



*Disrupt.*

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NETWORK



# Meeting Adjourned

Student protest forces Board of Trustees to delay tuition decision

Page 3



# Community Calendar

## MONDAY MAR. 20

### Mandala Mondays

You can lower your stress levels while creating something beautiful with adult coloring. Hand color a mandala design or you can create your own. This event is sponsored by the OSU Craft Center and Counseling and Psychological Services, and will take place from 1-3 p.m. in the SEC basement.

## TUESDAY, MAR. 21

### Glaciology Seminar

The College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences will host Erin Pettit of the University of Alaska for a presentation on current events in Antarctic glaciology, specifically regarding the instability and potential for collapse of the Larsen B and C ice shelves. This event will take place from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Burt Hall room 193.

## WEDNESDAY, MAR. 22

### Watercolor Wednesdays

You can come explore art as an avenue for stress relief in the OSU Craft Center with Watercolor Wednesdays. This event is co-sponsored by the Craft Center, Child Care & Family Resources and the Healthy Campus Initiative and takes place from 1-3 p.m. in the SEC basement.

## THURSDAY, MAR. 23

### Treat Yourself Thursdays

All students are welcome to participate in conversations centered around self-care and learn about holistic wellness strategies in the Women's Center. This event will take place from noon-1 p.m. at 1700 SW Pioneer Place.

### Kris Olsen Thesis Defense

You can attend a chemistry student's thesis defense on refractory amorphous metal thin films. This event will take place from 1-2 p.m. in Gilbert Hall room 324.

## FRIDAY, MAR. 24

### Microbiomes Art Exhibit

The 'Imagining the Unseen' exhibit showcases both abstract and stylized works from several local artists focused on the inquisitive nature of the human mind. This all-day event will take place in the Little Gallery in Kidder Hall room 210.

### Digital Marketing Boot Camp

You can learn search engine optimization and digital marketing by building a website using industry-standard tools. This event will take place from 1-2 p.m. in Austin Hall room 270.

## IN THIS ISSUE



**VS.**  
Sweet 16 Round  
Sat, March 25



After defeating Creighton 64-52 on March 19, the OSU women's basketball team is advancing to the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA tournament. OSU will play Florida State on Sat, March 25. The game against Creighton was the last game to be held in Gill Coliseum this year.



AARON TRASK | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Senior guard Sydney Wiese dribbles during the game against CSU Long Beach on March 17. After four seasons, Wiese played her last game at Gill Coliseum on March 19.

DailyBarometer @DailyBaro

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COVER: OSU President Ed Ray and Vice President of Finance Mike Green leave the Board of Trustees meeting on March 17, 2017, after it was adjourned due to student protesters. Photo by Logan Howell.





JACQUIE GAMELGAARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Students protesting tuition and student fee increases gather at the Board of Trustees meeting and chant their demands for the Board.

# Vote on 2018 tuition rates postponed

Board of Trustees has yet to reschedule after adjourning the March 17 meeting early

By Tiffani Smith and Jamie Chin, News Contributors

Friday, a public Board of Trustees meeting held in the Memorial Union Horizon Room was interrupted by protesters, causing the meeting to be adjourned without any votes or decisions made.

The meeting was set to discuss the various fiscal budgets including tuition rates, mandatory fees and student incidental fees. Other action items on the meeting's agenda were the operating budget outlook, the university's Fiscal Year 2018 capital budget, a statement of mission, principles and core values and the handling of written comments submitted in advance to the Board meeting.

There were seats in the meeting allotted for committee members, university staff and a few administrative guests, as well as a section for the general public. The meeting began at 9:33 a.m. with the Chair's Comment from Pat Reser, chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, and a President's Report from Ed Ray, Oregon State University president. This was followed by various reports from administration, staff and guests.

At 10:26 a.m. the meeting was opened up for public comment, allowing any OSU stu-

dent to voice their opinions and concerns in regards to the action items in consideration during the meeting.

"Every last dollar counts when you're living on loans and part-time jobs," public commenter and former 2015-16 ASOSU Vice

zero percent increase."

"Budgets are tight everywhere around campus, but even the Student Incidental Fee Committee was able to maintain a five percent cap on increases," Petty added. "Considering we can all agree that OSU does not maintain the

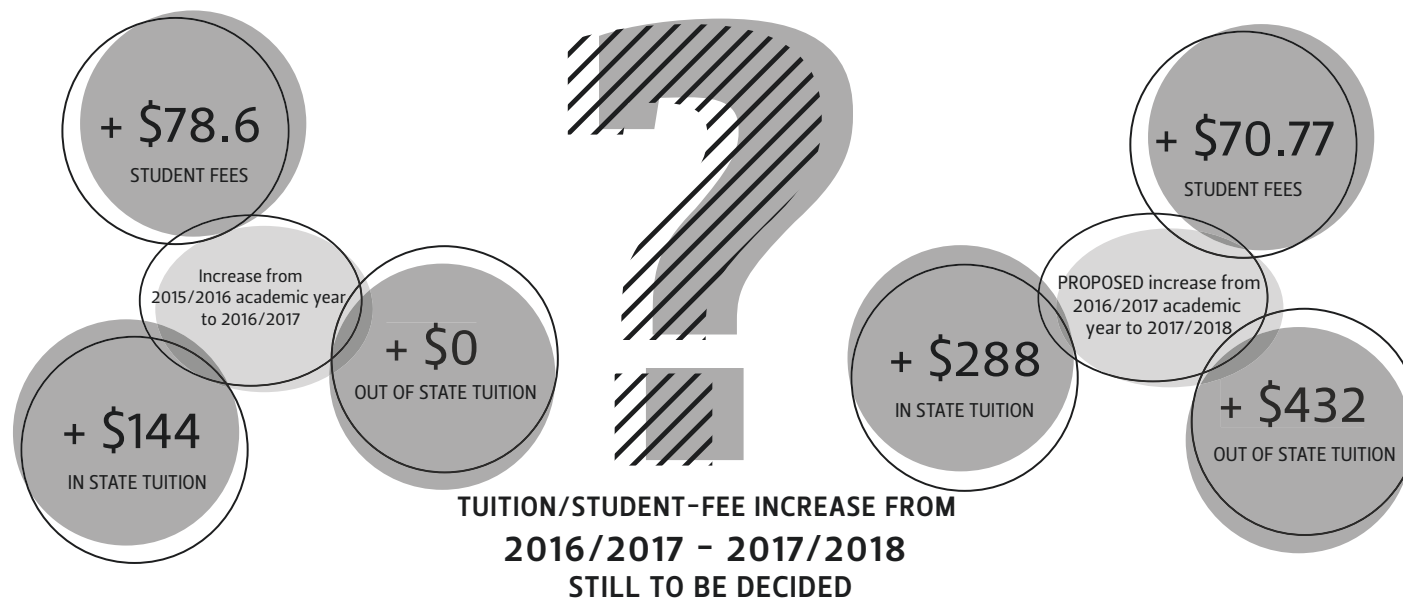
Reser then introduced action items. Tuition rates were the first action item on the agenda. Another public comment period was provided for comments specifically regarding tuition rates. Commenters were provided three minutes each to voice their opinions and concerns.

