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20



19

RENTER'S
GUIDE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEB. 18

Boldly Me Health Week - Zine Creation and Aromatherapy

Student Experience Center, Lobby
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feeling creative? Put that energy to good use during this crafting event as a part of our Sexual Health Fair. Students are encouraged to join OSU Craft Center staff members in the SEC lobby for two awesome activities: identity paper crafting and DIY aromatherapy product making. Boldly Me is a week-long celebration of healthy sexuality and promoting inclusivity for people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

2019 Winter Career Expo

CH2M Hill Alumni Center

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Looking for a summer job or internship? Now is the time to connect with some of the best employers in the country at the Oregon State Career Expo. As a leading research institution with land, sun, space, and sea grants, you are already innovators in your chosen fields. This career fair attracts approximately 130 employers seeking jobs and internships in STEM fields, the arts, humanities, business, and healthcare.

Housing Fair

Memorial Union Building, Ball Room
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Are you looking for new housing options for next year? Don't know where to start? Whether you end up on campus or off, there is a place perfect for you! Visit the Corvallis Housing Fair to connect with some of Corvallis' best housing vendors, quiz yourself on the Corvallis living guide for \$50 off of your security deposit with select vendors, get interior design inspiration, enter a raffle to win Bed Bath & Beyond and OSU Surplus items, and come find your new home.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

Tuition Open Forum

Memorial Union Building, 213

3 - 4 p.m.

The Budget Committee and the Office of Budget & Fiscal Planning are offering a series of weekly open forums to discuss tuition and answer any questions about tuition and the University budget.

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

Engineers Rock the Plaza

Student Experience Center Plaza

Bands are taking over the SEC Plaza for the Rock the Plaza social! All bands are made up of engineering students. Open to everyone to kick back and listen to good music. Warm cider and snacks provided!



RAE MA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Some students have busy schedules or students live far from campus, making it difficult to go home to eat. Meal prep may help students regulate nutrition intake, according to Mary Cluskey, nutrition associate professor in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

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The Barometer is published on Mondays, except holidays, during the academic school year and summer with additional content, including video, available online.

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COVER: Graphic by Natalie Lutz.

Welcome to the 2019 Renters' Guide

Whether you are looking for a place to live, a new roommate, room decoration ideas or meal prep options, the 2019 Renters' Guide has you covered.

WHERE SHOULD I LIVE NEXT YEAR?

Are you deciding what living situation would best suit you next year? Take this quiz to see what type of housing matches you the best.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WALKING TO CLASS?

- A. I want to walk the least amount possible.
- B. I don't mind, but I'd rather walk with a group of people.
- C. I'd rather drive to campus every day.
- D. I love walking to campus, exercise is great!

DO YOU HAVE OR WANT TO HAVE PETS DURING COLLEGE?

- A. Nope, that's way too much commitment.
- B. I would, but I'd rather live with a lot of other people than pets.
- C. I want a pet with low commitment—a hamster maybe?
- D. I may or may not already have four dogs and three cats...

DO YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LOT OF PERSONAL SPACE?

- A. Nope, I don't care!
- B. I love being around people; I'm a social butterfly!
- C. I sometimes like to have personal space, but mostly I don't mind.
- D. I need a lot of personal space!

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A LOT OF ROOMMATES?

- A. One or two is fine! Although I don't mind a lot of people living in the same building.
- B. Yes—I would love living with a lot of people!
- C. I don't want a lot of roommates, the fewer the better.
- D. Four or five roommates would be perfect.

Answered mostly **A's**? See page **4** for on-campus housing information.

Answered mostly **B's**? See page **17** for Fraternity and Sorority Life information.

Answered mostly **C's**? See page **14** for off-campus house information.

Answered mostly **D's**? See page **23** for off-campus apartment information.

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Life of an RA

Live-in peer mentors manage residence halls



CLAIRE NELSON | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Resident assistants Erik Ruby (Left) and Will Duke (Right) smile for the camera in West Hall, where they both work as resident assistants.

By LILLIAN NOMIE
News Contributor

For Oregon State University students who are considering their residential options for next year, becoming a residential assistant is a potential option, and the application deadline is Mar. 3.

A resident assistant is a live-in peer mentor who helps manage the residence hall they are in. Some current student RAs say their favorite parts of being a resident assistant include living on campus, being a part of a community and helping guide others through the transition into college. However, RAs can face challenges such as combating the odd working hours and living in the same space they work. RAs are also required to be a full-time student in good academic standing.

