

The Daily Barometer

CAMPUS

ASOSU presidential campaigning has begun
ASOSU presidential candidates Alexander Kerner and Matteo Paola share campaign initiatives. pg. 7

CITY

Oregon Diversity Exhibit
A new exhibit at the LaSells Stewart Center celebrates Oregon's diversity with 63 local artists, ongoing until March 18. pg. 16

BROWSER'S BOOKSTORE TO END CHAPTER IN CORVALLIS COMMUNITY AFTER 21 YEARS

By LARA RIVERA
News Contributor



Local bookworms will have to say farewell to Browser's Bookstore—the only bookstore in downtown Corvallis, Ore. to mainly offer used books—this February. However, they can find solace in the fact that the Albany, Ore. location is staying open under new ownership.

Scott Givens, Browser's Bookstore owner and founder, became a bookseller 21 years ago because he always enjoyed visiting bookstores and hunting for books.

Givens expects Browser's in Corvallis to close toward the end of February.

About three months ago, Givens announced the closure to employees before telling the public. At that time, Givens was planning on closing both the Albany and Corvallis locations. When Abe Richmond, an employee at the Albany location, heard the news, he began



searching for a new job in preparation for the closure.

According to Richmond, Givens hesitated over shutting both Browser's locations down, and one morning, Givens said to him, "Well, you could take it over."

"Sure," Richmond jokingly answered.

This interaction launched a serious discussion on how this transfer could feasibly work. About four months from now, "Volume 3" of Browser's Bookstore in Albany will open, under Richmond—the Corvallis and Albany locations under Givens' ownership are Volume 1 and Volume 2, respectfully.

Richmond graduated from Oregon State University in March 2021 with a degree in psychology as a first-generation college student. His working career started at Browser's Bookstore in Albany six years ago, when he worked as a part-time employee at the store while in high school.

Richmond's grandfather was an entrepreneur and Richmond remembers him saying that owning

a business is "The greatest 14-hour day you could have."

Givens said Browser's is not actively purchasing books from the community for at least a few months while the Corvallis branch closes and the Albany branch transitions to Richmond's ownership.

Richmond is waiting to hire employees and will start buying books for the Albany location in April.

"Hopefully, some people will continue to support Browser's by showing up at the Albany store once in a while," Givens said. "[It's the] same vibe, different books."



BROWSER'S BOOKSTORE
Continued on page 2

ASOSU Elections Committee changes election process, extends voting time for students

By STELLA HARKNESS
News Contributor

The Associated Students of Oregon State University's Elections Committee have changed the elections process to include components such as longer registration and voting periods.

Like in previous years, the ASOSU elections have competitive races for president and vice president—on one ticket collectively—speaker of the house, senators, representatives and student fee committee members. Unlike last year, the 2022 EC has made many changes to how students can run for the positions.

According to the ASOSU elections packet, some of these changes include how election materials are approved as well as the time period available to appeal for a campaign violation.

"[These changes are] partly in response to past years' elections and trying to look at certain opportunities to improve the process, and partly just on other determinations that the elections committee makes from year to year," said Dylan Perfect, the ASOSU vice president and ex officio chief elections officer.

Other changes, according to the elections packet, include having a campaign season that is twice as long, having the voter ballot available for almost three weeks and candidate registration open after the election season starts.

"Interestingly, right now, the EC has a lot of leeway in how it establishes the elections packet and the election rules for each cycle," Perfect said. "So that's something I might actually like to see reigned in a little bit."

Perfect said he wants the EC to have less power to change the elections packet because candidates often have to wait for the packets to be released in order to



ASOSU ELECTIONS
Continued on page 6



JESS HUME-PANTUSO | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Browser's Bookstore's art section within their Corvallis, Ore. store. The Corvallis Browser's is set to close in February.

BROWSER'S BOOKSTORE,
Continued from page 1

Although Givens said Corvallis has been great for Browser's in both buying and selling books, he said he is shutting down the Corvallis Browser's location due to personal reasons.

In the future, Givens said Browser's might return to Corvallis with a new owner, but for now, Browser's will remain in Albany for financial reasons. Givens himself is staying in the area, and will continue selling rare books and big collections.

Kailey Legier, Browser Bookstore's patron and student at OSU and Linn-Benton Community College, started going to the Browser's Albany location in 2018, but had already been going to the Corvallis branch before then.

Legier said Browser's customer service distinguishes them from other bookstores and helps particularly with the quantity of books available, which can be overwhelming.

"At Browser's, you feel like the staff is going out of their way to help you parse through everything in there and find something," Legier said.

One of Legier's favorite things about Browser's is there is always something new that she did not know she needed or wanted.

Executive Director of the Downtown Corvallis Association Jennifer Moreland said Browser's Bookstore is

not a member of the DCA. However, the DCA is a member of the organization Oregon Main Street. Moreland said Oregon Main Street teaches that in order to have a healthy downtown, a city needs at least one bookstore.

"[Browser's Bookstore] is a really good location to go sit and hang out, and you can listen as they are interacting with different customers searching for different things, and as people bring books to buy and sell," Moreland said. "The Downtown Corvallis Association is incredibly sad to see any business in downtown close."

With 200,000 books currently on shelves between the two stores, Givens is hoping to sell all of the Corvallis location's books before closing.

"If every person in Corvallis just bought one book here, the store would be almost empty," Givens said. "Every OSU student needs to come and buy three books, and then we'll be empty."

As Browser's Bookstore enters a new era, Givens hopes Corvallis residents remember the enjoyment of actual browsing.

"There is an enjoyment in spending half an hour in the bookstore and finding even just one book," Givens said.

Richmond plans to maintain Browser's niche with a little more variety regarding newer books, and welcome a wider audience as well as the current regulars that come to Browser's. One of Richmond's main goals with Browser's is to "make [literature] lit."

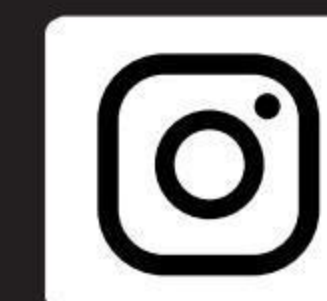
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Baro

CREATIVE TEAM:
omn.creative@oregonstate.edu

MARKETING TEAM:
omn.marketing.lead@oregonstate.edu

SALES TEAM:
omn.ads1@oregonstate.edu

NEWS TIPS:
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ON CAMPUS:
SEC Fourth Floor
Oregon State University



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Adriana Gutierrez
baro.editor@oregonstate.edu
541-737-3191



SPORTS CHIEF
Andres De Los Santos
omn.sports@oregonstate.edu



PHOTO CHIEF
Jacob Le
omn.photo@oregonstate.edu



ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
Ben Rabbino
baro.sports.asst@oregonstate.edu



CITY EDITOR
Cara Nixon
baro.city@oregonstate.edu



CAMPUS EDITOR
Kelsy Valentine
baro.news@oregonstate.edu



ASSISTANT EDITOR
Patience Womack
baro.ed.asst@oregonstate.edu



COPY EDITOR
Sukhjot Sal
copy.news@oregonstate.edu

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COVER: Browser's Bookstore in downtown Corvallis, Ore., located on Northwest Fourth Street. Browser's is closing its Corvallis location in February. Circles, from left to right: woman browsing bookshelves; stack of books in the aisle of the store; man browsing bookshelves. *By Jess Hume-Pantuso, OMN Photographer.*

OSU Black history is '365 days a year'

By RILEY LECOCQ
News Reporter

For decades, Black Oregon State University community members have fought the university's racist roots by challenging norms and demanding institutional aid, but this continued effort also requires outside support.

While the state of Oregon does not have an inclusive history—with three Black Exclusionary Laws written into the state's constitution to discourage Black people from settling in Oregon—Oregon State University, known as Oregon Agricultural College until 1937, also has a racist history.

In the early 1920s and 30s, a small number of Black, multiracial or biracial students in Oregon could avoid getting assaulted or experiencing prejudice more successfully when they were seen as white-passing. Palmer Patton, who in 2020 was recognized as the earliest identified Black OSU graduate, graduated from OAC in 1918 and identified as white at times, though Patton was most likely biracial.

However, there were other Black students who attended the university around the same time and did not pass as white, such as Carrie Halsell, the earliest identified Black female OSU graduate in 1926, and William Tebeau, the former-earliest identified Black male graduate in 1948. Today, two residence halls on campus honor their achievements by bearing the same name.

Terrance Harris, director of the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center, said about 50 years later, in the 1960s and 70s, about 50 more Black students came to OSU, which Harris said is a sign of how welcoming the university was at the time.

As representation grew on campus throughout the 1960s and 70s, more change on campus began. New institutional offices were formed, such as the Equal Opportunities Program, which was designed to retain and recruit underrepresented students in higher education, as well as the Ujima Education Records Office, which was designed specifically to support Black students, and operated from 1995 to 2013.

In 1969, OSU's Black Student Union held a historic walkout, one of a few in the campus's history, in response to rules that forced Fred Milton, a Black football player, to remove his natural hair or else be kicked off the team and lose his scholarship.

The walkout gave rise to racist threats across campus but also inspired positive changes. Students began a limited-run newspaper named *The Scab Sheet*, to address the concerns of Black students and other students of color. Though Milton and many other Black students eventually transferred to other universities, the walkout led to proposals for more



MATTHEW MCKENNA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Second-year public health major Sydney Griswold basks in the history of Black excellence icons in the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center on Jan. 10. According to Griswold, Black history shouldn't be limited only to the month of February.

supportive programming and, in 1975, a Black cultural center.

Today, a mural in the BCC depicts this walkout, which Black Student Union President Inez Mbousya describes as one of the most impactful historical events on campus.

"Oregon is known to be a predominantly white state; seeing that, in that walkout, there was more than just other Black students supporting that student definitely made an impact on why that event stood out to me," Mbousya said.

The BCC was named after the first director of the Equal Opportunities Program—Lonnie B. Harris—who worked to increase the retention and recruitment of Black students at the university.

While the center began as a house on the north end of campus, students and organizations worked to develop programming to build community in the face of discriminatory actions in the area.

"Before the house, there was nothing, and when there was nothing, there was no program," Harris said. "They were really just trying to get a space at that point."

In 2015, the current BCC replaced the house to become a cultural center where programming and community have a designated space to grow on campus.

OSU community organizations like the BCC and BSU have created signature programs, such as the fall Black Connect event, pre-

Kwanzaa celebration, Soul Food Days, Black Excellence celebration, Black History Month events and a Juneteenth block party to close off the academic year.

"[There] haven't ever been this many [programs] before, each group has done something different," Harris said.

According to Harris, it is important to look at OSU history and see what the institution is doing to create a more positive outlook for everyone who is part of the African diaspora that attends the university.

After all, without people to support it, a space is just a space, Harris said.

"We've had crosses burned in the yard of the BCC... Black folks getting peed on, somebody having a Confederate flag across the street," Harris said. "You still have these things that affect a person's history, affect a person's ability to proceed at this institution, beyond just events. The purpose of the events is to educate and enlighten and not think of something negative but to honor that."

According to Regan Le, the acting director of Diversity & Cultural Engagement and acting center director for the Centro Cultural César Chávez, in the past year, new institutions have been established to support and uplift students of color on campus.

These include the Dr. Lawrence Griggs Office of Black and Indigenous Student Success, President's Commission on the Status of Black Faculty and Staff Affairs, as well as the hiring of Chanale Propst and Ireti (Pamela) DeBato-Cancel, coordinators for Black and African-American Student Mental Health and Wellness through Counseling and Psychological Services.

"Being that the work around diversity, equity and inclusion is dynamic as needs constantly change, it can be a challenge to always meet the ever changing needs," Le said. "It's important that everyone does their part and to do the work in sustainable ways where the burden doesn't always fall on [Black, Indigenous and people of color] and other historically marginalized folks."

Though there is greater representation of Black students on campus, Harris and Mbousya said there is always more the university community can do to continue making OSU a more welcoming place.

"It's something new every year, and we shouldn't have to wait until February to do it," Harris said. "Black history is 365 days a year—it's American history. We are writing history as we are here, every day at this institution doing stuff... It's about leaving a legacy and leaving your mark."

