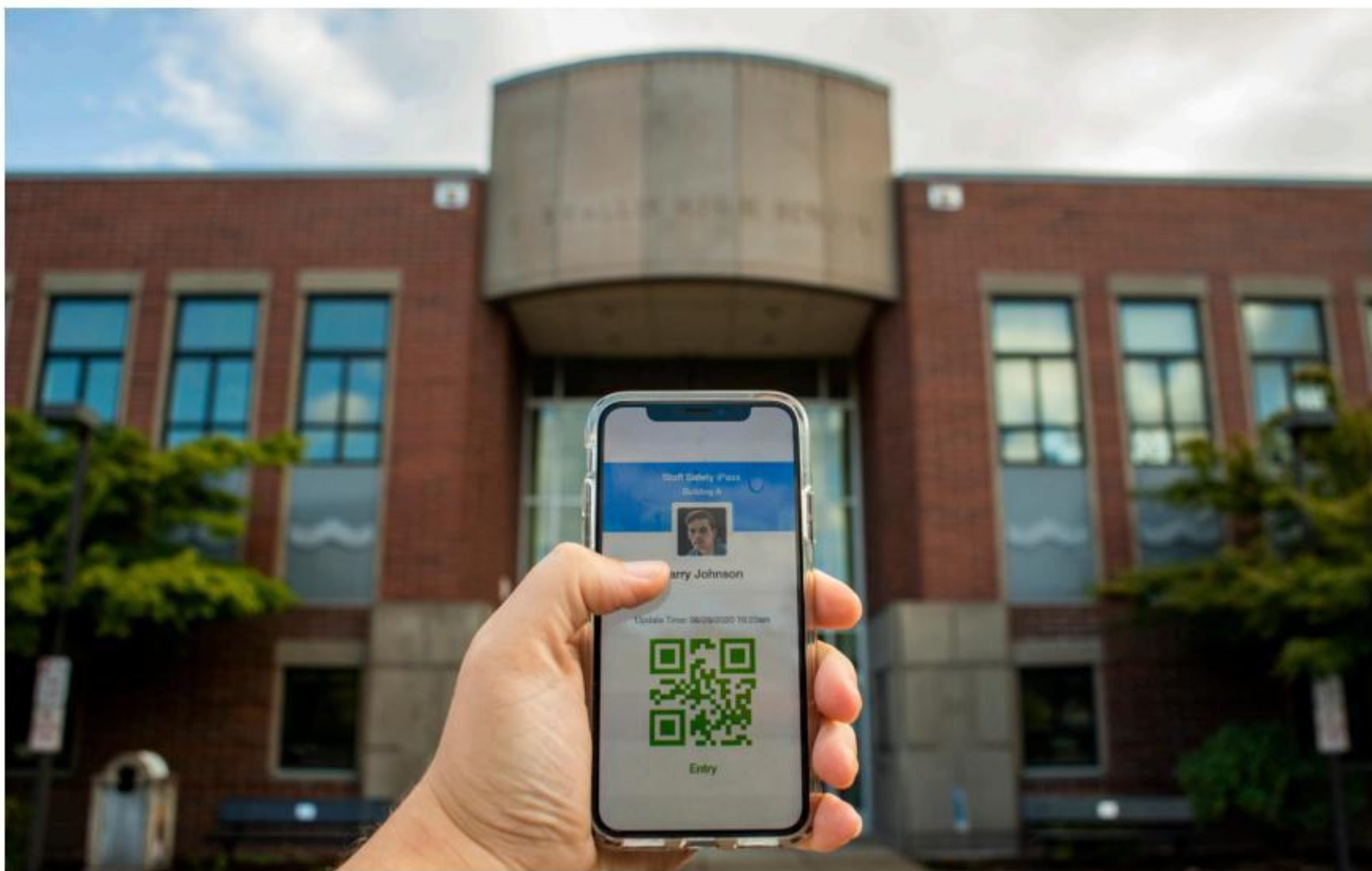
Rollens said the city, county and OSU are working together to protect the community. He asked students to “please bring a sense of grace and good manners” to campus and Corvallis.