Buxton Resident Assistant Tim Albertine, a sophomore in mechanical engineering, says he decided to become an RA because it made sense financially and he wanted to continue to be a part of the community in the same building he stayed in as a first-year.

Nick North, the University Housing and Dining Services resident area director, said, "One of the biggest draws for the position is not having to pay for housing and meals."

The position includes a resident hall room, an RA Meal Plan, and a \$300 stipend per term.

Being a resident assistant has many perks, which can be worth it if students already have a passion for mentoring others and are prepared to put in the work, according to West Hall

Resident Assistant, Will Duke an oceanography major in his second year.

"The benefits are pretty great but there are some aspects of the job that don't work for everyone," Duke said. "So, if you're looking to be a resident assistant just for the on-campus housing and the room and board it probably wouldn't be the best choice."

For students looking to live on campus next year and obtain a job, the RA position checks both of those boxes.

One thing current RAs warn potential RAs to be aware of is the late hours. A typical shift for an RA is 8 p.m. to midnight on weekdays and 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The university approximates around 15 hours a week per RA.

"Make sure you are ready for the weird hours and the time commitment," said Erik Ruby, a West Hall resident assistant and second year studio arts and pre graphic design major.

"If you're on duty on the weekends, you do have to be up until two a.m. and that's not including if you get an emergency call on the duty phone. So your sleep schedule might get a little wacky. Make sure you are ready to make that commitment."

According to Albertine, even when he is not on duty, he is still an RA.

RAs live where they work. For some, that is very convenient and for others, that can cause a conflict in how much time they are spending

See RA Page 7

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Ways to save money

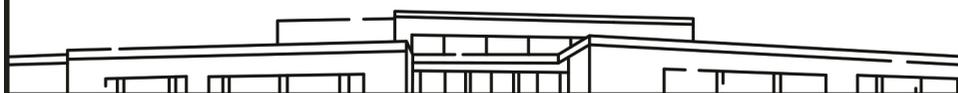


By MICHAEL EUBANKS
News Contributor

Budgeting tips courtesy of the Office of Student Life

- Long-term leases are generally cheaper than paying rent month to month. If possible, consider signing a six or 12 month lease to save money.
- It is suggested that no more than 30 percent of gross income should be spent on living expenses. For example, if you made \$1000 a month working part time, you should only spend \$300 in living expenses.
- Living with roommates might not always be ideal, but roommates can help cut living expenses in half or more. A \$900 rent is \$450 split between two people, or \$300 between three.
- If living with roommates, make sure they are legally on the lease with you. Ensure your name isn't the only one on all of the utilities as well.
- Credit cards can be your best friend or your worst enemy. Credit cards are great for building credit, but be advised that if the balance isn't paid in full each month, interest may be charged, and that can add up quickly.
- Eliminate unnecessary purchases. A \$5 coffee every day sounds great, but it adds up to \$150 a month.
- Develop a monthly budget. Factor in all charges that will be assessed each month (rent, utilities, internet/ phone bills, insurance, ect.). Make sure to allot a specified amount each month for unexpected or emergency purchases such as car repair or medical bills. Plan for major purchases in advance.

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Discounts offered for on-campus housing

Second-year students can save \$1,050 on room rate

By JADA KRENING
News Reporter

Although Oregon State University students typically seek off-campus housing after their first year in residence halls, students who decide to continue living on-campus receive special benefits and discounts that vary from year to year, though not including a dining plan.

Second-year and above students who sign up to live on-campus for the upcoming 2019-20 school year receive \$1,050 off next year's annual room rate, in addition to other perks not available to students living off campus.

There are currently over 700 second-year and above students, including transfer and graduate students, living in on-campus housing.

Jennifer Viña, associate director of University Housing & Dining Services, said housing options for second-year and above students include reserved floors and wings in buildings like Halsell, Tebeau, Hawley and Buxton Hall. Several room options are available for students, including singles, doubles, triples and suites.

Moreover, UHDS offers a dedicated building to second-year and above students in Halsell Hall, located on the south side of campus, adjacent to Arnold Dining Hall, Cascadia Market and the International Learning-Living Center. The hall features apartment-style housing, complete with furniture, a living space, TV and streaming entertainment, a bathroom, appliances and a kitchen facility.

Halsell Hall also includes the Transfer Student Living Room, providing a lounge and home for transfer students to gather at OSU.

Rates at Halsell vary depending on which room option students select, ranging from \$6,630 to \$11,940 per year.

Current OSU students get first priority when selecting their rooms, in addition to the \$1,050 per year discount.

On-campus second-year and above students across campus enjoy included amenities like laundry, academic support, late-night food delivery and fast wifi, along with discounts on dining center meals, according to Viña.