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FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1	2
6	7	<p>8 College of Business Winter Career Fair ■ Austin Hall noon - 4 p.m.</p> <p>2022 Susan J. McGregor Memorial Lecture on Women's Leadership ■ Virtual Event 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Men's Basketball vs. California ● Gill Coliseum 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>13 Gymnastics vs. Washington ● Gill Coliseum 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>University Theatre: Ellis Island by Leah Kahn ■ Withycombe Hall Lab 2:00 p.m.</p>	14	<p>15 Men's Basketball vs. Colorado ● Gill Coliseum 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Winter Career and Internship Fair ■ Memorial Union Ballroom 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>	16
<p>20 Women's Basketball vs. California ● Gill Coliseum noon</p>	21	<p>22 DamChic Winter Launch Party ▲ Virtual Event</p>	<p>23 Oregon State Wind Symphony Winter Concert ■ LaSells Stewart Center, Austin Auditorium; 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p>
27	28		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	EVENTS INFORMATION
3	4	5	<p>Most Oregon State University virtual and in-person events require registration in order to attend or participate. All January 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> <hr/> <h2>LEGEND</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OSU EVENTS ▲ OMN EVENTS ● SPORTING EVENTS ◆ CORVALLIS EVENTS <hr/> <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>10 Beaver's Digest Best Of Beaver Nation Launch Party ▲ Student Experience Center Plaza 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. University Theatre: Ellis Island by Leah Kahn ■ Withycombe Hall Lab 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Women's Basketball vs. Oregon ● Gill Coliseum 8:00 p.m. University Theatre: Ellis Island by Leah Kahn ■ Withycombe Hall Lab 7:30 p.m. Winter Formal ■ Memorial Union Ballroom 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Men's Basketball vs. Stanford ● Gill Coliseum 7:30 p.m. Covallis Indoor Winter Market ◆ Benton County Fairgrounds 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. University Theatre: Ellis Island by Leah Kahn ■ Withycombe Hall Lab 7:30 p.m.</p>	
<p>17 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Address ■ LaSells Stewart Center 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Women's Basketball vs. Stanford ● Gill Coliseum 7:00 p.m. Indo Night 2022: The Origins ■ Memorial Union Ballroom 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Covallis Indoor Winter Market ◆ Benton County Fairgrounds 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Corvallis Swing Dance ◆ Corvallis Oddfellows Hall 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Polar Plunge Corvallis ◆ Crystal Lake Sports Park & Boat Ramp 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p>	
<p>24 Men's Basketball vs. University of Southern California ● Gill Coliseum 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Gymnastics vs. Stanford ● Gill Coliseum 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Covallis Indoor Winter Market ◆ Benton County Fairgrounds 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. UCLA ● Gill Coliseum 1:00 p.m.</p>	

ASOSU ELECTIONS
Continued from page 1

read through the official rules for candidates, but according to Perfect, it is ultimately up to the ASOSU Congress to change this aspect of elections.

For the past two years, some student elections have also been uncontested, such as the speaker of the house. In an attempt to prevent this from happening again, the EC is allowing people to apply to run after the campaign season has started, so people who are interested in running but not entirely sure can see how many others are competing for the same position.

“Any student who is eligible to run, and believes that they would be a good fit for the position, we encourage [them] to run,” Perfect said.

The ASOSU campaign season began on Jan. 12 but the candidate applications do not close until Feb. 8.

According to Angie Geno, the ASOSU senator and ethics committee vice chair, the EC and ethics committee work together to prioritize transparency between candidates and other individuals involved.

“We really make sure every student has an equal opportunity to succeed in whatever positions they run for,” Geno said.

Geno said she thinks students should use the ASOSU elections as an opportunity to engage with their campus and be a part of the voice for other students.

The changes, according to Uwe Keist, the ASOSU public relations coordinator, are also

an attempt to increase the amount of voters who participate in the elections.

“When students have a greater opportunity to campaign, we’re more likely to see more student votes,” Geno said.

Last year, when the campaign season was less than a month long, there was a 7.13% voter turnout. In 2017, the voter turnout was 12.7% after an increase in the time of the election process.

Despite increasing national election distrust, Geno said she does not think this dis-

“We really make sure every student has an equal opportunity to succeed in whatever position they run for.”

- Angie Geno, ASOSU senator and ethics committee vice chair

trust is affecting participation in ASOSU elections due to it being low impact compared to national politics.

“[The distrust] might be a reason why students are participating more; it’s a ‘Oh, this is something I can control, this is something that my direct voice will play a role into,’” Geno said.

“That might even be more encouraging for students to participate in than maybe just think-



KATE ZINKE | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Dylan Perfect, the vice president for the Associated Students of Oregon State University and ex officio chief elections officer holds a voter’s guide in the ASOSU office located in the Student Experience Center. The voting for candidates of any position will be open to students on Feb. 14.

ing, ‘Oh, they’re just like our government.’”

Keist also said he does not think the distrust around national voting has affected the ASOSU elections.

“I believe that the trust in the system in the ASOSU elections is higher than the U.S. system, though I cannot say that that is a concrete fact,” Keist said.

Perfect said there are no current plans in place to change the voting process if COVID-19 cases continued to rise in the coming months.

“If OSU does find itself implementing policies where everything is online and there are

strict COVID-19 precautions, it is expected that candidates comply with all university policies and procedures, that is a part of the election guidelines,” Perfect said.

Last year’s elections, however, did take place almost entirely online, and can transition back online if needed.

“All of our voting is done online anyway, so its equal accessibility at all times for students and campaigning can also still be done through social media,” Geno said.

Voting ballots for the elections open on Feb. 14 and close on March 4 at 5 p.m.

COVID-19 cases on rise at OSU, up 8% from beginning of January

By KIRSTEN STEINKE
Science Beat Reporter

About 11% of COVID-19 tests administered at Oregon State University came back positive between Jan. 24 to 30, climbing from a positive testing rate of 3% from Dec. 27 to Jan. 2.

This reflects a trend throughout Oregon as 13,443 new cases of COVID-19 emerged statewide over the weekend of Jan. 28 to 30—almost eight times that of the 1,761 positive cases recorded on Jan. 1, according to Oregon Health Authority’s Oregon COVID-19 Update on Feb. 1.

The record increase in case numbers can be attributed to the surge of omicron, a COVID-19 variant 70 times more contagious than the previously dominant delta variant, said Dr. Chunhui Chi, director of the Center for

Global Health at OSU.

“Quite a few counties, if not the majority of the counties, [throughout Oregon] have simply given up contact tracing,” Chi said. “The reason is the nature of omicron. It spread so fast and started to be contagious before any symptoms... That’s making it even harder to do contact tracing.”

According to Chi, 40% of people infected with omicron are asymptomatic, but are still able to spread the virus. These stealth infections can be missed if people don’t get tested when they’ve been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

On-campus testing centers for COVID-19 have been instrumental in informing OSU community members about whether or not they have contracted the virus. It’s important to note that these testing centers are only meant for people who are asymptomatic.

“The purpose [of asymptomatic-only testing centers] is to limit those that are symptomatic from being in contact with others within the campus environment or within the community,” said Steve Clark, vice president of University Relations and Marketing at OSU.

According to Clark, if a student is symptomatic, they should get tested at the Student Health Services, and if a staff or faculty member is symptomatic, they should make an appointment with their primary care physician to get tested.

Community members can also make an appointment at one of the Willamette Valley Toxicology testing centers in downtown Corvallis, Ore. or Albany, Ore.

During the first week of winter break, from Dec. 13 to 19, there were 305 COVID-19 tests administered at OSU’s on-campus testing sites, according to the OSU COVID-19 dashboard.

From Jan. 24 to 30, there were 1,632 tests administered at the same locations.

Although there are still record COVID-19 case numbers at OSU, on average, the number of positive cases has decreased from 785 positive cases during the week of Jan. 3 to 9 to 191 positive cases during the week of Jan. 24 to 30. Clark believes this is primarily a result of the quarantine and isolation measures that OSU is enforcing.

“If someone has tested positive, they are required to go into isolation... that minimizes the risk and spread of that individual sharing the virus with someone else,” Clark said.

Based on trends in other regions of the

COVID-19 UPDATES
Continued on page 11

Presidential candidates Kerner, Paola lead ASOSU elections for 2022-23 academic year

By SAM MISA
News Contributor

The Associated Students of Oregon State University elections for the 2022-23 academic year include 39 open positions in the House of Representatives, Student Fee Committee, Senate and open President and Vice President positions.

The campaign registration period for ASOSU elections began on Jan. 12 and the deadline is Feb. 8.

As of Feb. 4, only two people are running for ASOSU president, Matteo Paola and Alexander Kerner, though more candidates may join the race before registration closes.

Paola and his running partner Sierra Young, who is campaigning for vice president, are both ASOSU veterans. Currently, Paola is a representative in the House and Young is in her second year as senator.

"I believe that my two years experience as a Senator, my year of chairing the student government committee, as well as my leadership experience in other groups since my time in high school student government qualify me for the vice president position at ASOSU," Young said.

Paola said he decided to run for ASOSU

president because he noticed a disconnect between the ASOSU student government and the OSU student body.

"Most people I ask, when I ask them about ASOSU-related things, they either don't know what it is, or they think that it doesn't do anything," Paola said.

However, according to Paola, the student government controls over \$26 million in student fees which is distributed to many student services across campus.

"That money can be used for a lot of good," Paola said. "Like this year, it was used to [propose] a \$15 minimum wage for student-funded employees, which is about one-fourth of student workers at OSU."

Besides wanting to see OSU students more involved in student government, Paola said one of the issues he wants to focus on is changing the ASOSU constitution.

"With less student representatives, elections will become more competitive," Paola said. "So representatives will have to actually appeal to the student body and have to represent their interests, as opposed to our current system where no matter what your thoughts are, you can usually just run even if the student body doesn't like you, you'll probably still be elected because you're usually on a post."

If elected ASOSU president, Paola said his other priorities include crafting more specific and attainable carbon emission goals and extending the current administration's work on guaranteeing a living wage for all student employees by expanding which OSU jobs are paid a \$15 minimum wage.

Kerner, who has been in the House of Representatives for two years, said he believes changes need to be made to the constitution to simplify the legislative branch, although he and his running mate, Isabella Griffiths, want to see other changes as well.

"I'd like to go for a unicameral system," Kerner said. "So basically there's only one House of Congress. That would really increase ASOSU's efficiency and also lower student fees just a little bit because you admittedly just take the Senate and the House and put them together, and then you cut out some jobs."

Additionally, Kerner said he wants to make the constitution easier to amend by changing the number of student votes that are required to amend it.

"As it stands, ASOSU needs 15% of students to change [the constitution]," Kerner said. "The thing is, only like 12% of students come out to vote. So we're stuck in this gridlock where we can't do anything."

Kerner said he wants to prioritize unemployment issues on the OSU campus.

"There is massive unemployment here," Kerner said. "It's more willing than unwilling, but a lot of the services here are cut short because of low employee numbers. Right now, we have our Survivor Advocacy and Resource Center. They only have two employees right now."

According to Kerner, Counseling and Psychological Services also suffers from unemployment, and wait times for appointments are two to four months long.

Griffiths said she and Kerner also want to reopen the OSU Pharmacy, which has been closed since June of 2020, so students don't have to visit less-accessible places to get their prescriptions.

Dylan Perfect, the current ASOSU vice president, said he also believes the OSU student body and ASOSU should be more connected.

Students can vote for ASOSU candidates between Feb. 14 at 9 a.m. and March 4 at 5 p.m.

"There are some significant opportunities to make student governance more integrated with the university experience," Perfect said. "The more students we have engaging in these processes, the more representative our model of shared governance becomes."



WANYU ZHU | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

ASOSU Presidential candidate Alexander Kerner stands in front of Weatherford Hall on Jan. 24. Kerner is running with Isabella Griffiths, and the team hopes to focus on simplifying the legislative branch of ASOSU and dealing with unemployment if they are elected into office.