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

With the recent influx of students in Corvallis, Ore., Benton County is focused on not overloading hospitals with COVID-19 cases. Local experts are recommending masking despite vaccination status.





JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Students attending school in the Corvallis School District return to in-person instruction this fall with new COVID-19 health screening protocols in place. CSD will utilize an app called Safety iPass to collect data regarding COVID-19 transmission among students and staff.

# CSD enforces new COVID-19 protocols for school year, parents adapt

By ELIJAH DODD  
News Contributor

Students in the Corvallis School District get to attend in-person instruction this year due to new COVID-19 protocols put in place by the school board.

As COVID-19 rates in Benton County begin to rise again, reaching 190 new cases the week of Sept. 13 according to the Benton County Health Department, CSD has continued old requirements and added new protocols to ensure the safety of students this school year.

Working together with the Benton County Health Department, the district's new in-person protocols for the 2021-22 school year include free COVID-19 testing and a daily mandatory health screening process. Melissa Harder, the assistant superintendent for CSD, clarified the details around this new health screening process.

The process is done through an app called Safety iPass, which asks parents questions surrounding symptoms and possible COVID-19 exposure. Students can only participate in

class after they have been cleared through this app.

"Safety iPass allows our nursing department to collect data on students and staff who need follow-up phone calls based on information entered," Harder said. "It also collects contact tracing data and our nurses can set quarantine periods for students and staff when there has been an exposure."

As far as changes in these COVID-19 protocols for this school year go, Harder said a flexible approach to the school year's guidelines will be important in keeping students as safe as possible while ensuring their school experience returns to normal.

The first day of school was Sept. 8, and parents used the new Safety iPass app for the first time. Katy Dormer, mother of a fifth and seventh grader in the CSD, found the app difficult to navigate but ultimately could see its benefit in preventing COVID-19 outbreaks at school.

"I know the app will get better and easier to use as I figure it out more," Dormer said. "And I can definitely see its use for cataloging data about COVID-19 exposure."

The CSD wants to ensure a full year of in-

person learning, but they're ready to change their guidelines and willing to remain flexible if COVID-19 rates increase or decrease significantly during the school year.

"I think if school leaders have learned anything in the last 18 months of COVID-19, it is not to predict what is next," Harder said. "The Oregon Department of Education will continue its work with the Oregon Health Authority to monitor COVID-19 trends and make decisions that help keep our students and staff safe while providing a full year of in-person school for Oregon students."

Rocío Muñoz, a health equity and communications representative from the Benton County Health Department, said Benton County will monitor infection rates and work with the school district in order to best benefit students through changing circumstances during the school year.

"As schools plan for the school year, it is important to remember that COVID-19 continues to change with new variants and our knowledge of mitigation efforts grows over time," Muñoz said. "Being prepared can make this difficult time easier, and will help children transition to and from the classroom."