"Second-year and above students often choose to live on-campus another year to enjoy the same convenience and support available to them their first year at OSU," Viña said via email. "We also see many students who did not get the chance to live on-campus previously apply for on-campus housing to get better connected to campus life."



Halsell Hall is one of the many on-campus residence halls for students to live in and become more involved with the campus through.

CANON WRIGHT | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

RA, Continued from page 4

in one place.

Ruby said living and working in the resident halls can be overwhelming, so it is important to find things to enjoy outside the dorms.

“Sometimes it feels like a fulltime job because you live where you work and that can be stressful,” Ruby said.

Creating an emotionally and physically safe environment for the students living in the resident halls is a main responsibility for RAs, according to North. Additionally, he says RAs should be encouraging students academically and making sure they are personally successful, which involves having one-on-one conversations as well as facilitating floor meetings, and promoting and attending OSU and UHDS programs.

Besides providing a place to live and work, being an RA presents students with many other experiences.

“There’s a lot of different projects you do, such as decorating the bulletin boards, that can allow you to show your creative side,” Duke said. “Being a resident assistant also looks really good on a resume and all the skills that you gain and developed while you’re on the job can be applicable in any field.”

In order to be considered for an RA position, there are specific requirements including being a full-time OSU student or degree-partnership student, having an OSU cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, maintaining good academic and conduct standing with OSU and UHDS, and passing a Criminal History Check. RAs must be

Sometimes it feels like a full-time job because you live where you work and that can be stressful.

Erik Ruby
Resident Assistant

able to build relationships with people, address conflict and complete administrative tasks in a timely manner.

Similar to any job, there is a training period for live-in student staff. This takes place two to three weeks prior to move-in day of fall term.

“This training focuses mostly on community building, crisis response and student support, and logistics and procedures. Additionally, student staff have ongoing training throughout the year including at the beginning of winter term and during staff meetings every week,” North said.

The 2019-20 RA application closes on Mar. 3, 2019, and can be found on the UHDS website. <https://uhds.oregonstate.edu/makeanimpact>. Any further questions can be answered at hallstaffselection@oregonstate.edu.

“Living on campus was very convenient last year and I get paid to do it this year,” Ruby said. “Plus, it’s really nice to have that sense of community already instilled in where you’re living.”



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Resident assistants Erik Ruby (Left) and Will Duke (Right) juggle the responsibilities of being RAs with the benefits.

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Local organizations offer alternative student-housing options

By MICHAEL EUBANKS
News Contributor

With high costs for tuition and books, as well as minimal pay for most part-time and entry-level jobs, some Oregon State University students have a difficult time finding affordable housing. According to a 2016 report by the Oregon Housing and Community Services, 37 percent of households, slightly over one in every three are labeled as severely rent burdened. This is the highest percentage in any city over 10,000 in Oregon. Severely rent-burdened households are defined as households that spend more than 50 percent of income on rent.

There are multiple organizations in Corvallis, however, that can help students in need of housing assistance. These organizations include Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services, Community Services Consortium and the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence.

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services works to provide affordable housing specifically to seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, families and households with children in Linn and Benton Counties. Rebecka Weinstein, Community Engagement Manager at WNHS has worked with OSU students in the past as tenants of the organizations affordable housing.

“We are in a housing crisis and affordable housing options can be hard to find. No one should have to choose between paying rent or putting food on the table,” Weinstein said.

Students who apply to WNHS for services must meet income eligibility requirements specific to each household. Students must be over 24 years old, though individuals under 24 who can prove independence from parents or guardians may be eligible.

In addition to providing affordable housing, the organization also helps members of the community who are interested in saving up for their first home.

“We have a match savings program for folks that qualify, to help them save up for a



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The Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence provides emergency housing for people seeking safe shelter after sexual assault or domestic violence.

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JACOB LAGMAY | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services works to provide affordable housing to households specifically with children, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

down payment. We have homebuyer education workshops and as funding is available, there are certain times where we are able to offer assistance programs for folks who are at risk for foreclosure," Weinstein said.

Community Services Consortium

In addition to providing food, educational and employment assistance, Community Services Consortium provides housing assistance to low income individuals and families in Linn, Benton and Lincoln County.

"Our mission is to help people in these communities access tools and resources to overcome poverty and build brighter, more stable futures," said Joshua Stanley, the Eligibility Navigator at CSC.

The organization provides rent and utility assistance for low-income households who are struggling to pay bills, as well as Renter education classes specialized in helping individuals who are having a difficult time finding a landlord who will rent to them better market themselves to landlords and be desirable tenants.