WANYU ZHU | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

ASOSU Presidential candidate Matteo Paola stands in front of Weatherford Hall on Jan. 21. Paola and his running mate, Sierra Young, want to change the ASOSU constitution and ensure that student fees are distributed to student services.

Student on the Street: Sophomores, do you feel like you're getting the full college experience?

By KATTERLEA MACGREGOR
News Contributor

By MATTHEW MCKENNA
Photographer



KIERAN MANNING

SOPHOMORE GEOLOGY AND OCEAN SCIENCE DOUBLE MAJOR

"No, [because] our first year was entirely online and the dorms were super quiet and empty. And now even being back in person, classes are kind of empty this year and the events aren't happening the same way they used to and, with masks, everything is just different."

"[I'm] optimistic because I'm hoping it'll only get better from here. It seems like hopefully we won't be going back online again. And as people get boosted and tested, hopefully we can keep working to move past this and get back more to normal and I'm hoping it gets better, because if it gets worse that's not going to be very much fun."



MAE TRICE

SOPHOMORE BIOLOGY WITH PRE-MED OPTION MAJOR

"I feel like I'm getting about 80% of [the college experience]. I'm really happy with most of the organizations I've joined and I've met a lot of new people. It's just hard with that tiny bit of extra restriction where we still do have to be conscious. And even though obviously I'd rather wear a mask than end up in the hospital, you know, there still are times where it's definitely harder."

"[My outlook is] promising. I feel that I've done everything I can in the current to set myself up for success and all that's left now is to make the most of any opportunity that comes along."



MAGGIE MCNEALE

SOPHOMORE SPANISH AND BIO-HEALTH SCIENCE DOUBLE MAJOR

"Sort of, but the one thing I miss is getting to stay in the dorms. Just because it's not feasible financially makes sense for me to do it because I have other options, but I think that's the one thing I don't get, but other than that, I think I'm getting pretty much the gist of the college experience. At least to the extent that most people probably would."

"I quite enjoy having this independence that I didn't have before. Having to have waited so long for it and having missed so much of the first year of it, it was something that I was really just trying to stay positive about. [It] got really hard at times, but I think it's just important to keep a good outlook on what might come because if you stay negative about it it's not really gonna happen."



PEYTON KOWALSKI

SOPHOMORE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR

"I think I am getting the whole college experience just because we are able to attend sporting events, attend club meetings and have class in person. You're able to have jobs, there's obviously Greek life going on. The only things that's hindering the college experience as of right now are masks just because you aren't able to see people's features and facial expressions, the things that make them recognizable. It's small in comparison to the things that got in the way last year."

"[My outlook is of] optimism, because we've had so many curve balls thrown at us already and we've overcome them. I hope that the rest of my time and the rest of the class of 2020's time should be a breeze."

Photo Contributed by Peyton Kowalski



ALEXANDRA SWISHER

SOPHOMORE BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAJOR

“With COVID-19, I don’t really feel super comfy doing all the things that you normally do. Going out with people, you know. Going to even like a movie with people now-a-days is too complicated because of COVID-19. I essentially missed out on a full year of college. I kind of feel like a freshman, but I lost a year, but I’m a sophomore.”

“I feel like, until senior year, I’m going to be playing catch up to get to the end. I feel like I didn’t get a great footing. It’ll be what it’s going to be at this point.”



JAY SHAH

SOPHOMORE COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

“Yes, I feel like I’m getting the full college experience. Probably because I have been going to in-person classes and getting involved in activities and things like that. I’m getting into campus.”

“I want to explore new things and learn new things and try to get into new activities.”



NEBIY TEMESGEN

SOPHOMORE BIO-HEALTH SCIENCES MAJOR

“No, [I don’t think I am], mainly because a lot of the events I want to go to are being cancelled.”

“[My outlook is] bleak because I don’t think the situation is being handled correctly and it doesn’t look like it’s changing anytime soon.”



NHU NGUYEN

SOPHOMORE PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR WITH PREREQ FOR NURSING

“I am now. Sort of. Because I get to meet people that are in my classes and meet them face to face, interact with professors and have a hands-on experience.”

“[My outlook is] bright, because Oregon State is really pretty in the spring and there’s a lot of opportunities... for growth here.”



ROHAN BUKKA

SOPHOMORE COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

“So far, yeah. [Oregon State University] offers all the classes and then I get college life experience in my classes and stuff. Going to in-person classes and then all the lectures and all the bacc[alaureate] core classes.”

“[My outlook is] adventurous. There’s just so many things from classes to living on your own, you have so many different challenges to overcome.”



BLAKE LEE

SOPHOMORE BIOLOGY MAJOR WITH PRE-MED OPTION


“No... I’m getting to go to classes and getting the education I want to get, but the social aspect isn’t really there. I’m kind of just doing what I’m told. I don’t have anything to compare it to because I did come out in 2020 during the pandemic and so this has been my college experience the entire time. It’s getting to be more normal now, so that’s good. I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

“Last year, I had COVID-19 and Mononucleosis and I got a B- in general chemistry. My whole family gave me crap for it. I’m just looking to keep it all A’s from here on out. And it feels like we’re getting to a more normal campus life. I’m cautiously optimistic about it.”

Ballots open to students
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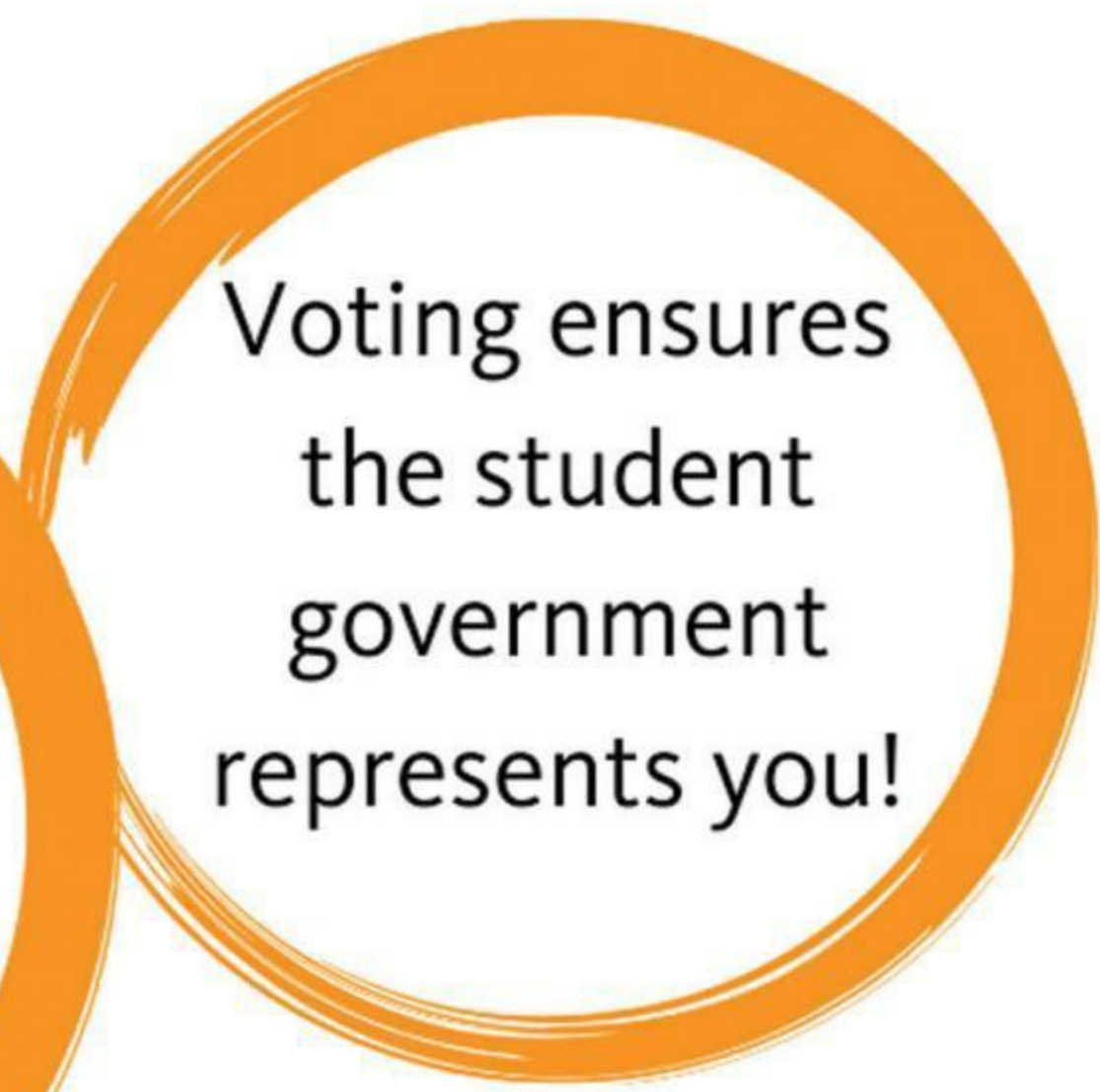
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- SFC At-Large Member (4) | Senator (6)
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policymakers and
university partners



Voting ensures
the student
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COVID-19 UPDATES
Continued from page 6

world, Chi estimates that there is a good chance Benton County will reach the omicron peak in another week or so. After that, it is likely the number of positive cases will start to stabilize and decline.

“More people will gain immunity and that will slow the spread of omicron,” Chi said.

However, Chi said there’s no way of telling how long the peak will last, and there’s a chance that when we do peak, we could stay there for some time. Although the chance of getting COVID-19 will likely remain high over the next couple of months, there is not a lot to worry about if you’re fully vaccinated and are generally a healthy person, Chi said.

“Try to protect yourself and not get infected, but if you get infected, don’t be upset and don’t panic,” Chi said.

Chi pointed out that although the number of breakthrough cases has been rising over the last month in Oregon, the number of hospitalizations and deaths has been steadily decreasing since December.

Until then, getting vaccinated, wearing a mask indoors and ventilating shared spaces are the most important things we can do to stay safe, Chi said.



JASON MAY | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Oregon State University students Maken Apau, left, and Ethan Thompson are wearing masks as they walk out of the Learning Innovation Center on the Corvallis, Ore. campus on Jan. 31. COVID-19 cases are still high due to the omicron variant and many students at OSU have tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the winter term.

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West-side Reser Stadium renovations to help bring 'living room environment' to OSU

By SAM MISA
Sports Contributor

While the Reser Stadium implosion that occurred on Jan. 7 may be remembered for waking up half of the campus, others see it as so much more for Oregon State University.

Steve Clark, vice president of University Relations and Marketing, said the reconstruction of the west side of Reser Stadium will not only benefit the football program, but the greater Corvallis community.

"What we're doing is completing Reser Stadium by completely redoing the west side," said Clark. "This provides for one of the nation's most modern, state of the art college football stadiums in the nation."

Though only one part of the Completing Reser Stadium project, which is set to be completed by Fall 2023, the implosions in early January set the stage to complete the rest of the renovations. According to Clark, this stadium will not just benefit the attendees of Beaver football games, but will also benefit every student at OSU.