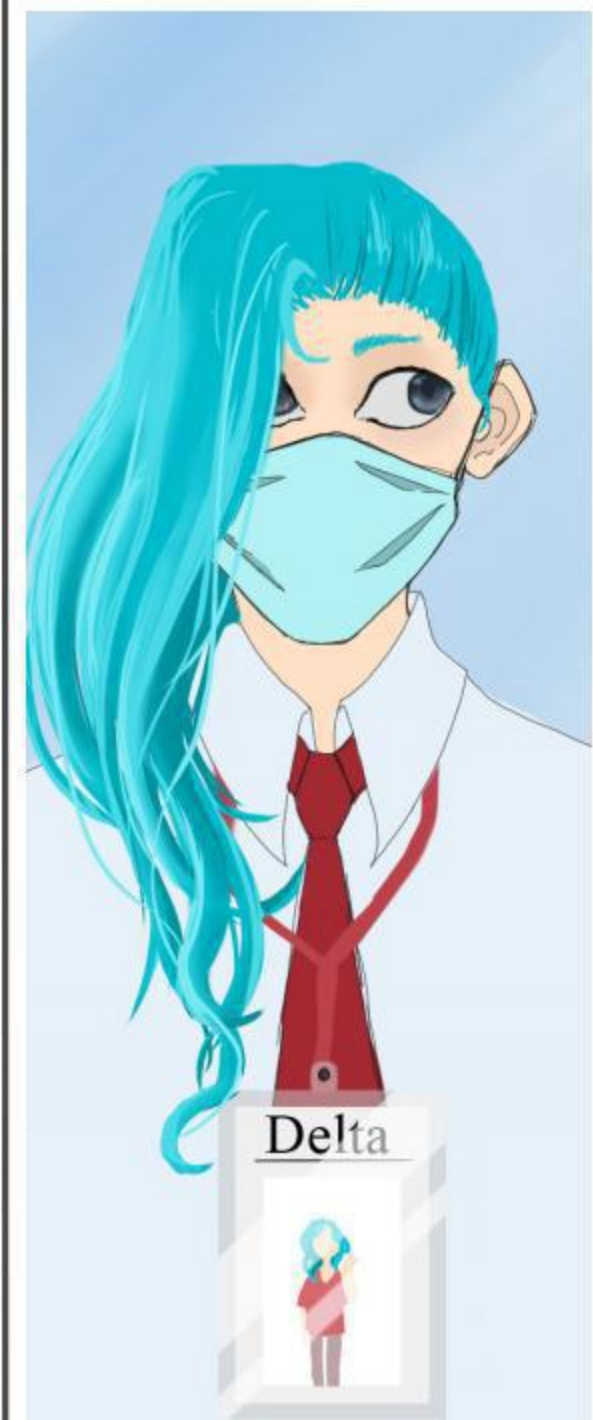
COVID-19 UPDATE  
Continued from page 1

doors by everyone over the age of five.

The levels of vaccinated people in Benton County have increased, too. As of Sept. 13, 70% of the population 12 and older are fully vaccinated. The Benton County Health Department considers vaccination an "important measure" for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

In order to further increase vaccination rates, the Benton County Health Department has organized several vaccination clinics from the end of September through the month of October. These events are scheduled in or near Corvallis, and offer a \$100 gift card for groceries and food boxes to people who get the vaccine while supplies last.

"Right now, the best tools to protect individuals are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, masks, ventilation and airflow, hand hygiene and staying home if ill or exposed to someone with COVID-19," Muñoz said.



BENNETT AMERMAN | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Benton County COVID-19 cases are on the rise largely due to unvaccinated populations and the Delta variant's increased transmissibility. Students are recommended to continue to wear masks as an effective preventative measure against COVID-19.



# 48th annual Corvallis Fall Festival returns, allows artists to 'reconnect'

By CARA NIXON  
News Reporter

Each year, the Corvallis Fall Festival paints a picturesque image of the local community, bringing together the colors, shapes and lines of artists, food, music and connection.

In 2020, the 48th annual installment of the event was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. This year, however, the festival returned Sept. 25 and 26 in Central Park, and Corvallis Fall Festival Executive Director Donele Pettit-Mieding was excited to reunite the local creative community.

"I am so happy and honored to facilitate the return of this opportunity for the artists who enrich our lives at home and in public spaces every single day," Pettit-Mieding said.

The Corvallis Fall Festival is considered a community staple and one of the premier art

festivals in the Willamette Valley. Known for its original, hand-made art and idyllic setting, the event attracts artists and patrons from within and outside of Corvallis, Ore.

Admission into the event was free, and for the last weekend in September, Central Park was buzzing with art booths, food vendors and musical guests. However, the festival looked different compared to years past.