Eligibility for services CSC offers is based on income, and students looking to utilize CSC's services will need to provide current income information.

Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence

The Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence serves both Linn and Benton Counties and provides free, confidential services for victims, including housing.

"We have emergency shelters where we provide housing for people that need a safe location to go to after they've experienced sexual assault or domestic violence. [The shelters] are single family homes where people have a room or the space that they need to get on their feet again," said Letetia Wilson, the Executive Director of CARDV.

The organization owns all of the homes, which feature standard bedrooms and beds. Victims may live in the homes with others.

"You might be staying with other people who have experienced violence and are also trying to get on their feet," Wilson said.

In addition to providing free housing, the organization also helps victims find places to rent within the community.

"We can help connect them with rental companies or people that are renting in the community so that they can move into a safe place. We also connect to financial resources in the community if they need help with money," Wilson said.

The organization is available for everyone, including OSU students. Wilson also stated that although the organization's offices are located in south Corvallis, students do not have to come directly to the offices to access CARDV's services. A representative from the group can come onto OSU's campus and meet a victim in a safe, confidential area. The organization can be reached at their 24-hour crisis support line, and all phone calls are confidential.

"Everything we do is confidential. We don't release any information that we get from people to anybody," Wilson said.

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The Daily Barometer's Roommate Agreement

Moving in with new people can sometimes be a challenge. Whether you are living with your best friend or someone you barely know, setting terms before you move in is always a good idea. This roommate agreement can help you and your roommates set ground rules and expectations of your household. Feel free to cut out this page, take it to your roommates and fill it out together. Then stick it on your refrigerator and refer to it if any problems arise!

NOISE LEVEL

When you're studying at home, what is the expected noise level?
 quiet loud music no music doesn't matter

Any specific quiet hours? _____

SECURITY

Is it okay to leave the windows open at night?
 yes no

Should doors be locked while gone or while home?
 home gone both

Where will the spare key be?
 hide for selves give to others none

GUESTS

Do guests need to be approved before they are invited over?
 yes no

Are get-togethers okay? yes no discuss

Is alcohol allowed? yes no

Are overnight guests allowed?
 yes no

HYGIENE

How clean should the space be?
 immaculate messy but not dirty don't care

Who should clean what?
 designated chores clean up after self tag team

BORROWING ITEMS

Clothes/shoes/makeup/etc? yes no ask first

Appliances/utensils/supplies? yes no ask first

FOOD

How should grocery shopping be done?
 together separate

How should food be cooked? together separate

Is food shared? yes no ask first

How should food be stored?
 designated spaces labeled with names wherever

TEMPERATURE

Turn off heat if it reaches ____°F Turn off air if it reaches ____°F

BILLS

How should bills be paid?
 together separate give money to designated roommate

DECORATIONS

Should shared spaces be decorated?
 together no deco check with others

OTHER

List pet peeves:

If a problem arises, what is the preferred method of communication?
 roommate meeting one-on-one text note

Discuss these topics:

What to do when an individual is upset.

What are preferred sleep schedules?

WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE ABOVE TOPICS AND ARE READY TO LIVE TOGETHER:

ROOMMATE #1

ROOMMATE #2

ROOMMATE #3

ROOMMATE #4

ROOMMATE #5

Experts say plan meals, eat mindfully

Instructor says gradual improvements to current diet could ease transition to healthier eating



RAE MA | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Sesame udon with vegetables is a meal that is easy to produce and prep in large quantities, to prepare for a busy upcoming week.

By MORGAN MAWN
News Contributor

Learning to plan meals may prove to be difficult for many Oregon State University students when on and off-campus, as they transition from having meals prepared at home or with more structure occurred in the past.

There has been a popularization of college legends such as the “Freshman 15”, according to Mary Cluskey, nutrition associate professor in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences. However, she says techniques such as meal prepping and smart grocery shopping can lead to better eating habits.

Emma Wycoff, OSU second-year mechanical engineering major, found that she was able to find a stabilizing routine through planning healthy meals.

“Having a set plan for meals helps make my day a little easier. It’s one less thing to think about and it’s ready when I need it,” Wycoff said.

Erica Woekel, director of the Lifetime

Fitness for Health Program, said beginner meal preppers should start slow. Planning a few simple meals and gradually increasing frequency and difficulty of the planned meals is the easiest way to start. Wycoff follows this mentality by planning dinner for each school day.

“I usually try to have at least dinners planned for each day during the school week. That’s always the hardest meal for me to cook or plan, so it’s easier to have it prepped and not have to do it the day of,” Wycoff said.