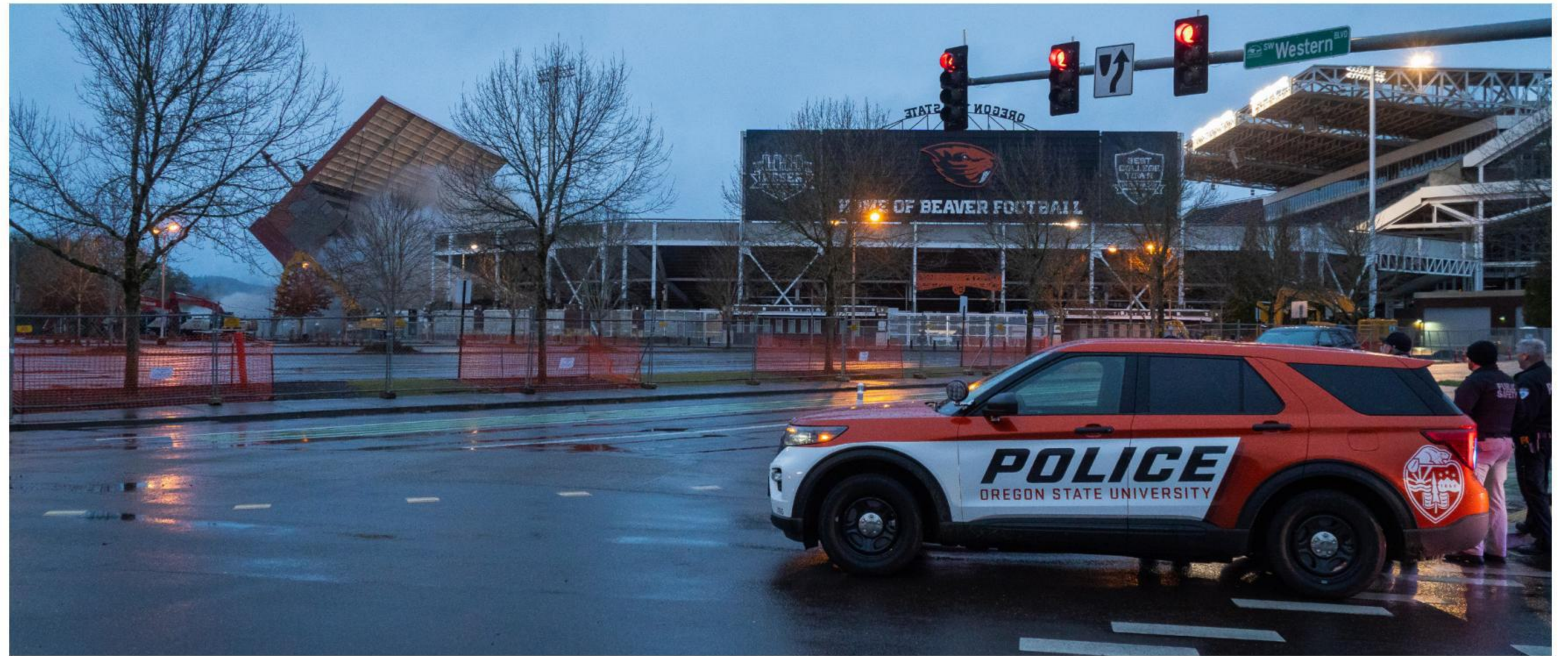
"It provides not only a best-in-show, best-in-class football stadium, but it also is going to provide for year-round activities around Reser Stadium," Clark said. "The new Student Welcome Center, it will operate year round, and the Wellness Center will operate year round. I think those kinds of features bring the intersection of community, bring the intersection of sports, bring the intersection of education and wellness together. That is, to my knowledge, really unheard of."

Scott Barnes, vice president and director of Athletics, shed more light on other benefits of the Completing Reser Stadium project, such as the Student Welcome Center and Wellness Center.

"It will add direct value because a foundational goal for Completing Reser Stadium is year-round use," Barnes said. "This includes a new Wellness Clinic for students and staff, a Welcome Center for general student recruitment and additional space that will be used for conferencing and meetings. This project will also contribute to the growth and stability of our athletic program."

Elaborating on the athletics perspective, Clark said the newly renovated Reser Stadium will hopefully have the benefit of attracting OSU Beaver prospects.

"It really provides a showcase for OSU nationally," Clark said. "In regards to athletics, to have a modern facility such as Reser completed will help in the recruitment process of student athletes. It provides a showcase for football players in the team as a whole. And



MATTHEW MCKENNA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

The Corvallis Police Department looks over the implosion of the west side of Reser Stadium on Jan. 7, 2022. The renovation is planned to be finished in November 2023, and home games will still be played in Reser for the 2022 season.

it brings students and spectators of all ages together in what will be almost like a living room environment."

While the majority of the funding for the Reser Stadium renovations came from one anonymous donor who donated \$50m, Clark wants it to be known that the donor was far from the only one to fund the venture.

"A short while ago, I learned that our fundraising for Reser Stadium has now exceeded \$90 million," Clark said. "The goal was \$85 [million]. Yes, there's one anonymous contribution of \$50 million, but there are many, many other contributions that have come in that have brought that total to more than \$90 million... [Having] more than \$90 million in philanthropy for a project that's going to cost \$133 million indicates that donors are willing to be part of the transformation... It isn't just about athletics for them."

Barnes emphasized the long-term impacts that will come from OSU's investment in the Completing Reser Stadium project.

"The implosion marks a new era for Reser Stadium including significant opportunities to improve the fan experience, the growth and stability of our football program and athletics in general," Barnes said. "This project signifies a bold and thoughtful investment in our athletic program and addresses general campus needs."

Oregon State is set to host the Boise State Broncos on Sept. 3 for the 2022-23 home and season opener while Reser Stadium is still under construction before its finish date planned for Nov. 2023.

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Love at first spike: Oregon State student-athletes, Josh Green and Nya Buckner, share their love story

By HANNAH LULL
Sports Contributor

In the world of college athletics, it is very possible for a pair of star-crossed athletes from different sports to pursue a relationship with one another.

Josh Green, a redshirt-sophomore punter on the Oregon State University football team, and Nya Buckner, a redshirt-sophomore right-side volleyball player on the Oregon State volleyball team, are an example of this.

The couple first met each other last August in 2021 and became official on Sep. 14. So far, they have spent most of their relationship occupied in their respective sport's seasons, since both football and volleyball are typically fall sports.

Green and Buckner knew of each other through mutual friends in the OSU athletic community for roughly six months before they furthered their connection at a party after one of Buckner's volleyball games. The two immediately clicked and, from there, planned to go on a date.

"We went to Sky High [Brewing & Pub in downtown Corvallis] and ate dinner on the rooftop," Buckner said, reminiscing about their first date. "We talked a lot about our families and life at home. We came from such different backgrounds, [and] it was really cool to hear about Australia and [Josh's] journey to OSU."

While Green and Buckner bonded over similar student-athlete lifestyles, they also connected over many social justice issues,

including police brutality and racism in both the U.S. and Australia.

"I remember thinking immediately that he was one of the most socially and emotionally intelligent people I have ever met," Buckner said.

They went on a few more dates before making their relationship serious. They started making more time for each other in their busy schedules, balancing school, practices and home and away games.

"During season, we wouldn't spend as much time as we would've liked together but that honestly made the post-season a lot more sweeter, and we're a lot more grateful for the time we have together because we understand that when we're in season we don't get that much time," Green said.

Green and Buckner both agreed that finding time to spend together is the hardest part of their relationship and figured out most of their free time occurs during weekdays in between classes. Luckily, both of them understand student-athlete commitments and how important it is for each person to keep their sport one of their top priorities.

"We both have structure," Green said. "We both have to wake up early [and] go to workouts. We both have class. There's a mutual understanding of the time commitment of being an athlete and a student at the same time."

Green and Buckner said they also help each other through good and bad days, as both understand how it feels to lose a tough game or



COURTESY OF JOSH GREEN

Redshirt-sophomore football player, Josh Green (left), and redshirt-sophomore volleyball player Nya Buckner (right), posing for a photo after a football game against the University of Washington Huskies at Reser Stadium in Corvallis, Ore. on Oct. 2, 2021. The couple enjoying spending time with one another outside of their athletic commitments.



COURTESY OF JOSH GREEN

Redshirt-sophomore football player, Josh Green (left), and redshirt-sophomore volleyball player Nya Buckner (right), posing for a photo after an Oregon State volleyball game in Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, Ore. The couple started dating in Sept. 2021 and have been supportive of one another balancing athletics and academics.

have a difficult time during practice. They are able to provide reasonable advice and support to one another.

"We've both been through bad days so we're able to be there for each other and we know the right things to say in those moments," Green said. "I was watching [one of Buckner's games] online... She was just coming back from an injury and she played very well. I just remember being really proud of her because I knew how hard it was for her and the commitment it took to get back from the injury."

This athletic partnership was a surprise because both Green and Buckner were not actively looking to be in a serious relationship at the time they started dating. While they both would've liked to find someone, it simply wasn't at the forefront of their minds.

"I was never actively looking for it," said Buckner. "It was either our third or fourth time hanging out, I kind of started to realize that I was really into him and I really liked the conversation that we had. Whenever I was with him, I always had a good time. That's kind of when I knew I wanted to be serious with him... I just happened to find Joshua."

One of the couple's favorite moments together is when they went to the Arizona Cardinals versus the Indianapolis Colts game

over winter break last year.

"I went to Arizona with her and I got to spend it with her family," said Green. "Obviously, being from Australia, I was far away from my family and it was really nice to be with her and her family, and be taken in and then [be] looking after me in the way that they did. It was really awesome."

Both Green and Buckner are set to graduate in the spring, and said they are excited to take their relationship outside of OSU and into the real world. While they both have some additional eligibility, they hope to keep their relationship strong.

"Who knows what's going to happen," Buckner said. "The ultimate goal is to be together through it all."

Green said they are unaware of what the future holds but determined to make it work. The two of them may stay at OSU to pursue their master's degree, and if so, might remain a part of the football and volleyball teams.

"The one thing that is for sure is that we want to do it together—whether that's here in Corvallis, in her hometown of Arizona, my hometown in Australia, or even a random spot one of us lands due to work or college purposes," Green said. "We want to find a way to do it together."

Beaver basketball teams show promise despite COVID-19 cancellations

By HANNAH MITCHELL
Sports Contributor

Both Oregon State University basketball programs are overcoming challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, having had to either cancel or postpone scheduled sporting events 13 times throughout the season.

Coming off a series of postponements against the North Carolina Central University Eagles on Dec. 28, 2021, the University of Utah Utes on Jan. 2, the University of California Golden Bears on Jan. 7 and the Stanford University Cardinal on Jan. 9, the women's basketball team finally got to resume play once again against the No. 7 ranked University of Arizona Wildcats on Jan. 13, a whole 25 days after their last contest.

While the Beavers lost by a narrow score of 55-53, the team expressed gratitude to be able to play inside Gill Coliseum again, especially following an extended time between games. Some players even thought that the team looked good considering not playing for a long amount of time.

"Coming off of the setbacks we had, I think we were all just really hungry to play, and I

think that really showed how tough we are," said Oregon State redshirt-junior forward Taya Corosdale.

This season has given the women's basketball team an opportunity to give playing time to those on the roster who normally don't start. Oregon State redshirt-senior forward Ellie Mack said the game versus the Wildcats showed her how talented the team actually is.

"Our bench is deep," Mack said. "We have really, really talented guards, [and] really talented posts, so I think we can be really successful this year."

Depth in a roster is more important than ever when a positive COVID-19 test can take away at least five days of time a player could use to practice and be with their team. But despite the limited players, Mack said she thinks the team handled their situation well.

"Thankfully we weren't off for as long this time and more people were able to practice so that was definitely good for us," Mack said. "I think there definitely was a little bit of apprehension going into the COVID-19 pauses. But I think we've handled it really, really well."

Following the matchup against the Wildcats, the women's basketball team faced off against the University of Colorado Buffaloes, a game

that was previously postponed and rescheduled for Jan. 17, when the Beavers got the upset win 69-66 in overtime.

Both Beaver basketball programs are not the only teams going through personal challenges, said Head Men's Basketball Coach Wayne Tinkle, as many teams across the country are affected by the new, more transmissible omicron variant.

The annual basketball game against the University of Oregon Ducks was originally scheduled for Jan. 8 in Corvallis, Ore. However, the game was postponed due to COVID-19 protocols within the Ducks' program. The game was then rescheduled for Jan. 10, where the Beavers lost to the Ducks by a narrow score of 78-76.

While the Beavers arguably looked their best in that game, Tinkle said these cancellations were no excuse for a loss.