The topic of tuition rates was then given to the Board and other OSU administration and staff for open discussion. Immediately after Reser began the discussion at 12:25 p.m., 14 protesters filed into the room and formed a circle in the center of the tables where the Board members, administration and staff sat.

One protester began chanting from the center of the circle. The other 13 protesters echoed the spoken words. A fluctuating six to eight audience members joined in, repeating the chants as well.

The protesters' chant included demands for cuts of upper-administration salaries, specifically focusing on Ray. They continued to bring attention to the alleged disconnect between the board's decisions and the effects those decisions have on the general OSU community.

See **Board Meeting**, Page 4



GRAPHIC BY NATALIE LUTZ | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

The information in the graphic represents past and proposed total tuition and student-fee increases per student based on 12 credit hours for three terms. The tuition rates for the 2017-18 academic year have yet to be set.

President Lyndi-Rae Petty said. "The state of Oregon has made extremely poor budgetary decisions by not investing in higher education and the future of Oregon. Because tuition is outrageously high, students need a

highest fiscal responsibility that it possibly could, I really encourage you to vote tuition below four percent. I'm not the only student in the room who's wondering how they're going to pay for their next term of college."

alleged disconnect between the board's decisions and the effects those decisions have on the general OSU community.



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Jimmy John

**NEWS**



JACQUELYN CORPUS | THE DAILY BAROMETER

While attending the meeting, protesters gathered plates of food and beverages meant for board members and ate them in the middle of the session.

**Board meeting**

*Continued from page 3*

"The budget is a reflection of the Board's priorities. It has been made clear that we are not one of them. As it stands, the budget fails to represent the people it affects. Most of the Board members reside outside of Corvallis and they are far removed from the consequences of their actions," protesters chanted. "They are not elected, they are imposed and are completely unaccountable. We demand that this board answer to the people who constitute the core of the university. Faculty, lower staff and students must be the central priority. We are escalating our actions today because business as usual is unacceptable."

The protesters continued to chant various messages with multiple protest members leading the chant. Steve Clark, vice president of university relations and marketing, stood close by observing the circle of protesters. At 12:33 p.m., Reser called an official meeting recess and multiple Board members, administration and staff left the room.

Chanting continued for a total of 46 minutes before the protesters sat down and talked amongst themselves. Through the duration of the chants, the protesters encouraged audience members to join the circle. By 12:39, the circle grew from the original 14 members to 20.

Among the audience members to join the circle was Jacqueline Logsdon, ASOSU assistant director of government relations.

"I knew the protest was going to occur, but I didn't know what exactly it was going to look like," Logsdon said. "I joined in because I agreed and identified with their actions and with their demands when they began speaking."

Clark also foresaw a high likelihood of protest attendance.

"We understand that tuition matters are an important issue for both students and OSU faculty and staff," Clark said. "We anticipated that the Board would hear considerable testimony on tuition, which it did. We also anticipated that opinions regarding tuition may be expressed in other forms, as well, such as expressions of protest."

The protest was inevitable, according to Logsdon.

"I think the protest emphasized the frustra-

tions that many students have held on campus for a long time, that the Board has not fully recognized or were fully aware of," Logsdon said. "Honestly, I think this protest was a long time coming. Do I think it helped? I don't know; I certainly hope so."

Protesters, including the audience members that joined, continued chanting, listing demands for accountable action from the OSU Board of Trustees.

At 1:40 p.m., the Board trickled back in to reconvene the meeting. The protesters stood back up chanting, "We've had enough, we will disrupt." Reser called the meeting to order, proposing 15 minutes of listening time as an alternate way to communicate with the protesters. The proposition was rejected by the protesters and they continued to chant. The meeting was officially adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Following this, the room emptied. The protesters linked arms as they left the MU. The group of protesters began chanting, "Shame," and followed Ray and other Board members down Jefferson Avenue toward Kerr Administration Building. The protesters stopped outside of Kerr, awaiting further activity, and dispersed after a while.

"As a student, I have to commend their activism because I think it was incredibly powerful and effective," Rachel Grisham, current 2016-17 ASOSU president said. "From an activist standpoint they were very organized, they knew what they were doing and I don't think they fully accomplished what they wanted, but I think they got more traction than they have in the past."

Grisham believes that the protesters picked the best time to enter the board meeting. By entering after the public comment period ended, they were able to be more disruptive in their participation without infringing on those who voiced their opinions and concerns as public commenters.

According to Sherman Bloomer, the direc-

**See Board meeting, Page 8**



Use a QR code reader or Snapchat to access a full list of the protesters' demands.

**Classifieds**

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STEPHANIE KUTCHER | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

(Above) Jessie Jones, Sarah Moore, Alex Sisca and Mylisa Krueger are involved in the Oregon State Fashion Show. Krueger designed a plus-size line of clothes and Jones, Moore and Sisca are the models for her line. (Below) One of the mannequins used for the fashion show.

# Oregon State Fashion Show to feature plus-size line

## Student designs clothing line to promote positive body image

By Erin Dose, News Contributor



Heels click confidently on the cement paths of Oregon State University. Laughter fills the air as the women wearing them banter. They walk with energy and attitude. Each step is a chance to display both their personalities and their clothes. They strut down the walkway as if they were on a runway.

Soon, they will be. Models Alex Sisca, Jessie Jones and Sarah Moore will walk the runway at the Oregon State Fashion Show on May 20, displaying designer Mylisa Krueger's plus-size clothing line.

Krueger was inspired to create a plus-size line after shopping in plus-size sections and discovering her choices were more limited than in other sizes. According to Krueger, this can be a barrier to positive body images, as women can't wear what they find attractive.

"There is such a smaller selection," Krueger said. "I want to focus on things that are cute trends and I want to bring them to a plus-size audience."

While Krueger does believe some brands are creating a plus-size inclusive fashion experience,

she doesn't see fashion as a whole striving towards inclusivity.

"So much of the fashion world is about having a look. Fashion can be really not body positive," Krueger said.

Krueger believes plus-size collections and media representation is a great way to inspire body positivity.

"The more that people can see people like themselves, the more comfortable they'll be," Krueger said.

Jones, a model for the collection, does not feel plus-size women are represented accurately by the media.

"It makes me upset that some of the plus-size models we see on magazines aren't really plus size," Jones said. "There's lot of people who don't feel comfortable in their skin because of those people on Instagram or in the magazines."

Body-image issues consist of people fixating on a negative view of themselves and feeling bad about how they look, according to Brett Vicario, a psychologist at OSU counseling and psychological services.

"There are tendencies to focus on what we don't like about ourselves," Vicario said.