According to Pettit-Mieding, the outdoor mask mandate was enforced, increased sanitation was prioritized and booths were spaced apart. Additionally, hands-on activities for young children did not occur this year, and only children of vaccine-eligible age were allowed to participate in the Young Artist Marketplace.

"In lieu of a large, crowd-gathering performing arts stage, we will have local musicians performing live music at a scale recommended by the [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] – the volume loud enough to be heard and enjoyed across a large

space, but not so loud that we feel the need to lean into each other and shout to be heard," Pettit-Mieding added.

Five food vendors were featured at the festival this year, with each fundraising for a

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*"I am so happy and honored to facilitate the return of this opportunity for the artists who enrich our lives at home and in public spaces every single day."*

*- Donele Pettit-Mieding,  
Corvallis Fall Festival  
Director*

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different local non-profit. Go Giddy Pops, a woman-owned Corvallis-based frozen treat business, for example, raised money for the Vina Moses Center.

The Vina Moses Center provides relief to underserved communities in the Benton County area by offering free clothes, household goods, food, emergency financial assistance, a student support program, a giving tree program and more.

Owner of Go Giddy Pops Eve Weiss said she chose Vina Moses because of the great work they do for the community.

"I am happy that the Fall Festival is returning this year and I look forward to being a part of it," Weiss said. "It's been a difficult year for all of us. I am thankful for our community and its support for local businesses."

The Corvallis Fall Festival's idyllic setting and inspiring artists are exemplified by this year's poster advertising the event. Originally meant for the 2020 festival, local silk painter Chinh Lê's work of art features bright colors, a Corvallis landmark and a feeling of family and peace.

Lê, who considers himself an informal artist, created the poster with locality, togetherness and tranquility in mind. He decided to make the Irish Bend Covered Bridge the focal point after noticing that past posters hadn't featured it.

"I thought that's a really nice symbol for the connection between OSU and the community, because we are so codependent and so close as a community that it will be nice to have it as a symbol for a link between the university and the town," Lê said.

Lê has been doing silk painting since the 1990s when a friend showed him the technique.

"Like bright kites flying across the foggy coastal sky, the gutta lines swirled and the colorful dyes flowed to my delight, bringing out joy to the fine but otherwise lifeless white silk," Lê said in his artist statement on his website.

Originally from Vietnam, Lê said in his artist statement that his native country provides him with the deepest inspiration for his creations, but he considers the Pacific Northwest a "paradise for artists."

Lê shared a booth with the Corvallis Art Guild at the Corvallis Fall Festival. Though he said he was a little anxious about holding a community event during the uncertainty of the pandemic, Lê was mostly excited to return to the festival.

"We all need some kind of a breakaway and [to get] back to some sense of community," Lê said. "...It will be really nice to reconnect."



HANNAH BECK | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

The Corvallis Fall Festival returned this year with COVID-19 protocol in place. The event still featured local food vendors, musical guests and artists displaying and selling their work.



# Clairmont: To rush or to not rush?

The importance of extracurriculars and exploring all your options

By **KIMBERLY CLAIRMONT**  
Columnist

Current Oregon State University fraternity and sorority pledges and others formerly involved with school-sponsored organizations urge incoming students themselves to apply on campus, even if they find Greek life to not be the best fit.

According to a study published by Ohio State University, highly-involved students are three times more likely to be considered for a job than those who were not involved, and those who participated in at least one co-curricular activity are 1.8 times more likely to have job offers at the time of graduation.

While these statistics may not be surprising to some, it is hard to deny the positive benefits of getting involved in extracurriculars even if at a first glance they can seem costly, stressful and time-consuming.

Many college students choose the Greek life path in hopes of finding social solace and a sense of belonging within the community, but others still voice concerns before rushing events even begin. What-if's and skepticism plague the minds of new students in their attempt to determine where their place is at OSU and whether they decide to get involved with a fraternity or sorority.