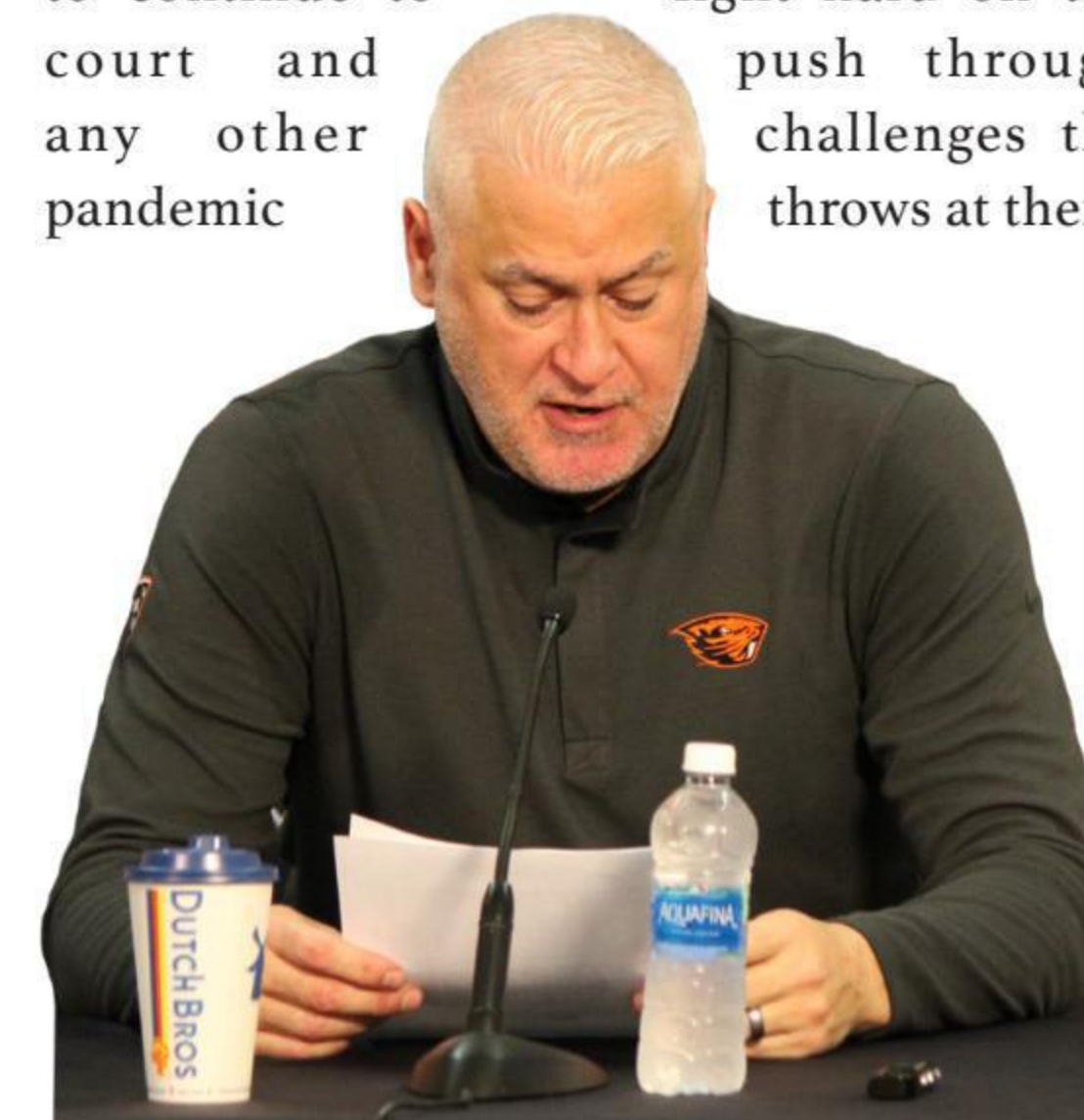
"They've had the same protocols," Tinkle said. "They had the same pauses. So we are not going to make an excuse."

Tinkle said they reverted back to their habits from earlier in the season. He also said it is hard when they cannot be certain of who is going to be cleared to practice every day.

"That's been really frustrating as a staff who

really feels like we are good at building our team as the season goes on," Tinkle said. "But everybody's going through it."

With both programs now halfway through their respective seasons, both teams will look to continue to fight hard on the court and push through any other challenges the pandemic throws at them.



GRANT HURD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK
Head Oregon State men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle addressing media after a loss to the University of Washington Huskies on Jan. 20, 2022. OSU and UW have had various games postponed or cancelled due to their COVID-19 policies.

Massey continues to make impact in OSU athletic community, receives promotion

By GEORGINA PAEZ
Sports Contributor

Many know Massey as the senior associate athletic director at Oregon State University, who helps college athletes accumulate skills they can use in life after college. But not many know his other title: chief diversity officer for athletics.

In his role, Massey ensures the athletic department considers everything from a social justice lens and makes sure they treat all athletes and staff equitably. Massey also provides student-athletes space to share opinions and thoughts or other safe places on campus to do so.

Being an athlete in college himself, Massey gained an appreciation for college athletics. After receiving his master's degree at Michigan State University, he got involved in the university's Academic Support Program for Student Athletes.

Following his time at MSU, Massey worked at the University of Memphis in Tennessee, Indiana University, the University of Central Florida and finally, OSU.

"I really enjoy Oregon State and what it means to be a Beaver," Massey said. "I enjoy working with students, student-athletes, being a part of a college campus and this community."

When Massey first joined Beaver Nation in 2011, he was given the task of completely redesigning the student-athlete development area.

"What it came down to was, okay, we need to establish a program that is broad in scope because, let's be honest, student-athletes are very broad in their diversity," Massey said. "We're probably the most diverse group on campus, almost 50% of our student-athletes are from underrepresented populations and we have probably almost 15% of our athletes that are international students."

No matter how a person identifies in the world of athletics in terms of race, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities, Kimya and his team are dedicated to making sure each student-athlete not only feels heard, but also appreciated for their talent and hard work.

As a biracial man who lived in Southern Oregon for some time, Massey said he and his family have been treated differently because of their racial background.

"My own experiences and my own identity crisis of 'Who am I'—am I Black, am I white, am I multiracial—I think figuring that out has been really important personally, but it's led me in this role to understand that our student-athletes and staff come from so many different backgrounds," Massey said.

Massey said he believes it has been rewarding to help the students figure out their identity and how they can feel safe and comfortable. He and his team believe this so strongly, they even added a letter to DEI, which stands for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

"We always say DEI, DEI, but we say DEIB, which stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, because at the end of the day,

for anyone on this campus, you need to have a sense of belonging to feel like you can accomplish anything," Massey said.

OSU has a reputation of being a campus that is filled with different perspectives, opinions and people who come from all over the globe. Massey is one of the key members of the athletic department who help keep OSU a safe and welcoming place for all student-athletes.

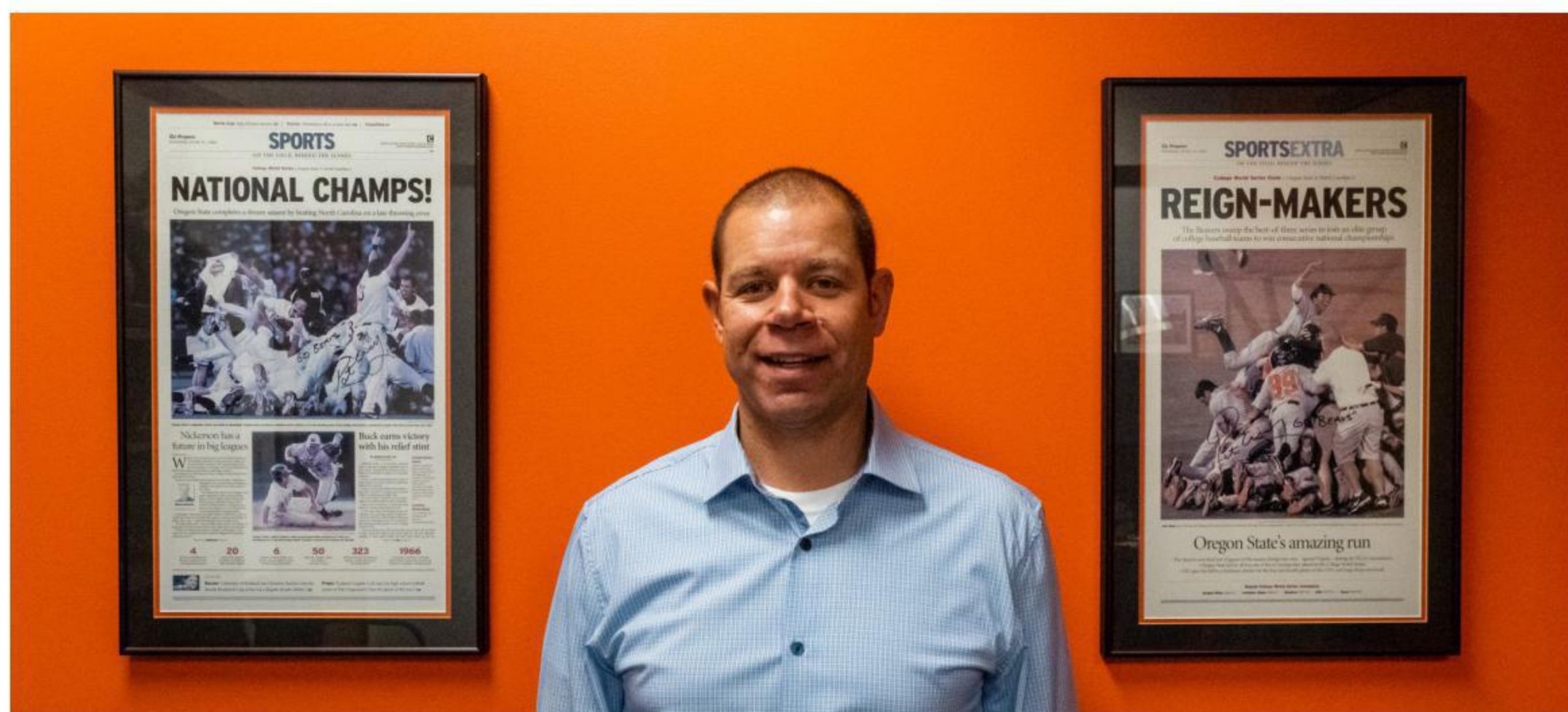
It wasn't long until Massey was recognized for all of the hard work that he does for the OSU athletic community.

On Jan. 12, Kimya Massey was promoted to deputy athletics director and chief operating officer, as announced by OSU Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics Scott Barnes.

"He has taken our Student-Athlete Development program to levels among the very best in the nation," Barnes said. "His leadership and professionalism working with our student-athletes and fellow staff members have been unmatched."

Massey was very grateful for his promotion and is looking forward to continue impacting the lives of student-athletes at Oregon State University.

"I am very excited for this new role and opportunity to continue to serve our outstanding student-athletes and programs at Oregon State," Massey said. "I want to thank Scott Barnes for this opportunity, as well as his leadership and vision for Beaver Athletics. This is truly an incredible community with great momentum, and I am ecstatic to continue to be a part of Beaver Nation."



MATTHEW MCKENNA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Deputy Athletics Director and Chief Operating Officer at Oregon State University Kimya Massey posing in his office next to OSU memorabilia. Massey supports student-athletes at OSU by serving as the director for various Everyday Champions signature programs.

OSU seeks continued, added funding from state legislature in 2022 short session

By SAM MISA
News Contributor

On Feb. 1, the Oregon Legislature began the 2022 short session, a 35-day process which will affect both Corvallis, Ore. and Oregon State University.

Short sessions are legislative sessions which occur on even-numbered years and last for a shorter amount of time than long sessions.

According to Executive Director of Government Relations at OSU Katie Fast there are few constraints on what the legislature can introduce and topics they can discuss. Each legislator may only introduce up to two bills, with committees having a limit of three.

There is a smaller number of bills that will be decided on during the short session, according to Fast.

For OSU, this short session provides the chance to request funding for programs across campuses in Corvallis and Bend, Ore. Among these requests, Fast said, are funding for public service programs like the OSU Extension Service, the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and the Forest Research Laboratory.

OSU is asking for \$2.2 million to fund those service programs, which affect the general

public of Oregon.

"We did not get that full request during the 2021 sessions," Fast said. "So it's kind of coming back to get there for continuing service level. We're also working with other universities to support newer programming that was put in place in the 2021 session."