Moore, another model for the collection, believes body-image issues are very common as a result of the lack of accurate media representation. Moore enjoys seeing women who look like her.

"It gets exciting to see another woman that looks like me in the media because it's not common," Moore said.

According to Vicario, when only one type

of body is shown in the media, it creates biased views of what women should look like. Representing plus-size women in fashion promotes positive body image.

"Trying to have conversations with people who they perceive to be empathetic and non-judgmental and educating about the societal body image can help," Vicario said.

According to Vicario, body representation in fashion is a step in the right direction for promoting positive body image.

"Anything that promotes validation of our bodies and validation of different sizes are all good things," Vicario said.

Krueger's models are excited to represent plus-size women in the fashion show. One model, Sisca, had wanted to participate in the show when considering OSU.

"I saw the fashion show when I was deciding to come here and thought, maybe I'd be cool enough to do this," Sisca said. "And then I thought no one was going to do a line for someone like me. It's great."

Krueger is planning on continuing to work on plus-size clothes, and will have another line for next year's show as well.

"Currently my models are very similar, and I would love to get a wider variety for next year," Krueger said.

The Oregon State Fashion Show will be taking place at 8 p.m. on May 20 at the Student Experience Center Plaza on OSU's campus. For more information, visit the Facebook page entitled "OSU Spring Fashion Show."





STEPHANIE KUTCHER | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Simon Brundage and Radhika Shah pose outside the MU. Brundage and Shah won the ASOSU Presidency and Vice Presidency in the 2017 ASOSU election.

# ASOSU elections see 12.6% voter turnout

4.4% decrease from last year due to change in election season from spring to winter, issues accessing ballots online

By Rosie Morehead, Multimedia Contributor



ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK ARCHIVES  
Current ASOSU Vice President and Elections Committee Chair Brett Morgan was in part responsible for the election season change this year.

With Oregon State University at around 27,000 students, the ASOSU elections resulted with the winning ticket for Presidency and Vice Presidency receiving a total of a little more than 1,000 votes.

This year's election was the first of its kind, with the election season being at the end of winter term instead of spring term. Current ASOSU Vice President and Election Chair Brett Morgan was one of the people involved in passing the bill that switched the election season.

One of the main reasons for changing the time period was to allow for the new tickets to have a longer transitional period before taking office.

Morgan said that he is not concerned with the voter turnout—which declined by 4.4 percent from last year—and is pleased with the turnout results.

"There was a little bit of a learning curve for folks to realize that elections were happening in winter term now," Morgan said. "12 percent was my pragmatic goal, the goal I thought was going to be the most possible of happening, so I was happy to meet that and exceed it by

a little bit. It's also just a lot higher than the average in years past."

Morgan reflected on last year, explaining that for Speaker of the House especially, there was an extra level of competitiveness which influenced more voting.

"Anywhere there is competition in the election I think just tends to generate more votes because more people are campaigning harder," Morgan said.

Voting this year was also available on a mobile device which, at one point during the voting period, created some problems.

"Some students, when they got their first emails, were having some issues accessing the ballot, what we do is we have a link that guides them through a first portal which then removes them from a database to not be sent further emails but that sometimes causes issues," Morgan said.

Morgan looked to the future and hopes that recently elected vice president Radhika Shah, who will be the next elections committee chair, can work with a better program.

"Our system is not perfect, that is something

we have talked about," Morgan said. "I think in the coming year we are going to work the system; we are hopeful next year that we are going to move the system to Qualtrics which will alleviate some of the ballot issues."

The newly elected ASOSU President and Vice President Simon Brundage and Shah have mixed feelings about the two-day voting period, and believe that was a main factor in why the turnout was low.

"When you have less campaigning days and less voting days it is just going to result in lower turnout," Brundage said, offering his goal to extend the election season next year.

"Putting it in winter instead of spring makes sense because everyone kinda already knows whether they are going to accept student-staff positions or what they are trying to figure out next year," Shah said. "Extending the voter period would probably be more beneficial."

All of the newly-elected students in ASOSU will have the spring term as a transition period until they start their official tenure at the beginning of the next academic school year.

**12.6** PERCENT of OSU student body that voted in the 2017 ASOSU election

**2,743** NUMBER of total votes cast for ASOSU President and Vice President

**1,314** NUMBER of total ranked votes cast for Brundage and Shah





MIRANDA CROWELL | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Snow blankets the Memorial Quad after an early March 2017 storm.

# Watching the weather

## OSU uses 'Timely Alert System' to notify students of campus closures

By Adriana Capobianco, News Contributor

Students awoken to see snow yet again sprinkled across campus; some anxiously waited for Oregon State University to either delay or close completely, as they have in the past.

No email notification was sent out to students and the campus remained open. OSU did however send out a tweet: "Good morning. Corvallis campus operations will run as normal today. Please use personal discretion navigating to and from campus."

This is exactly what happened on Monday, March 6. The campus remained open while the Corvallis School District had a two-hour delay, which calls into question, what exactly is OSU's closure policy, and how does the campus notify students?

Steve Clark, vice president of university relations and marketing at OSU, said the decision to close campus is made jointly by the Provost, the Vice President of Finance and Administration and himself.

According to Clark, a number of factors are considered for closures.

"We intently follow NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather forecasting services, the National Weather Service and local weather forecasters," Clark said.

If a decision to close or delay is made, OSU uses the 'Timely Alert System,' which notifies students via email.

On March 6, that was not the case. OSU representatives decided a closure was not necessary as temperatures were expected to rise above freezing and melt the snow quickly. They then sent out the tweet advising students to travel safely.

OSU student Susan Rowe said she had not seen the tweet because she prefers other forms of communication.

"It's one of the social media things that I don't have," Rowe said.

This is not an isolated opinion. According to OSU student Christine Melancon, she would prefer to receive emails for weather-related incidents as well.

"I don't have a Twitter, but I check my email every day."

Twitter and email are not the only mediums OSU uses to report weather interruptions on campus. Clark explained there are

various ways the university can choose to notify its students.

"We send emails to all faculty, staff and students; provide information on the OSU home web page; utilize social media messaging; and provide news alerts to local media for publication or broadcasting," Clark said.

Some believe that OSU follows the Corvallis School District when deciding to close or delay. However, according to Clark that is not always the case.

"Unlike a K-12 school district that has schools in many varied locations, Oregon State's operations in Corvallis are largely in one area," Clark said.

The Corvallis School District must cater to the needs of younger students in multiple areas. This can lead to public school closures while OSU remains open, as evidenced by the C.S.D. two-hour delay on March 6.

Public school students are alerted of closures through the emergency notification system and the local media. Brenda Downum, communications coordinator at the Corvallis School District, said bus routes are taken into consideration for closures.

"Due to early bus routes, we typically make a decision by 5:30 a.m.," Downum said.

The university has more leeway, as its closure is specific to one location. OSU does try to decide closures or delays early enough so that they don't disrupt travel. Clark said the university tries to announce before 5:30-6 a.m., but the school has also cancelled classes the night before and even in the middle of the day.