Sure, putting yourself out there can be tough, but is it worth the short-term stress many face in the presence of the unknown? Will you reap these so-called long-term benefits? Is it really worth your time, money and energy?

The short answer is yes! You may not immediately see the growth and progress you are making, but getting out of your comfort zone and building up your resume will ultimately boost your confidence level and sharpen those social skills.

Wrigley Campbell, a junior at OSU and one of Alpha Chi Omega's pledges, understands the pressure and anxiety many feel surrounding rush, and said "It was not an easy process to come to my decision just because I had good options, but I ultimately had to think about my personal values and how they matched with the house."

The stereotypical college-party scene, house drama and a general fear surrounding any pressure to conform are why some people may be quick to dismiss the idea of joining a soror-

ity or fraternity. For those with social anxiety or those who are naturally introverted, the thought of getting involved in Greek life may seem unthinkable.

Kelsey Bigelow, a recent graduate from OSU this year, stuck by her decision not to rush and said "I am very independent, so always having to be around a large group and not having the freedom to do what I wanted when I wanted would have been difficult for me."

Bigelow thought that "becoming friends with so many other women would be hard, [and] with that I think there may be a stigma that there is a lot of drama, but whether [if] it is true or not I wanted to avoid any social issues at all cost."

As a merchandising management major, Bigelow found DamChic, OSU's student-led fashion magazine, to be her home, saying, "I was able to express my love for fashion and join that creative community."

For those who may have a fear of missing out if they don't rush, Bigelow advises students to "at least rush and see if it is your thing. I never even gave it a shot, [so] therefore I can't make too many assumptions because I have met a lot of people who did enjoy it, [having] all different personalities and backgrounds. I think it is important to at least test the environment to see if it is a fit before making a decision."

Pressure from the house to be social and a lack of alone time are fears that students like Bigelow often voice when debating if they should go Greek, but Campbell said, "I've never personally felt any pressure to be outgoing or social around my sisters; I joined this chapter because I felt very comfortable around them, and we are all kind of naturally social anyways."

Campbell said Greek life is not all about the so-called "party scene," and sororities are very involved with philanthropic events.

"[During] my freshman year, there was a huge dodgeball tournament, a volleyball tournament [and] a talent show, and last year we were able to host our own, which was a softball tournament!" Campbell said. "It's so entertaining to see how competitive the guys get about winning, especially when it's for a good cause."

"I always think about how lucky I am to have found so many people with similar interests, goals and traits as me, but then I remember that's what the rush process is all about: You go through the process to find where you belong!" Campbell said.



HANNAH BECK | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

This illustration above is meant to mimic the OSU Interfraternity Council's "Jump Day." This is an event where new members of fraternities meet at the Memorial Union and are boosted into the air and caught by their new fraternity brothers.

Christian Horn, the president of Lambda Chi Alpha, opened up about his strong desire to create a supportive environment for his brothers and to encourage their desires, dreams and individual strengths.

"I wanted to stay in a role where I could be helpful to them and do everything in my power to keep morale up across campus and specifically to keep my brothers on track towards their own goals and their pursuit towards their degrees," Horn said.

"Without Greek life, I would have ended my college studies after the first term," Horn said. He urges students to join and said it's the best way to get the most out of college.

By joining in and becoming a moving part of a larger team, whether that team consists of

your fellow pledges or adjoining members of a school-sponsored organization, you'll ultimately feel empowered and proud of yourself for contributing to some kind of greater good. This is, of course, if you only build up the courage to face your fears and put yourself out there.

While there is truth in everyone's opinions about Greek life, only students can decide for themselves what is right for them. One thing remains clear: getting involved will only lead to meaningful, lifelong relationships and a sense of purpose on campus.

So rush and explore your options for involvement because there's a special place for every person at OSU if you're just willing to look for it. College is what you make of it.

## Malick: Expensive housing may restrict OSU accessibility

By **CASSIDY MALICK**  
Columnist

With the fall term beginning soon, many students returning to Corvallis, Ore. are looking for housing, a task easier said than done.