One of those new programs is the Strong Start program, a summer bridge program that helps reintroduce disadvantaged incoming OSU students to in-person classroom environments after learning remotely for more than two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's targeting those more higher-risk students and trying to give them some support, as they're coming into their first year at Oregon State," Fast said. "That's \$7.5 million across the seven public universities."

OSU is also asking for funding to assist with increasing costs of construction.

"At Oregon State, we've got the renovations happening, and it currently holds the new Arts and Education Complex and the Student Success Center at OSU-Cascades," Fast said. "We're seeing higher-than-anticipated construction costs coming down on those projects, mainly just related to market disruption that we're seeing across a multitude of different factors and inflation."

In terms of what is on the ballot for legislation, Fast said there is a bill to reestablish or continue the Harvest Tax, which deals with

attacks on harvested timber and partially funds OSU's College of Forestry with \$7 million over the course of two years.

Senate Bill 1505 is also on the agenda and would update name, image and likeness statutes for student-athletes. If approved, the bill, according to the Oregon Legislature, "Requires [a] person that produces [an] intercollegiate sports team jersey, video game or trading card for profit to make royalty payment to [the] student athlete for use of [the] student athlete's name, image or likeness."

There are also expected updates to this NIL legislation that was passed last session. The new updates should allow students at Oregon State to help student athletes set up businesses without being disqualified or counted as agents, according to Fast.

In Corvallis, political changes have been occurring in terms of representatives. Dan Rayfield, who represents Corvallis and Philomath, Ore. in the 16th district, was elected as the Oregon Speaker of the House on Feb. 1, replacing Tina Kotek. Kotek stepped down to focus on her run for the 2022 gubernatorial election.

On the federal side, Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, the director of the Corvallis School Board, recently announced his candidacy to represent Oregon's 4th congressional district. Peter DeFazio, the current representative for the district, announced he was retiring on Dec. 1,

2021 and will not seek re-election.

"I am very appreciative, honored for all of [DeFazio's] work and representation for me and many people," Al-Abdrabbuh said. "He assumed office just before I was born, and he was elected about my age. Right now I feel the moral responsibility that all of us need to have a voice and continue building on the foundations that he has built for us."

According to Al-Abdrabbuh, he wants to be an advocate for not just OSU, but all public schools and universities in terms of funding.

"We can educate children and youth and college students in a way they can seek a career that works for them," Al-Abdrabbuh said.

Mayor of Corvallis Biff Traber said he is excited to see representation from Linn-Benton Counties federally.

"Sami brings a fresh perspective; he brings a younger perspective to the office," Traber said.

One aspect of the short session that affects not just Corvallis, but the state as a whole, is the amount of funding the state legislature has for this cycle.

"A big item is the state does have more resources than they would normally have," Fast said. "The state revenues are up right now, and there's an estimated \$1.5 billion above what was estimated at the end of the '21 session. We expect them to be making a lot of kinds of investments and spending during the short session."



SAM MISA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Katie Fast, executive director of Government Relations at Oregon State University, serves as the "conduit" between the university and elected officials. She most frequently works with the state legislature as well as the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.



LILY MIDDLETON | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Part of the Giustina Gallery Celebrate Oregon's Diversity art exhibit on Jan. 20 at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University Corvallis, Ore. campus. The exhibit features 63 artists ranging in medias and is open until March 18.

Giustina Gallery celebrates Oregon's diversity with multi-media exhibition

Art exhibit, featuring 63 local artists, ongoing until March 18

By KATTERLEA MACGREGOR
News Contributor

Local artists are displaying their interpretation of Oregon's diversity in an upcoming exhibit at the Giustina Gallery at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University Corvallis campus.

The exhibit is ongoing until March 18 and features 63 artists. The 113 works being displayed feature a variety of media from photography to ceramic sculptures to paintings.

Because of COVID-19 precautions and other implications, the LaSells Center has been hosting less than its usual 12 shows per

year, said Tina Green-Price, the associate director for the LaSells Stewart Center who has been managing the Giustina Gallery for about 20 years.

The current exhibition will have a longer duration to increase visibility and foot traffic for the artists.

"People were dying to come back," Green-Price said. "We were trying to find an exhibit that would allow people throughout Oregon to engage, without being something super specific that they would have had to work for months and months on a piece."

Artists come from all over Oregon, reaching as far as Portland to the coast and down to the Rogue River region, with an empha-

sis on artists from the Willamette Valley, said Green-Price.

Admission to the exhibit is free, and it will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The gallery contains 244 feet of linear display footage that receives almost constant foot traffic.

A reception for the gallery was held on Feb. 3, which was an opportunity for the artists and community to connect after a long period apart because of the COVID-19 pandemic, said Green-Price.

The LaSells Stewart Center was built with community funds almost 40 years ago, not state funds. By hosting art exhibits, Green-Price said the Giustina Gallery and LaSells

Stewart Center are upholding what they were built for.

"We feel like the gallery is for the community," Green-Price said. "This is a place for the community to gather, and engage, and get to know each other. To create bonds that last a lifetime. It was built for that."

Some of the artists have been participating in this community since Green-Price began managing the gallery in 2004.

One of these artists is James "Scoop"

GIUSTINA GALLERY
Continued on page 17

GIUSTINA GALLERY
Continued from page 16

Schupp, a photographer and lifelong member of Beaver Nation, first stepping on campus in 1976. Schupp was the first director of the LaSells Stewart Center back in 1980. He currently contributes his photography to the OSU Alumni Association.

“Naturally there’s always been a lot of art in Corvallis—just walk downtown, there’s murals all over the place,” Schupp said

about the art scene in Corvallis. “People here like art, and they come to see art.”

Schupp is contributing his photography to the gallery as well. He began capturing photos almost 20 years ago with film photography, eventually transitioning into digital media.

Schupp also participates in a call and response show where one artist creates an original piece, and seven artists respond with their own works. This will be featured in the spring exhibition at the LaSells Center.

Although the exhibit features a large variety of mediums and muses, most of the works feature nature or landscape scenes.

Juxtaposed next to these landscape scenes are Ginny Gibson’s ceramic sculptures. They feature another lesser acknowledged part of Oregon’s diversity: women experiencing homelessness.

“What do I make that shows diversity? And I thought, this is another way to look at diversity in our community,” Gibson said. “I felt it was important to represent them, even though it’s not an easy topic to face

and look at.”

Gibson has been sculpting for about 12 years and said she normally contributes to the shows at LaSells when she is able. Gibson also participates in the annual Holiday Marketplace at OSU’s Craft Center, which she said has been canceled for the last two years due to COVID-19 restrictions. Through her work, Gibson said she hopes to “touch people’s lives.”

“We want our gallery to be a place to connect, not just with artists but with each other,” Green-Price said.



COURTESY OF MARY MCKILLOP

A ceramic piece created by Ginny Gibson as part of her “Home is Where Her Stuff Is” project. It can be viewed at the Giustina Gallery at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis, Ore. until March 18.



COURTESY OF MARY MCKILLOP

A ceramic piece created by Ginny Gibson as part of her “Home is Where Her Stuff Is” project. Admission to the exhibit, where Gibson’s work is featured, is free and open to the public until March 18.



LILY MIDDLETON | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

A digital photographic piece by James Schupp, “Sunrise Neskowin.” Schupp’s art is currently being featured at the Giustina Gallery at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis, Ore. until March 18.

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As COVID-19 pandemic enters third year, Corvallis community looks toward the future

By HAYDEN LOHR
News Contributor

The COVID-19 pandemic is now entering its third year, and the Corvallis, Ore. community has seen effects on all aspects of life, leading residents to wonder about the path forward.

“The SARS-CoV-2 virus is unlikely to go away anytime soon without significant increases in population-level immunity across the world,” said April Holland, public health administrator for the Benton County Public Health Department. “We are still squarely in a pandemic, with huge numbers of people seriously affected by COVID-19.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Benton County has seen 13,388 cases total. Due to the omicron variant, daily case counts have been climbing again with 284 new cases on Jan. 31. On Feb. 4, there were 103 new cases of COVID-19 reported in the county.

“I would argue that we cannot adapt well to the virus while it is causing widespread disruption to the health and daily lives of our community members,” Holland said. “However, we have made great progress since the first U.S.

case was identified on Jan. 21, 2020.”

According to Holland, Benton County and the world have made major strides in COVID-19 vaccination rates and treatment. However, moving forward there are still big steps to be taken—according to Holland, vaccination can save lives, as can increased testing, masking indoors, encouraging physical distancing, staying home when sick, avoiding crowds and practicing general hygiene. In Oregon, 68% of the population is fully vaccinated.

While some experts now agree that there may not be a magic number for herd immunity against COVID-19, according to “Herd Immunity: Will We Ever Get There?” from Yale Medicine, especially with new variants that are more contagious, some experts say that 85% of the population should be vaccinated.

“I am proud to say that this county is one of the most vaccinated counties in Oregon,” said Jennifer Moreland, executive director of the Downtown Corvallis Association. “I believe that our county, or Corvallis, will come out better than others...We will feel the effects, but maybe not as much as other communities.”

Even with high vaccination rates in Benton County, Holland said the community is still dependent on other counties and the rest of the world.

Local businesses have been particularly affected by the constant changes of the pandemic.

“Corvallis has been hit pretty hard,” said Simon Date, the president and chief executive officer of the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce. “The nature of our business community make-up—the fact that it’s smaller business than perhaps you would find in a typical community—leads to stronger effects, businesses strapped in form of income... It was rough; we have a lot of restaurants here that are mom and pop restaurants, folks doing their best to provide the community with amazing food, and those are the ones that are hit hard.”

According to Date, it is extremely difficult to put a number on the businesses that have closed down through the pandemic, but estimates the figure hovers around 10%. However, Date said this percentage is likely low, because

there are a lot of unregistered home businesses in the area which have no official record of closing, since Corvallis and Benton County have no company registration policies.

Looking forward, Date said people should likely expect more of the same in the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, people should not expect to see any of the hard shutdowns that were first seen in April of 2020. Businesses will likely continue to stay open, which means less of the rollercoaster changes of the last few years, and the community is entering a place where things have been normalized, Date said.

“With the current variants continuing to drive the latest surge, getting vaccinated [and a] booster now can provide the best protection available today and more quickly slow the spread of the virus,” Holland said. “We don’t know yet when we’ll be able to stop wearing masks and maintaining physical distance, or reach a level of community immunity, but as more people are vaccinated and boosted, we move closer to having life return to normal.”

ADVERTISEMENTS



HAYDEN LOHR | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

A sign urges patrons to stay six feet apart at Long Timber Brewing in Monroe, Ore. on Jan. 14. COVID-19 restrictions continue to require individuals to keep six feet of distance between themselves and others, which can be difficult for smaller businesses to accommodate.

Immunocompromised students should reach out to Disability Access Services



CASSIDY MALICK
The Rainy Angle

A heavy fever and vomiting: as an immunocompromised student at Oregon State University, that's what having a cold is like for bioengineering major Alec Snyder.

For Snyder, this means needing to stay home where he's safe to recover, but that results in missed class and possible grade penalties.

These policies make sense as a means of keeping students coming to class, especially in the case of lab-heavy courses, but they leave no room for immunocompromised students to keep themselves safe if they fall ill. With COVID-19 cases still rising in Oregon, it's important to stay home when you're sick. If you're especially susceptible, even more so.

Considering the circumstances, departments with such policies should consider their stance on these penalties. As they stand right now, these policies incentivise students to push through symptoms and expose others to their illness.

Instead of simply being an inconvenience, illnesses for immunocompromised students can make it impossible to go to class as it puts these students at risk of catching a deadly disease if they go to class sick. Additionally, even minor illnesses are enough to make classmates and teachers weary.

As we enter the third full year of the pandemic, immunocompromised students are encouraged to check in with OSU's Disability Access Services so they can ensure that they don't face penalties for absence due to illness.

We've proven now that hybrid options can help students with mild symptoms to not miss too much class, but this blanket solution is still difficult for deaf or partially deaf students, as auto-generated closed captions rarely do a good job transcribing what professors are saying and webcam issues can make it difficult to lip-read.