On March 6, the system worked according to plan as no actual closure took place. According to Clark, in the future students are advised to check OSU's homepage, closures will always be reported there.

"Over the past several years, we have consistently informed students and employees to check the OSU homepage for weather updates or closure information regarding inclement weather," Clark said. "We feel doing so allows students and employees to have a role themselves in being informed."

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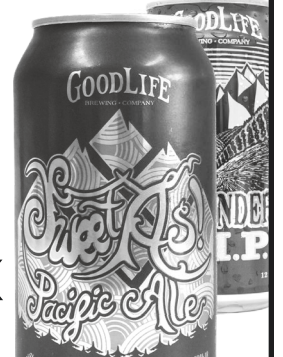
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After the meeting adjourned, protesters followed Board members out of the MU and down Jefferson Avenue.

## Board meeting

Continued from page 4

tor of budget and fiscal planning, every student voice is important.

"I think it's important for the Trustees to hear from as many different students as they can," Bloomer said. "I've talked to a lot of students over the last two months, and the views of tuition are very different. For some students it doesn't make a difference, for others there is a wide range of voices."

Despite this, he admits that the protesters' methods were executed poorly.

"Figuring out ways to have meaningful engagement is something we all can work on, it's something that we tried this year and we have more work to do on, with ASOSU and with the faculty," Bloomer said. "Tuition in the short term has the most impact on students, in the long term it has big impacts on faculty and staff and programs. But in the end the Board has to make those decisions because they are legally charged with maintaining the financial health of the university in the long term."

Clark agreed that while students should be given the opportunity to voice their opin-



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ions and concerns, they should do so through the proper channels.

"This is America," Clark said. "Free speech is protected and Oregon State University has principles that support freedom of expression. The university also has time, place and manner policies regarding when and where free expression can be conducted without disrupting education, research or other activities and operations of the university."

Susie Brubaker-Cole, vice provost of student affairs, presents occasionally at Board meetings on topics relating to student life and student success. She was present at the January meeting, as well as the one Friday, March 17.

"We know from the hundreds of students that have attended information sessions about the possible tuition increase that many students feel that increased tuition could prevent them from being able to stay at OSU to complete their degrees," Brubaker-Cole said.

Various parties worked on recommendations of tuition rates increasing based on student interests and potential student impacts.

According to Grisham, due to many students voicing their concerns in regards to tuition rates increases, ASOSU decided to write a resolution recommending a 0 percent increase in tuition rates to the Board.

The Finance and Administration Committee recommended a 4 percent tuition rate increase for resident undergraduates and a 2 percent increase for non-resident undergraduates.

According to Bloomer, financial aid is not one of the departments that will be impacted negatively by the tuition hike.

"Every year the university, like any other enterprise, has cost increases, so utilities increase, insurance increases and tuition is about 70 percent of the budget," Bloomer said. "Any time we have a tuition increase, financial aid from the institution



Board members Ed Ray, Pat Reser and Darry Callahan discuss their plans for the meeting following an influx of student protesters.

JACQUELYN CORPUS | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

increases. The budget for financial aid will go up, in any scenario."

Much of the dropout rate of students depends on how much of the tuition increase would be directed to the financial aid pool, according to Brubaker-Cole.

"The proposal that the administration made to the Board would direct 1 percent of the increase into additional financial aid," Brubaker-Cole said.

Due to the unexpected disruption and the incomplete commencement of the Board meeting, according to Clark, the meeting will be postponed

until some time in the future to complete the agenda. When an official date and time is decided, the meeting will be noticed so that the public is informed and aware. There is a substantial possibility that the meeting will be continued via phone call.

"Given Board members' schedules and other logistics, it is likely that this will be a telephonic meeting," Clark said. "It will be open to members of the public to listen in."

The Board must make decisions in regards to tuition rate increases by a certain deadline, accord-

ing to Grisham. Because of this, such stipulations of the continuation of the Board meeting may include meeting during the students' finals week or spring break, with a higher likelihood of the meeting continuing telephonically.

"I really hope that they don't reconvene via phone," Grisham said. "I know that they probably will have to meet telephonically, which in my opinion is a shame because then students probably won't have as much access or ability to participate in the conversations around tuition."

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# Right at home

Husband and wife, coach and administrator, high school sweethearts and international student hosts: Heather and Mikiah Smith have spread their roots in Corvallis

By Josh Worden, Senior Beat Reporter

**M**ikiah and Heather Smith's story would be significant even if they were simply a husband and wife who also worked in the same softball program.

Their story extends much further, but it's true the Smiths have spent a combined 26 years with the Oregon State softball team; Mikiah is an assistant coach and Heather is the director of operations. They both graduated from OSU, and Heather played softball for the Beavers from 1995-1999, back when her last name was Chinn.

What makes their story even more unique is how they've also opened their doors to nine international students over the last three years, mostly from the Middle East. Not to mention that Mikiah is a volunteer assistant coach, and while he's able to supplement his income by coordinating OSU's youth softball camps, he generally spends 40 hours a week working pro bono. And to the rest of the OSU softball team, nobody embodies the program or the university better than the pair of high school sweethearts from Canby.

"I just think they carry the tradition of what Oregon State is all about," Redshirt senior Natalie Hampton said. "I look up to them in a lot of ways."

"They help bring us back to reality," added senior infielder Sammi Noland.

To Mikiah and Heather, what OSU is all about goes beyond

the softball diamond. That's why their household has grown over the years, not only when their daughter Kiya was born in 2003 and son Elijah in 2006, but also when they welcomed the nine international students who have spent varying amounts of time experiencing American culture through the eyes of the Smiths.

Mikiah and Heather are devout Christians. While one of their international students was Christian, however, eight have been Muslims, and the Smiths have loved the opportunity to build relationships with people of different backgrounds.

"For Muslim men to be living in a Christian home, when does that ever happen?" Heather said. "We consider them our kids. It's a really special thing, and I would hope everyone could have that opportunity to open their home to people that they may think are really different from them."

"Anybody that we have the opportunity to impact, that's what we want: to show them is how great Corvallis is and how great Oregon State is," Mikiah added.

The Smiths are especially aware that, for many of the international students, their only concept of Christians or American families has been through the media. To actually speak face-to-face, make friendships and even live together, the Smiths feel they can provide a genuine experience for the international students.

"When you are able to break through those barriers where the world says, 'Those people don't talk,' or, 'This shouldn't happen,' it opens up a whole new world to you," Heather said. "You realize, 'You know what, people are people.' And everyone, no matter if you're a Muslim from Saudi Arabia or Libya, or if you're an 18-year-old student athlete or a 40-year-old coach, whatever it is, everyone has strong desires to be loved and accepted. Everyone. As long as you start and end life with that, everything becomes a lot easier and more enjoyable."

The international students would say the same thing. Take Mohammed Baselm for example, a student from Saudi Arabia who lived with the Smiths for more than two years.