Corvallis has been hailed by Forbes and Livability as one of the top ten college towns in the United States. But housing here is expensive and difficult to find, and demand will keep growing as enrollment continues to rise.

Searching Zillow, an online real-estate marketplace, you can expect to see that prices

for two-bedroom apartments are fairly consistently over a thousand dollars a month. The average rent for an apartment in Corvallis is \$1,389 a month, which costs \$1.59 per square foot. Neighboring Eugene, which has a \$1.70 average, has more than twice the population and is only about 7% more expensive.

According to Paul Bilotta, the community development director for the City of Corvallis, the city is currently experiencing a jobs-

HOUSING  
Continued on page 21



**HOUSING**  
Continued from page 20

housing imbalance. This is a situation where there are more people working in an area than living in it.

"It took a few decades for Corvallis to get into its imbalance and it will take some time to correct that imbalance, although progress is being made when you look at increased building permit activity," Bilotta said.

The City of Corvallis website has a page where the Annual Housing Summary provides public information on housing data.

A zoning map of Corvallis is also available on this website. These tools allow us to understand the geography and potential options for the city.

"Although there isn't a magic ratio to declare when balance is achieved, there are qualitative and quantitative measures that are good indicators," Bilotta said.

He explained that major employers in Corvallis say they have employees who want to work in Corvallis, but cannot afford housing prices.

Thus, the quantitative measure shows that the number of people living and working in Corvallis has seen almost no increase, and the number of commuters from other places continues to rise.

"I do think it can be difficult for students to find housing in Corvallis," Michael Carris, an Oregon State University student, said.

"Many students are new to the process and it takes some trial to figure out red flags in bad places and what to look for in good ones, especially when it comes to landlords and such. It can also be a bit difficult because of the way a college town works, in that the rental scene is seasonal."

The relationship between the students of OSU and the housing market in Corvallis means that there is rising demand and slow-growth in supply.

As prices go up, it makes OSU inaccessible for low-income students. If our community is going to be one of true diversity and inclusivity, this problem must be solved.

The OSU website states that 23,266 students live in Corvallis. As this number continues to grow, Corvallis will need to grow, too. To help with this, Billota says the City Council

*"I do think it can be difficult for students to find housing in Corvallis. Many students are new to the process and it takes some trial to figure out red flags in bad places and what to look for in good ones, especially when it comes to landlords and such."*

- Michael Carris, OSU student

approved the Marys Annexation on Sept. 7, which is about 118 acres in size. This site is along West Hills and 53rd.

According to Bilotta, changes have also been made to the Corvallis Land Development Code to make it easier for housing projects to be approved. These changes are promising, though time will have to tell if they are enough.

"Through my own experience, I found it's super stressful to balance finals and have your lease run out," Carris said. "Taking time out of studying to search for places and compete with other students can be a lot to deal with."



HANNAH BECK | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

This illustration shows two students conversing about the availability of housing. For OSU students, finding affordable housing can be a struggle, with a rising demand and a slow growth in supply.