"I would say, most of the time when people don't go to class it's because they're feeling so bad that they can't go to class and typically sitting at a desk is too much," Snyder said. "When I was sick, there was no way I was going to be able to sit at a desk and stare at a computer for an hour."

DAS, located in Kerr Administration, can help students begin the process of finding accommodation and protecting themselves from penalties.

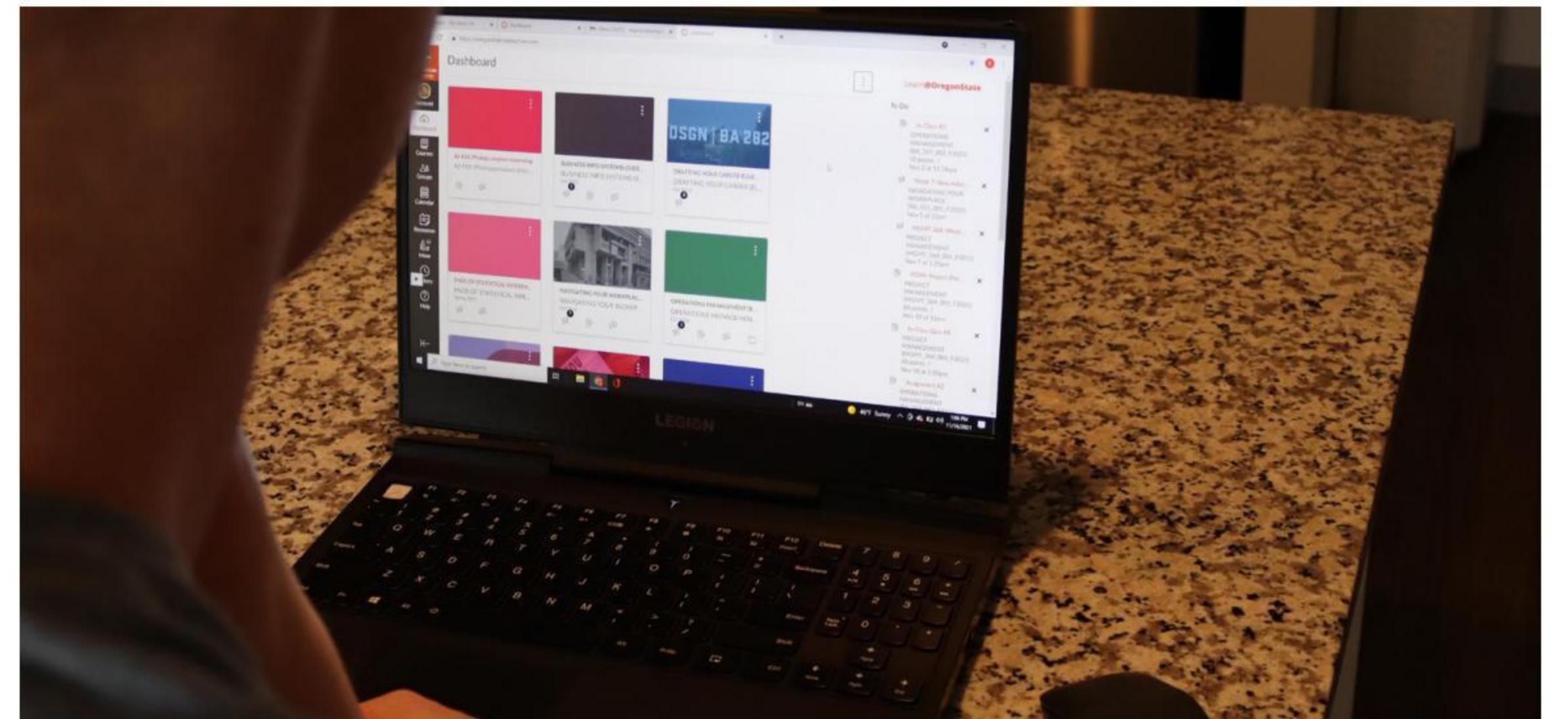
DAS provides drop-in Zoom sessions where people can ask questions. This Zoom session is linked on the DAS website, along with information on applying for accommodations and is a great tool for getting in touch with a DAS adviser.

However, the responsibility of finding this information should not fall solely on the student, but DAS needs help reaching the students who need them.

"In DAS and to my knowledge, OSU does not have separate policy specifically for immunocompromised students—or employees for that matter," said Martha Smith, director of DAS. "So if a student was wanting, needing or claiming they needed different attendance policies because of their health condition, then they would go through us like any other student with a health issue."

According to Smith, DAS has seen an almost 20% increase in the number of students served since 2020. Resources like DAS have always been critical for student success and need to be supported. Part of that support needs to be making students and staff aware of the resources available.

For instance, immunocompromised students can request an accommodation that allows for attendance policy to be modified so they



SOLOMON MYERS | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Oregon State University student Nick Bronson looks over his Canvas dashboard after a mandatory quarantine. With students intermittently quarantining, many students find it difficult to manage their grades this year.

won't receive penalties to their grades. This would allow the student to take time and safely recover from illness before re-entering the classroom.

"Even if we, DAS, make it so that you're not docked points for missing the class, you're still accountable for the information that occurred in that class," Smith said. "You're still accountable for doing whatever the assignment was or taking the quiz—even if it means at a later date—or taking the test or doing

the presentation."

There is no set list of accommodations available. DAS offers students accommodations based on what may work for that individual, but are open to suggestions. What may work for one student may not work for another. But if you have questions about DAS, you should go in or use the drop-in Zoom session to get your questions answered. Asking friends is a good idea, but asking the people who can actually make the changes you need is better.



ALLEN BERNARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

The Disability Access Services office is located in Kerr Administration and oversees all accessibility issues on the Oregon State University campus. DAS is open from 8 to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday.

Valentine's Day not a purely materialistic holiday



KIMBERLY CLAIRMONT
Orange is the New Pink

Valentine's Day shouldn't be remembered as just another holiday peddled by corporate America but rather as the perfect opportunity for everyone to acknowledge and appreciate the special people in their lives.

While some individuals dread celebrating in any fashion on Feb. 14, I personally still find excitement in showering the special people in my life with gifts or scrambling to find last-minute date night plans.

Still, there is no denying that Valentine's Day creates extensive advertising opportunities for corporations to encourage customers to open their wallets, capitalizing on their vulnerability based on their relationship status and various expectations of their significant others.

According to the National Retail Federation, people who celebrate Valentine's Day are likely to spend an average of \$164.76 on chocolates, flowers, jewelry and other novelty gifts.

Every year, many people argue the world falls victim to consumerism or the "heart-

shaped candy cult", but Valentine's Day is more than just a cheap ploy to get people to spend a few bucks.

Riley Gross, a junior at Oregon State University, said he celebrates the "somewhat materialistic" holiday because he has a girlfriend. Gross plans to take his girlfriend out to dinner and give her a few small gifts.

"Chocolate companies make a lot of money and florists," Gross said. "Corporate companies or big companies have definitely manifested the idea that everyone has to get something for their partner, like material."

However, Gross said he still considers himself an optimist. He emphasized that people can celebrate the day without purchasing chocolates and flowers.

"Valentine's Day is a good holiday to celebrate even if you don't buy things," Gross said. "I think it's just about celebrating those you love."

OSU freshman Mara Burroughs said as someone who is single, she never cares or thinks much about the holiday until the day itself actually comes.

"I can definitely see how it could be considered materialistic because there is so much stuff in the store to get for [others] and it is almost expected, which kind of defeats the



SOLOMON MYERS | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

The Valentine's Day aisle is filled with chocolate hearts in the Safeway in Corvallis, Ore. The Corvallis and Oregon State University community are getting ready to celebrate the season of love.

purpose," Burroughs said.

The day itself can lose value if people choose to spend time with their loved ones or give gifts just because it is viewed as required or expected behavior.

That being said, seizing the opportunity to appreciate all of the people in your life you care deeply about by sharing heartfelt notes and messages should never be dreaded, minimized or taken for granted.

Although Valentine's Day is often thought of as a romantic holiday, it is important to note the day is also celebrated by many classmates, families and friend groups.

Burroughs said the adults in her life, like her parents and grandparents, still send her and her siblings little goodies, something many of us look forward to each year from our own friends and relatives.

Without spending money on teddy bears and sweetheart candies, countless individuals still exchange handmade cards and sweet celebratory texts or phone calls to the people they love on Feb. 14.

There is no need for remarks or arguments about the materialistic nature of the holiday that diminish the many endearing elements Valentine's Day still offers.

Cost of campus parking should be more affordable



RILEY LECOCQ
On Our Minds

In Oregon's wet and cold climate, parking on the Oregon State University campus is a necessity that must be made affordable to give all students an equitable chance at success.

As winter term continues, the Oregon climate has quickly shifted to 30 degree mornings, temperamental rain showers and chilling wind gusts that usually seem to happen when students are getting to and from class.

For a large majority of students who live off campus and commute to class, work and extracurricular meetings, the way we get to campus only becomes more complicated as the weather gets worse. A lack of convenient spaces in parking lots also does not help this issue.

However, the primary issue for myself especially is the cost of parking on campus. OSU annual parking passes for students and faculty cost at least \$180, with monthly options starting around \$52 and daily passes ringing in at a more reasonable price of \$4 to \$6.

"In this weather, walking to and from classes can be really hard," said Georgina Paez, a second-year creative writing major at Oregon

State University.

Paez, who bought an annual B lot parking pass on OSU's campus, is one of many who agree that the weather is a huge issue when it comes to getting to campus this time of year and that despite the price of parking passes, driving is a necessity.

"I don't think it is valid for [the parking pass] to be over \$100 at all," Paez said "Especially because a lot of students are paying a lot in tuition, out of state specifically."

Maybe with a lower price per month, other students and I would be more inclined to purchase a permit, but for now we suffer the consequences of dodging rain storms and parking tickets just to get to class.

"I think it is definitely an issue that should be focused on more because it is important to me specifically and I cannot imagine how it is for all the other students," Paez said.

As if the price of tuition and cost of attendance for a university was not already enough of a stressor for students, adding on more and more expenses simply contributes to the problem.

Students who do not pay for parking passes despite commuting to campus, such as second-year kinesiology student Dmitry Zhukovski, still struggle with this issue.

"It is way too expensive so I find street parking wherever I can," said Zhukovski. "It is very hard to find parking especially in reasonable

areas, for example, getting to work."

Zhukovski works at Dixon Recreation Center, where frustrations with lack of parking for even those with permits are apparent.

The geography of the Corvallis campus lacks convenient parking locations that can hold more than just a few cars in the areas where students need it most.

One solution to the problem proposed by Paez was to build another, more convenient parking structure on campus. Paez also said OSU could build up and utilize more of the Beaver Bus system to provide students with options to commute safely out of the elements.

"Honestly it's been a struggle," Zhukovski said. "For work, I have to dress up in slacks and a dress shirt and that's not easy to bike or walk to work in."



KAYLA JONES | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

A view of the Oregon State University parking garage on Jan. 10. It is open to the public during the week with the first few levels being pay to park and top levels open to those with a permit.



KAYLA JONES | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

A pay station located in the B1 lot near Tebeau Hall at Oregon State University on Jan. 10. This parking lot is open to the public who can pay for hourly or daily parking permits.

Lost in a Warehouse: Ever Feel Overshadowed?

BY ALICIA ROBERSON



Gumbo: Goal

BY JACOB RAMIREZ



Coco's Adventures: Sleeping In

BY PORTIA WOODS



Ham Creek: Windowsill

BY HELEN WHITE



THE Baro

YAYS & NAYS



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

YAYS

- Yay to Black History Month.
- Yay to Valentine's Day.
- Yay to chocolate on sale after the 14th.
- Yay to being halfway through winter term.
- Yay to spring coming soon.
- Yay to the sun coming out.

NAYS

- Nay to cold weather, cold weather and more cold weather.
- Nay to midterm season.
- Nay to being so close yet so far from spring break.
- Nay to omicron.
- Nay to figuring out how to do taxes.