"I felt like I was at home," Baselm said. "When I moved in, it was very hard because I was living with a family I didn't know anything about. But they made it easy

and I felt like they accepted me as an international student and they accepted me for who I am. I felt safe and that they respected my personality, my mind and my culture."

The Smiths did not stop at letting international students live with them. When one of their students was diagnosed with cancer, Heather joined him during his chemotherapy treatments and read to him. That student—whose cancer is now in remission—is only one example of the Smiths' dedication to their family.

When Baselm was living with the Smiths, he was bedridden for about a week. Although Mikiah and Heather both hold full-time jobs, he wasn't left alone. Heather would stay back while Mikiah dropped the kids off at school, and then she'd come back from work every couple of hours to check on him and give him medicine.

"I felt like I am with the family, like they are my family," Baselm said.

The Smiths would be the first to point out they don't see hosting international students as a charity effort. If anything, the Smiths benefit from the situation just as much as the students they host.

"It changed our lives," Heather said. "We became better people by learning about tolerance, learning to understand that you don't always have to agree to love someone."

The impact of mixing cultural backgrounds within the Smiths' house has even made an impact on the softball team, where players and coaches witness the Smiths' desire to open their home to people unlike themselves.

"They're just great people with really big hearts, and they love everybody," Head coach Laura Berg said. "They come back with some stories. It's a different lifestyle. To hear what the Muslims' life is back at home in Saudi Arabia compared to what we grew up here with — to hear those stories is like, 'Wow, that's crazy.' What I think is crazy is normal to them, and what's normal to me is crazy to them. It's just interesting to hear."

"You can tell they're people whose doors are always open and they like to help people," Hampton added.

The Smiths' roles with the OSU softball team is where they've been most invested since getting married in 1999. As the director of operations, Heather handles administrative duties like travel plans and equipment purchases. Mikiah has a paid position as the camps' coordinator but his full time position as an assistant coach is unpaid. The Smiths are used to living mainly off one income; when Heather graduated from OSU in 1999, she started working as OSU's assistant softball coach while Mikiah was still finishing school. They lived off Heather's \$22,500 salary, had one car and made it work.

"We've always decided up to this point that Oregon State means a lot to us and Corvallis is where we want to be," Mikiah said. "Rather than taking a job across the country for \$100,000, we're happy staying here as long as we feel like we're making an impact and making Oregon State softball better. Some people make life choices based off how much their salary is going to be. We're just not that type of people."



ZBIGNIEW SIKORA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

(Above) Heather Smith and husband Mikiah Smith share a laugh on the field. The Smiths have spent 26 years with the Oregon State softball team as both player and coaches. (Right) Heather Smith palms a softball.





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITH FAMILY

Mikah and Heather Smith with (left to right) Mohammed Baselm from Saudi Arabia, their children Elijah and Kiya, Andy Tjayada from Indonesia and friend Khadejia from Saudi Arabia. The Smiths consider the international students part of their family.

Hosting the international students and getting rent money is another way the Smiths earn some income, but even that revenue is at the bottom of the Smiths' priority list. When Baselm was living with the Smiths, he paid them about \$600 per month—a very cheap rate, by Baselm's assessment—and he got that money from the Saudi government as part of the international student program. On one occasion, his government thought Baselm had left America to visit home but he had stayed to keep taking classes, and Baselm missed out on the government's support for three whole months. When Baselm had to tell the Smiths he wouldn't have rent money, they didn't bat an eye.

"They said, 'You are like our son, so just live here and you don't have to pay anything at all,'" Baselm said. "That was very emotional when you see people who don't care about money and they care about you."

Baselm ended up being able to pay the Smiths about \$250 each month, not that the Smiths were concerned about the money.

For Mikah and Heather, life goes beyond their income, a plush house or how many games the softball team can win. And while the Beavers have started 15-8 this season and hope to make a second consecutive NCAA Tournament berth, the Smiths have bigger interests off the field.

"You always want to be remembered as a great coach and all that," Mikah said. "But personally, I want to be remembered as a stabilizing figure that was consistent from day one, year-to-year. A competitor, but a consistent competitor. That goes back to myself as a father, and talking to the fathers of the student athletes coming in who say 'Hey, we're turning over our little girl to you. We want to know she's going to be safe and taken care of.'"

There's multiple examples of the Smiths living those words out, too. Last year, Hampton got in a car accident and was on the side of the road when Mikah and Heather coincidentally drove by. They stopped to make sure Hampton was safe and helped talk with the police officer.

"They were like, 'Are you OK? Do you need anything?'" Hampton said. "I was a little shook. They came and I was like, 'OK, everything is all-right, they're here.' That was really nice, especially being so far from home."

"Her father was able to email and say, 'We really appreciate this being a long distance away. You guys really took care of it,'" Mikah added. "For us, that's what it's all about. I'd much rather be there for them in a tough time like that than help them work with their swing."

Noland has also benefitted from the Smiths going above and beyond their work duties.

The senior infielder is interesting in coaching once she finishes her last year in Corvallis, and Mikah recently linked her up with the head softball coach at Corban University in Salem as a potential destination.

"It's so nice having someone who looks out for you beyond just softball and will help you in your future," Noland said.

With 16 and 10 years on staff with OSU, respectively, Heather and Mikah are easily the longest tenured members of the Beavers' softball team. That doesn't even include Heather's five years playing for the team; her redshirt senior year was in 1999, when OSU won a school-record 47 games and made its first ever NCAA Tournament. This was all coming after Heather decided to move on from softball after graduating, even though she had one year of eligibility

remaining. She moved back home to Canby and helped coach the Canby High School girls' basketball team.

When she returned in October 1998 for an alumni softball game and talked with head coach Kirk Walker, she ended up changing her mind to come back for the 1999 season. She had her most successful season that year with 32 hits and a Pac-10 All-Academic Team selection.

"Every time I talked with Kirk, the story gets bigger and bigger," Heather said. "At first it was 'You went 1-for-3.' Now it's like, 'You went 3-for-4 and hit three dingers.' But I obviously played pretty well in that alumni game and they needed a left fielder. If I didn't come back, I wouldn't have experienced our first postseason run. And that was huge for Oregon State softball."

Mikah's roots are just as deeply connected to OSU. He played college baseball at Mt. Hood Community College and Western Illinois University, but came back to OSU to finish his bachelor's and master's degrees in 2001 and 2002. For 10 seasons, he's not only worked at his alma mater, but worked alongside his wife.

Mikah and Heather both say they have to compartmentalize when it comes to work and home. They may be husband and wife, but their roles with the softball team have to stay separate from anything going on at home, and vice versa.

"Not bringing home things to the office, and not bringing office things back home, has helped us in our relationship," Mikah said.

"They do such a good job of not bringing that into the office," Berg added. "Heather is the director of ops when she comes in and not Mikah's wife. Mikah comes in as the camps' coordinator and coach, and not Heather's husband. I've never seen them argue or fight."