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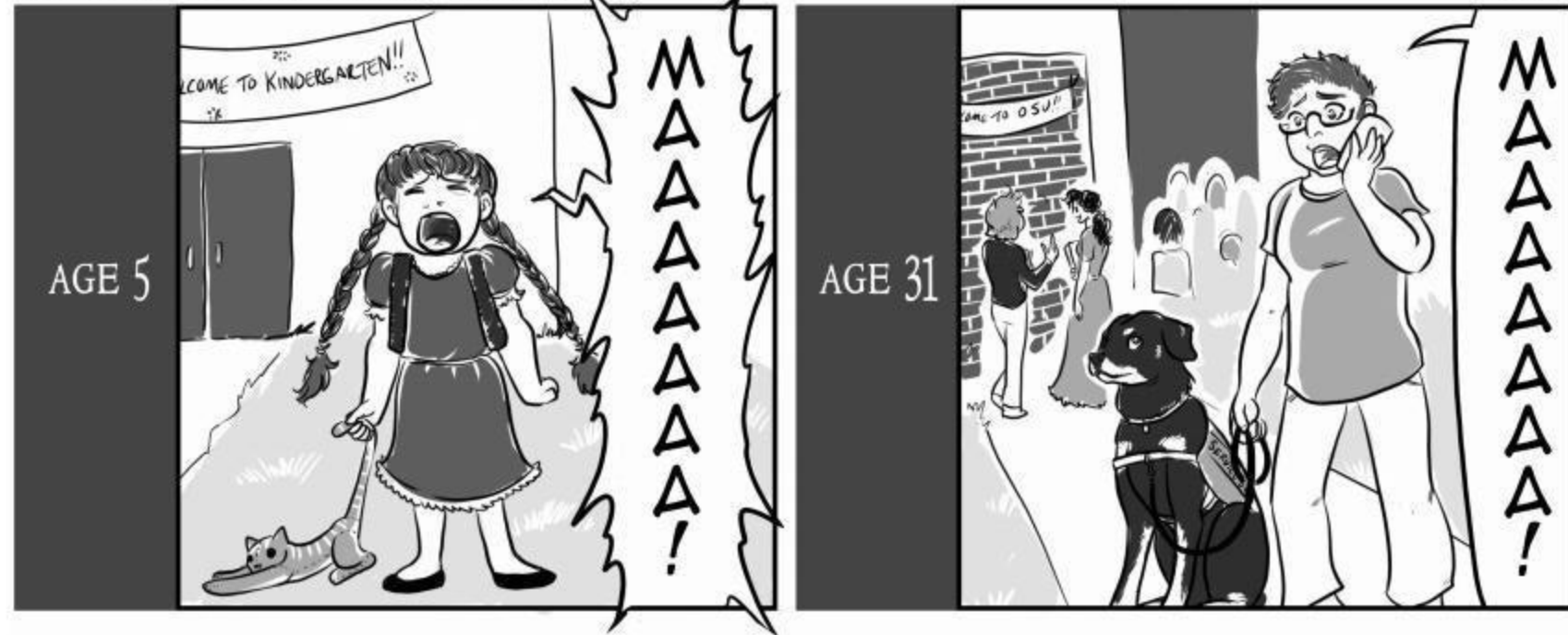
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**ICOSAHEDRON: PRINT-ERLUDE**



**Back To School**  
BY PORTIA WOODS



# THE Baro

## YAYS & NAYS



The Barometer lists OSU's favorite and least favorite things this month.

### YAYS

- Yay to being back on campus.
- Yay to watching sporting events in person.
- Yay to pumpkin spice everything.
- Yay to Halloween decorations.
- Yay to Love on Tour.
- Yay to Tomdaya.

### NAYS

- Nay to the Delta variant.
- Nay to homework.
- Nay to no energy.
- Nay to Mercury being in retrograde.
- Nay to having to climb the LInC stairs again.
- Nay to existential crises.
- Nay to long lines at JavaStop.



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STUDENT DJs CREATE  
PODCASTS AND  
SHARE THEIR  
FAVORITE  
MUSIC

HOROSCOPE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)**

Today is a 9 — Take care with communications, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Launch creative projects later. Clarify misunderstandings immediately. Edit and review carefully. Plan and prepare.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**

Today is an 8 — Monitor cash flow closely. Allow extra time for travel, transport, invoices and collections, with Libra Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Review financial records and budgets.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)**

Today is a 9 — Upgrade your brand and identity, with Mercury retrograde in your sign. Upgrade styles. Reaffirm commitments. Edit communications closely. Invent new possibilities.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)**

Today is a 7 — Avoid misunderstandings, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Revise and refine messages. Delays or breakdowns could disrupt. Keep mechanical equipment repaired. Reestablish old bonds.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)**