HOROSCOPE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 7TH, 2022

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Today is a 9 — Profitable ideas and opportunities are worth pursuing. Quick action serves urgent necessity. Focus on basics. Prioritize the low-hanging fruit first, and then expand.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Today is a 9 — Nurture yourself with hot water and relaxation. Advance a personal dream into reality, step by step. Dress the part, and play with all your heart.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Today is an 8 — Peaceful settings encourage creativity and imagination. Weave your magic and craft your plans privately. Discover satisfying productivity behind closed doors. Strengthen foundational elements.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Today is a 9 — Connect with friends and allies to amplify your reach. Advance shared goals with steady dedication. Discover interesting opportunities through your social networks. Share and contribute.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Today is an 8 — Take charge to advance your professional goals. A dreamy situation is within reach. Get expert support to get farther. Disciplined efforts pay off.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Today is an 8 — You're learning valuable skills. Classes, webinars and conferences open new doors. Your investigation is bearing fruit. Investigate new possibilities. Develop a fascinating theory. something delicious.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Today is an 8 — Patiently pursue practical priorities. Collaborate with your partner to manage family finances. Simplify where you can. Prioritize quality over quantity. How lightly can you tread?

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Today is an 8 — Collaboration flowers. Have fun with your partner. Push a shared vision into reality. Luck follows initiative. Support each other to realize a creative possibility.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Today is a 9 — Physical action energizes you. Practice basic moves for strength, endurance and agility. Master foundational steps before advancing. Prioritize health and safety. Nurture yourself.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Today is an 8 — Relax and have fun with someone sweet. Romance arises in conversation. Creative projects engage and entertain. Spontaneity can delight. Handle basic responsibilities first.

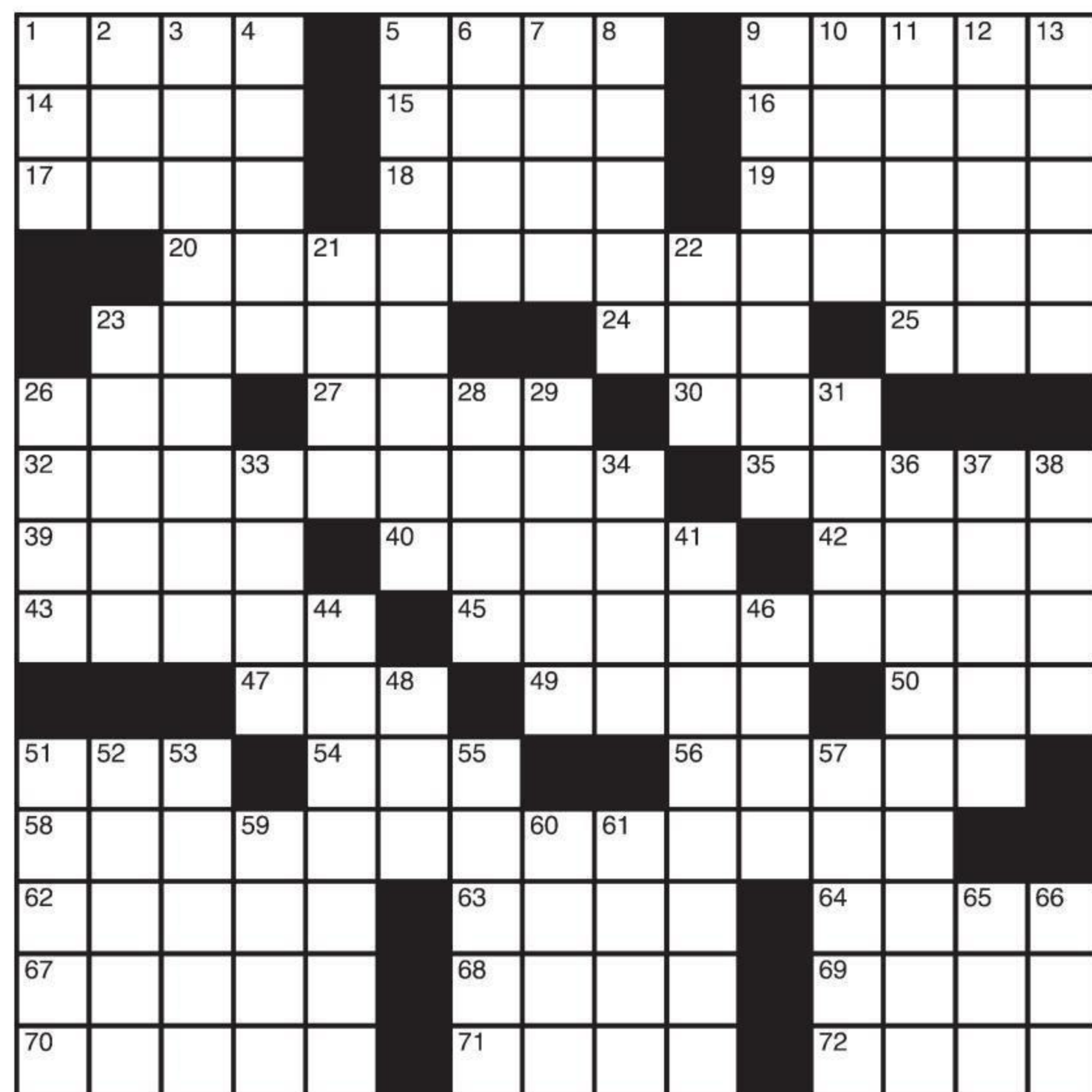
Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Today is an 8 — A home improvement project may require making a mess. Rearrange furniture and organize possessions. Make useful upgrades. A coat of paint works wonders.

Pisces (Feb. 19– March. 20)

Lead and learn voraciously. Monitor current events, news and conditions. Communication opens new doors. Connect and share data, resources and services. Write your views.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Has a balance due
- 5 Fish with valuable roe
- 9 Jeweler's weight unit
- 14 Extra-long dress
- 15 "Those ___ the days!"
- 16 Sister company of Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- 17 Wide smile
- 18 Arab League dignitary
- 19 "The Thinker" sculptor
- 20 Gets trounced
- 23 Crime scene clue exposed by dusting
- 24 Candied veggie
- 25 Apple operating system
- 26 "I get it now!"
- 27 Palindromic man's name
- 30 Royal flush card
- 32 Cubs' caretakers
- 35 Foamy hot drink
- 39 "College GameDay"

Down

- 40 Vinyl collectible
- 42 Pork or beef
- 43 Tree houses
- 45 Veggies from Peru
- 47 Approx. landing hr.
- 49 Ripped apart
- 50 Cloud's place
- 51 Govt. Rx watchdog
- 54 Fútbol cheer
- 56 Caribbean cruise stops
- 58 Home of the Metropolitan Opera ... and a hint to the "honest" guy hiding in 20-, 32- and 45-Across
- 62 Like much beer at a bar
- 63 "Et voilà!"
- 64 Slack-jawed look
- 67 Salary increase
- 68 Managed, with "out"
- 69 Brainstorm
- 70 Like a javelin's path

Down

- 71 Russo of "Tin Cup"
- 72 Russian autocrat
- 1 "Can u believe it?!"
- 2 Card-vs.-card game
- 3 Highway turnoffs
- 4 Red Sea peninsula
- 5 Sugary Southern beverage
- 6 Blouse edges
- 7 Operatic solo
- 8 Churchill Downs race
- 9 Milky Way ingredient
- 10 Tons
- 11 Diameter halves
- 12 Essential acid, familiarly
- 13 Salad bar pair
- 21 Etch A Sketch control
- 22 Have a bite
- 23 Temporary stage
- 26 "I feel the same way!"
- 28 Starbucks size after Short

- 29 Planet's path
- 31 Birth certificate entry
- 33 Initial poker stake
- 34 Osaka wrestler
- 36 Promos to pique interest
- 37 Homes for pet fish
- 38 Site with homemade gifts
- 41 Pre-grilling sauce
- 44 Bent down
- 46 Second to none
- 48 Every one
- 51 Plant life
- 52 Bahrain currency
- 53 Playful prank
- 55 Large keyboard key
- 57 On the level
- 59 Social worker's assignment
- 60 Birthday candle holder
- 61 Genesis garden
- 65 Split ___ soup
- 66 Organ with a canal

DAM Chic
WINTER 2022

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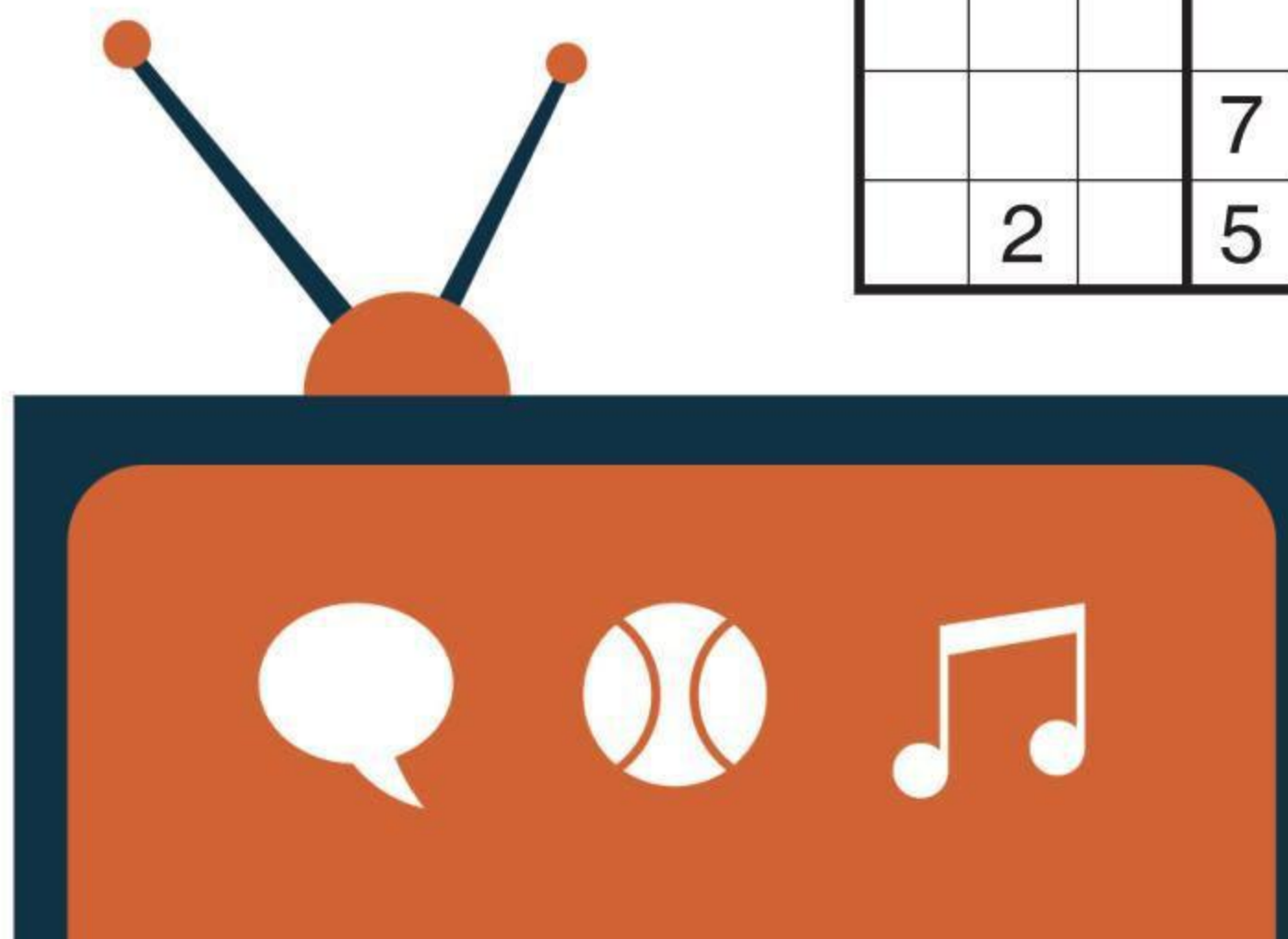
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2.22.22

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