Heather even suggested that the communication skills they've built as coworkers have translated back home. A coaching staff, after all, needs to make tough decisions and work together; a marriage works the same way.

"I actually think it's made us stronger in our marriage," Heather said. "There's not a lot in our marriage that we can't openly and honestly communicate about and disagree on."

With their 18th anniversary coming up this summer and a quarter century combined spent working at OSU, Mikah and Heather are in no rush to change things up. They've got an 11-year-old and 13-year-old in the house, and their ability to raise their family in Corvallis while interacting with student athletes and international students is priceless.

“Anybody that we have the opportunity to impact, that's what we want: to show them how great Corvallis is and how great Oregon State is.”

Mikah Smith  
OSU softball assistant coach

By trade, they're softball coaches and administrators. They both believe, however, that their purpose reaches much further.

"You want players to know how a husband should treat them, or how a man in an authority position should respect them and be respected," Mikah said. "Obviously I want to be known as a good coach, someone who helps them get to the next level competitively, but this is a short snippet of life. This is four years, and at the end of it I want them coming out of it as well-rounded human beings who can take on the world."

Perhaps it's the people they've impacted, players and otherwise, that can most fully summarize the Smiths' influence.

"They try to make me a better person, they were a very helpful family and a very helpful mother and father," Baselm said. "I hope all the world could be like the Smith family."





# One in a million: Wiese's last dance

Legacy, leadership, the conference call that changed Beaver Nation

By Amy Schwartz and Keenan Puncocher, Multimedia Contributors

The first time coach Scott Rueck spoke to Sydney Wiese, he questioned if he wanted to take on the challenge and effort it would require to make her a Beaver.

A conference call had been set up between Wiese, her parents, Rueck, and her AAU coach. Rueck had no interest in getting involved in the circus of conference calls. He wanted to get to know Wiese.

Forty-five minutes later the connection was made. Rueck calls it "magic."

"They were looking for exactly what we

are, exactly who we are, how we do things and you just knew we had a really special connection here," Rueck said. "I think we meet every need they're looking for. Once you hear those things, and it happens every once in awhile, you know this is going to be a really fun process and you just pray that it works out and we get her."

When the Beavers finally got Wiese, it was not completely smooth sailing, according to Rueck. Wiese didn't understand her head coach during her first two years and Rueck needed to forge a killer instinct inside her.

"(Wiese) is happy-go-lucky, she just wants to run around and shoot and play basketball and win while she's having that fun," Rueck said. "She's not necessarily somebody that is just a killer. That is not her nature, she's a sweet person with just the kindest heart you can imagine."

"There is a level of competitiveness that you have to get to here, to win at the highest level, where the nasty part of you has to come out a little bit and between those lines it's not always the friendliness."

Her sophomore year, Wiese and the team went through a tough stretch. She

wrote Coach Rueck a letter and explained to him that he simply did not understand her. She brought it to his office and the two had a conversation.

Rueck had to explain to Wiese that he had been down the road before and to trust him. Rueck calls that meeting the most significant moment between him and Wiese during his tenure at Oregon State.

Once the two were finally on the same page, it would unleash one of the most dynamic duos in Oregon State women's basketball history.



## Impactful leadership

When the Beavers lost seniors Jamie Weisner and Ruth Hamblin last season, Wiese was stressed with the thought of stepping into the leadership role. The loss of five seniors was tough for Wiese to go through, but she knew she had to step up and out of her comfort zone to fill the void.

"I knew it wasn't going to just be on my shoulders, but it was going to be a different leadership position than I had been in," Wiese said. "I was going to have to step up and sort of be uncomfortable to make sure that other people were more comfortable. It's been a beautiful journey and a great challenge and I'm so thankful to have been in that position."

Wiese made it a priority to connect with the freshman on the team.

As a senior, she knew the transition away from home isn't easy during that first year.

"Mentally I had to remain outside of myself a lot," Wiese said. "Usually I can do that pretty well, but it was even more than I had realized. We had four new freshman on campus and I wanted to make sure that they were doing OK. I know exactly how they're feeling, being homesick. There's a lot that's going on. I wanted to make sure that they were taken care of as best as I could, as well as incorporating and building up the other people who have been here."

Freshman guard Mikayla Pivec has spent her freshman year benefitting from Wiese's leadership. Pivec has been molded this season by Wiese's work ethic and has gained new-found confidence from the senior guard. When Pivec was asked to describe Wiese's leadership, she didn't know where to begin.

"How many words do I get," Pivec said with a giant smile. "She's a leader and a program changer. Coming into this program, we hadn't won a Pac-12 title in a while. Then she came in and helped lead the team to three straight and making deep runs in the NCAA Tournament. She makes everybody around her better. She's a one-of-a-kind player and I'm glad I got the opportunity to spend at least one year with her."

As her coach, Rueck has seen the benefits of Wiese's leadership to his team. Wiese has a relationship with every player on the team, according to Rueck.

"She knows how to make them feel special, how to make them feel included from day one," Rueck said. "That's leadership in itself. You look at how she competes every day. And every day means getting shots up on her own when she comes into practice each day, the way she prepares herself mentally, you just know you can count on her. She's been an incredible example."

Coach Rueck has seen a constant, impactful leadership from Wiese.

"She plays with a fearlessness," Rueck said. "She is just out here to win, she does not care who you are, what the situation is, she's here to win that game because she believes she can and she's going to do everything she can to be successful. The example she's provided from the first minute she arrived has been incredible."

## Sydney and Scott: the player-coach relationship

Wiese and Rueck's relationship is a key piece of the Beavers' success. Coach Rueck has learned over his career that coaches are not meant to lead—they have to direct.

"If this team is playing for me, or because they're scared of me, we're doomed to fail," Rueck said. "We will never reach our potential."

This team wins, or any team wins, because of interior leadership. The way (Wiese) and (senior Gabby Hansen), our two captains this year, lead this team, that is going to determine whether we achieve or not. If those two don't have my back, we're in trouble. That's a recipe for failure. Syd and I, our relationship is as healthy and as good as I think any coach-player relationship can be."

Through their four years, Rueck and Wiese have formed a unique bond. From challenging

each other, to talking about their lives outside of basketball, Wiese and Rueck have taken the time to invest in each other.

"I don't think many college students understand that we're people too," Rueck said. "We have feelings and we have a lot to offer outside of what you see on the court. That's a wisdom that she has. I've had a few students over the years in my 21 years now of doing this that have really taken the time to invest in me and those are the ones that I think get the best experience. It's a pretty impressive maturity to get to that level. I think it's absolutely vital and it has been, not just this year, but I think Syd and my relationship has been key to what we've done here."

Over her past four years in a Beavers uniform, Wiese has changed Rueck as a coach.

"(Wiese) has given me a lot of confidence. This is a tricky job. It's in high-def now because of Pac-12 Networks. It's very emotional," Rueck said. "There's pressures all of us have to manage day-in and day-out. When you have a force like (Wiese) within your program in such a key role that understands you and has your back no matter what, it gives you confidence."