Today is a 9 — Practice makes perfect with team activities over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Nurture old friends and connections. Have patience and humor with communication snafus.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)**

Today is an 8 — Review professional data closely, with Mercury retrograde. Misunderstandings could cause delays. Guard against communication breakdowns for three weeks. Backup hard drives and archives.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)**

Today is a 9 — Make educational plans and itineraries over the next three weeks for later travels, with Mercury retrograde. Communicate carefully. Keep confidences and secrets. Make your deadlines.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)**

Today is an 8 — Double-check financial data over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Pay bills. Secure what you've gained. Review statements and account activity for errors.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)**

Today is an 8 — Develop shared goals with a partner. Resolve misunderstandings, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Support each other through breakdowns. Regroup and go again.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)**

Today is a 7 — Patiently persist. Delays, misunderstandings or mistakes could frustrate your work and health over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Slow down to get done faster.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)**

Today is an 8 — Romantic overtures could backfire over the next three weeks, with Libra Mercury retrograde. Clarify misunderstandings right away. Find your sense of humor, and reconnect.

**Pisces (Feb. 19– March. 20)**

Today is a 7 — Sort papers, photos and possessions. Review domestic plans, with Libra Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Repair appliances and backup files. Upgrade household infrastructure.

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CROSSWORD

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**Across**

- 1 "Like that's gonna happen!"
- 5 Sleeps under the stars
- 10 Kid-lit author Silverstein
- 14 Cliff Bar brand marketed to women
- 15 Catherine of "Best in Show"
- 16 Maitre d's question
- 17 Hard-to-please dinner guest
- 19 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 20 Take, as advice
- 21 "Time for us to leave?"
- 23 Unadorned
- 25 Did some storytelling
- 27 Poet
- 28 Honk
- 29 Handy bag
- 30 Moderate running pace
- 31 Bit of eye lubricant
- 32 Prattle
- 33 With 35-Across, anonymous voting method, and a hint to each set of circled letters
- 35 See 33-across
- 38 "Listen up, Luis!"
- 39 Google Maps alternative

- 40 Colorful carp
- 42 Study, with "over"
- 44 Name on an iconic New York deli
- 45 Zeus' jealous wife
- 46 Photobomb of a sort involving a V sign
- 48 Entrance
- 49 Periodic table item
- 50 Noble title
- 51 Land in an lagoon
- 52 Early "SNL" star who was one of the Blues Brothers
- 57 "Oh, brother!"
- 58 Skating, often
- 59 Swedish furniture chain
- 60 Advantage
- 61 Polishes, as a floor
- 62 Stitches

**Down**

- 1 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 2 Fashion designer Anna
- 3 Calling the shots
- 4 Spy's passport, say
- 5 Like Columbia University, since 1983
- 6 Cry of realization
- 7 Yoga studio item
- 8 Like jigsaw puzzles
- 9 Cling wrap brand
- 10 Flying polar predator
- 11 Attack
- 12 Political fugitive
- 13 Strung along
- 18 Hanking
- 22 Venetian Christmas
- 23 Classic sandwich initials
- 24 Vietnam neighbor
- 25 Chimney coating
- 26 Pal of Snap and Crackle
- 28 Forest grower
- 31 Visine target
- 32 Ella Fitzgerald's genre
- 34 Ears you can get lost in
- 35 Baseball clubs
- 36 "All righty then"
- 37 Singer \_\_\_ Amos
- 39 Card-vs.-card game
- 41 Actor McKellen
- 42 Throbbled
- 43 What a flamingo often stands on
- 44 Single-edged samurai sword
- 45 Biden's VP Kamala
- 46 Light brown
- 47 Subsidize
- 48 Stir-fry pan
- 50 Caustic cleaners
- 53 Veto
- 54 Versatile blackjack card
- 55 Archery wood
- 56 County prosecutors, briefly

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