The confidence that Wiese has instilled in Rueck has allowed him to be himself as a coach. He knows how important Wiese's stability is to the team.

"She has provided that stability from a player standpoint, which is so vital for me, and because of that I've been able to be myself and when I'm myself, you coach better than if you can't be you," Rueck said. "Any time it gets heated with an official, there's (Wiese) right there with me, she's got her arm around me saying 'Coach it's okay. It's okay. Don't worry about it.' She's been my eyes and ears. She's helped like an assistant coach."

## Cementing her legacy

As the Beavers prepare for the NCAA Tournament Round of 16 matchup this weekend, Wiese hopes to take this team on a long run this postseason.

"It would be like a dream come true," Wiese said. "As an athlete, you work out and prepare for those moments. You say to yourself, 'All right, you're down one, you have to make this free throw for the National Championship Game.' I've



AARON TRASK (LEFT), AUTUMN PIERCE (ABOVE) | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

(LEFT): Sydney Wiese speaks with mentor and coach Scott Rueck during a game. (ABOVE): Wiese blows by rival University of Oregon as she drives to the basket.

been saying that ever since I was a kid working out by myself," Wiese said. "It would be amazing to be a part of this group's journey to the National Championship. That would be a dream. I hope that we can do that together."

When asked about how she wants to be remembered at Oregon State, Wiese said she wants to be remembered for dedication she brought to the game.

"The passion and the love that I brought for this university and for this game is the main thing that I would love to be remembered for. I've been so blessed with the people I've been surrounded by on the court and off the court. I know throughout this I've given absolutely everything that I've had to this university," Wiese said. "The university has provided me with such a great foundation going forward into the rest of my life, after I'm done playing, after I graduate. I want everyone to know that I did everything with passion and with a positive spirit and I wanted to bring that love for the game, that love for this university, to everyone that I was surrounded by."

Coach Rueck thinks Wiese will go down as one of the best athletes in Oregon State history.

"Legend. Flat-out legend," Rueck said. "I think she'll be remembered as well as any person to ever graduate from here. That's what I think and that's saying a lot. I just got chills from saying that because I've been a fan of this place for forty-seven years now and I know who has come through here. I know who is hanging in the rafters and I know all the incredible athletes

from every sport. I've watched for years. I know who Terry Baker is and I know who Dick Fosbury is and I know who all those incredible men's basketball players who have come through here are. Sydney has galvanized this community."

Wiese's impact reaches far and wide and because of it, Rueck believes she should be honored at Oregon State for a lifetime.

"For a female athlete to be one of the Top-25 Most Influential People in Oregon Sports, as named by The Oregonian this year, to see Sydney Wiese on that list, isn't that incredible?" Rueck said. "It would be a shame if she's not in the rafters. I think if every single Beaver fan could put on a headband they would because of how well she's represented them, what she stands for and how good she is. You put that combination together, it's one in a million. That's what Syd's done for all of us."

Wiese suited up in Gill Coliseum for the final time this past weekend. When her time is done as a Beaver, Scott Rueck just wants to see her happy. He knows they will maintain their close bond, whether Wiese plays for another fifteen years or is in front of a camera.

"I just want her in touch with me, that's the big thing," Rueck said. "I'm excited for her. This is a new adventure. I have a feeling she's going to be in front of a camera at some point doing what she's incredibly good at. Naturally amazing with a camera in her hand. She's got a lot of lives to impact. I see her impact growing, and it's immense right now, but I can see it growing even after Oregon State."



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## OPINION

# Letters to the Editor



JACQUIE GAMLEGAARD | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Rolando Beorchia, a 2013 OSU graduate, came to the Board meeting with a sign around his neck displaying his student debt.

## Defunding education will not be tolerated

A statement about the student demonstration during OSU's board of trustees: On Friday, I had the chance to listen to the legitimate concerns of the student body of Oregon State University. Students and their families are outpriced from higher education. The demands of the protesting group and the disruption of the proceedings of the board are reflective of the frustration my generation is experiencing. We have to acknowledge that tuition increases are coming from poor funding from both the federal and state governments for education. This is not OK.

A nation is not strong when its citizens can't

afford the education they need. 12 years ago, the government of Saudi Arabia found itself in need to expand its ability to educate its citizens. Based on that, the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia decided to give that opportunity for free to hundreds of thousands of young scholars who were thirsty for knowledge. I was privileged to be one of those. Here, we are a nation that can do better. We can't be a strong and empowered nation when parents who work across the street from OSU tell me that when their kids graduate high school, OSU won't be an option for them just because of the finances. I do hope that we

can change that here. We have a government by the people, for the people.

The frustration of the students is growing. The Board of Trustees and OSU's administration are limited in what they can do if they want to keep admitting a particular count of students every year. But I hope that both our state representatives and federal representatives will realize that defunding education will not be tolerated at all by my generation. We can do better than this.

**Sami Al-AbdrRabbuh**  
Corvallis School Board Member

## Submitting letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Authors of e-mailed letters will receive a reply for the purpose of verification. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. The Baro reserves the right to refuse publication of any submissions. Each reader will be allowed one published letter per month.

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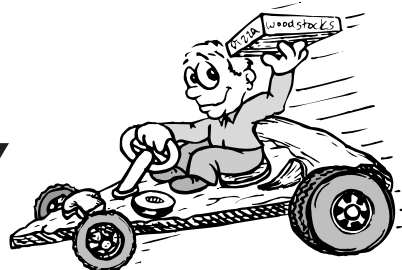
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## HOROSCOPE

**Monday, March 20 - Sunday, March 26, 2017**

**Aries: March 21 - April 19**  
The sun is entering your sign, marking the time of your yearly personal new year. Use the next four weeks to get your life together. It's a great time to let go of bad habits or toxic relationships. In general, you'll find it easier to make a fresh start.

**Taurus: April 20 - May 20**  
Mars in your sign now will increase your physical stamina. Focus on losing weight, eating right and staying busy. At work, be assertive and show off your skills and talents. In your personal life, entertain some fresh options and join some new groups.

**Gemini: May 21 - June 21**  
Spring is here, and you're ready to fall in love. The equinox energies will make you a little dreamy. You'll lose yourself to vivid fantasies about someone special. Or you'll develop a huge crush on somebody completely new. Fantasizing can be fun.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22**  
The moon is opposite your sign, and you could be questioning your romantic situation. If you're single, you're wondering whether you even want to try to date again. If you're with someone, you could be considering making some sort of big change. Keep meditating.

**Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22**  
Don't be too quick to dismiss someone. The moon is reminding you appearances can be deceiving. You could be attracted to somebody who isn't your usual type, even if you and this person clash in an intense way when the two of you first meet.

**Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22**  
The moon is helping you to be more courageous. If there's something you have been putting off doing, you'll find it easier to face that challenge. Or if you have been experiencing difficulty in a relationship, you'll do better interacting with that individual.

**Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 23**  
The sun is moving opposite your sign for a few weeks, so take it easy. Don't force yourself into making major decisions. You might not be seeing a situation too clearly. Consider all of your options rather than rushing into anything.

**Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 2**  
You're feeling super sensitive, and you need to take good care of yourself. The moon is drawing out some psychic poisons. You need to release a lot of stuff that no longer serves you. Hit this spa or the sauna and sweat things out.

**Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**  
You'll be more clear-headed than you have been in a while as Saturn helps you to see your way forward. If you have gotten involved with unproductive habits, career paths or relationships, you'll see the truth of the situation now. Take action accordingly.

**Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**  
Don't become too obsessed with your romance of the moment. You need to remain more balanced with your energy. The moon says make sure that you also focus on friendships, education and work obligations. Avoid letting a romance drive you crazy.

**Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**  
You're filled with creative ideas as the moon boosts your powers of imagination. You might come up with a concept for a screenplay, a book or an app. Take time to write down your ideas in case they could be further developed.

**Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20**  
You're in the mood for love and intimacy as Neptune makes things super cozy in your relationship. You'll find it hard to focus on simple life tasks like chores and work because you're enjoying a strong bond with somebody special.



Dr. Kurt S. Black

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## C R O S S W O R D

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### Across

- 1 \_\_\_ torch: party light
- 5 Gone from one's plate
- 10 "Eleni" author Nicholas
- 14 Nailed, as a test
- 15 Carne \_\_\_ : taco filling
- 16 Loads (of)
- 17 \*Home of baseball's Royals
- 19 Online journal
- 20 Terminate
- 21 Sign light
- 22 Dutch cheese
- 23 Federal hush-hush org.
- 24 \*Diagonally
- 27 Lament
- 29 Clod
- 30 "Silk Stockings" actress Charisse
- 31 Wine collector's datum
- 32 Gumbo vegetable
- 33 Laugh half
- 34 \*Large venomous snake
- 39 Young fellow
- 42 Opposite of spicy
- 43 Nile wading bird
- 47 Here, in Haiti
- 48 Santa \_\_\_ winds
- 49 GI's mess work
- 51 \*Hang out (with)
- 55 X, in old Rome
- 56 Cultural spirit

- 57 Not on base when req.
- 58 Org. whose awards ceremony Vince Gill hosted or co-hosted from 1992-2003
- 59 Indian bread
- 60 \*Martial arts move
- 63 Raison d'\_\_\_
- 64 Exchange suggestive glances, say
- 65 Cub scout units
- 66 Marries
- 67 Strikeout victim of poetry, and a phonetic hint to the answers to starred clues
- 68 Canadian tribe

### Down

- 1 Impressed with
- 2 Words when the blindfold comes off
- 3 Japanese ball-and-cups toy
- 4 Passports, e.g.
- 5 Enter slowly
- 6 Foppish neckwear
- 7 Besmirch
- 8 Summer hrs. at Yankee Stadium
- 9 Thumbs-down vote
- 10 Eva or Zsa Zsa
- 11 Out for a midday meal
- 12 The one without the patch, for Bazooka Joe
- 13 Dueler's cry
- 18 "Puppy Love" singer Paul
- 22 Excel in one's career
- 25 Ono from Tokyo
- 26 Low-\_\_\_ diet
- 28 Mork's planet
- 32 Med. condition that may involve excessive hand-washing
- 35 Apple desktops
- 36 Bogotá boy
- 37 Glittery rock genre
- 38 Help
- 39 Refurbished
- 40 Protective plastic film
- 41 Fanatically devoted
- 44 Cleaver user
- 45 Agenda start
- 46 Neural transmission point
- 49 \_\_\_ pine: paneling wood
- 50 Gomer of TV
- 52 Corn breads
- 53 "Les Misérables" city
- 54 Not clueless
- 60 Col. Sanders' chain
- 61 \_\_\_ carte
- 62 Atlanta-based public health org.

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# Brick Ally opens in Madison Plaza

Lego store started by shared family interest

By Jack Steindorf, News Contributor

Walking into Madison Plaza, your eye is immediately drawn to a cart outlined in string lights and filled with colors and unique Lego kits.

This cart is Brick Ally, and it is going to be the newest place to find Lego kits in downtown Corvallis when it opens on Saturday, April 1.

According to the cart's owner Ally Rogers, customers of Brick Ally will be able to buy and sell Lego kits. Rogers said she plans to have free mini-figures and other Lego-related items as giveaways during the opening. After opening, the plans for the hours of the shop are not yet set and will depend on demand.

The cart will be the newest tenant in Madison Plaza, a building in downtown Corvallis that Hugh White has owned for more than 39 years.

According to White, he has around 40 tenants at the moment. He said it is a great feeling to be able to help out budding businesses.

He has had stores in Madison Plaza that sell everything from educational products to coffee.

"They'll open and they'll immediately have customers," White said of all of the stores in Madison Plaza.

There are other stores that sell Lego products in Corvallis, including Gearbox Unlimited which, as of this year, is located in downtown Corvallis. Gearbox Unlimited began in late 2015 on the

north side of Corvallis as Brick Circuit.

"(It was a) vision that we developed in our family; we have 5 kids and we all love Legos," said Jonathan Brownell, the owner of Gearbox Unlimited.

According to Brownell, Gearbox Unlimited has Lego pieces and other items that bring out the creativity in people.

"The people who are interested in Lego are very, very diverse," Brownell said. "There are people who use Lego to actually model different kinds of mechanical designs. There are people who use Lego to construct big cities and dioramas."

While the target audience is diverse in Corvallis, Brick Ally owner Rogers also "likes the idea of appealing to adults."

The target market for the two stores is not identical, but both stores have one thing in common: they are companies born out of a family's love for Lego.

Rogers and her son had been playing with Lego pieces together long before the beginnings of Brick Ally.

"(It began as) just (my son) and I building to occupy time to get him off the screens and stuff like that," Rogers said. "We started to enjoy them together. I got into my little niches and we have



MIRANDA CROWELL | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Ally Rogers stands next to her new store, Brick Ally. The store opens on April 1, and will be the newest place to buy and sell Lego kits in downtown Corvallis.

his, mine and ours."

Rogers sees her store as an adventure for herself and her family.

"I want to be lowkey, I want to try and make sure that all of the deals I'm finding are getting relayed to the people I'm selling (to)," Rodgers said. "(I want to) make money and promote the fun Lego experience for everyone at a more affordable cost."

She will be running the store only with her

boyfriend and her son. It will only be open on weekends for now.

According to Rogers, she hopes to bring the fun of Lego to the Corvallis community.

"I want to be able to make money having fun and making people happy," Rogers said.

Brick Ally will open on April 1 in the Madison Plaza at 425 SW Madison Avenue in downtown Corvallis. More information can be found at the Brick Ally Facebook page.

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