Woekel explained that having meals planned and ready to eat prevents mindless eating that many students fall into a habit of when they live on their own. According to Woekel, many students fall into habits of thoughtlessly eating through a whole bag of chips while studying or grabbing the most convenient food on the way to campus. To counteract these actions, Woekel suggests these students practice mindful eating habits such as meal prepping. By having it,

See MEAL PREP Page 12



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MEAL PREP, Continued from page 11

snacks or meals already prepared, students can avoid accidentally overeating or giving into cravings, Woekel said.

Deciding which foods to include in a meal prep is where many students may face challenges. Woekel believes that making healthy food choices boils down to focusing on food groups and making small improvements to foods you already eat. She suggests having a couple meal ideas including lean protein, whole grains, fruits and vegetables and being more aware of the nutritional value of meals.

Woekel stressed the importance of eating a diverse diet that includes all the necessary food groups and nutrients, despite what many current popular diets say. According to Cluskey, trendy diets often cycle through society, such as keto, organic, gluten free and many others. Cluskey said these restrictive eating schedules often popularize misconceptions of healthy foods.

Cluskey says she once encountered a participant in one of her studies who believed frozen vegetables weren't a healthy food choice due to possible preservatives and chemicals included in the product which it clearly was not on the package label as the participant could see. However, as Cluskey said, frozen vegetables may actually be a smarter meal prep choice than fresh. Frozen vegetables are frozen in peak condition, so if they're prepped in advance for meals and kept frozen they won't lose nutrients during the waiting period.

"The thing with fresh is they're already three to five days old when they get to the grocery store. By the time they get consumed or cooked, they're actually less fresh and nutritious, in terms of having vitamins and minerals, than if they were in a frozen package. It's all about handling," Cluskey said.

Some other grocery shopping tips Woekel suggested are shopping the perimeter of the grocery store and being wary of displays. Along the perimeter of most grocery stores are the protein, grains, fruits and vegetables. According to Woekel, these food groups should be the main building blocks for meal prep. Wycoff follows these rules while grocery shopping and tries to cut out unhealthy snacks to prevent future snacking slip-ups.

"I try to mostly buy healthy and nutritious foods while I shop and avoid things that are empty calories. I might pick up an unhealthy snack or two while I'm at school, but I don't like to keep them at home. I know that if I just don't have it around, I won't eat it and I won't miss it," Wycoff said.

Woekel recognized that cutting out every unhealthy food or snack isn't viable, even meal preppers deserve the occasional guilty pleasure. Woekel suggested making small improvements to these foods, such as including additional vegetables and proteins in instant ramen, a college classic.

Grocery Store Tours, an OSU program through the Lifetime Fitness For Health course, offers a time for students to learn from mentors about how to pick foods that fit their dietary needs while grocery shopping. Brooklyn Reeves, a member of the program who trained the volunteers leading Grocery Store Tours, said that the tours are tailored to fit the needs of students living in the dorms or other living conditions that it aren't convenient to shop or cook in often.



Rice with vegetables can be an easy and healthy meal to prep ahead of time, so students can avoid grabbing fast food when they are pressed for time.

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Renters insurance can prevent surprise bills

By JADA KRENING
News Reporter

For the cost of around \$10-15 per month, students living off-campus can protect their personal belongings and property in cases of perils like theft, vandalism and fire and water damage with a renters insurance policy.

According to Scott Robblee, the agency owner of the Robblee Agency of Corvallis and the Robblee Agency of Salem, many landlords in Corvallis require a renters insurance policy. Robblee described renters insurance as a homeowner's policy for those who don't own their home, and said renters insurance protects tenant's belongings and provides them with liability protection.

"If you have friends over and someone trips over a laptop cord and injures themselves, this could pay for their bills," Robblee said via email.

According to Robblee, renters insurance can cover tenants in numerous situations.

"There are a billion different scenarios in which your policy will come to your defense if you screw up."

Babette Langdon, owner and agent of the Langdon Group Allstate Agency, recommends that students obtain renters insurance, even if their landlord does not require it.

"We all have belongings, and replacing them if they are stolen or damaged outside of our residence can be a very costly expense," Langdon said via email. "Also, accidents happen, usually at the least convenient times. Insurance is designed to take the risk away from the consumer and pay an insurance company to absorb that risk thereby protecting you and the things you own."

Renters insurance coverage also typically protects tenants from loss when they are away from their home, such as a hotel. Robblee said renters insurance liability is there when it is needed -- when students travel, go away on vacation, or head home for the summer.

Langdon said a typical policy covering \$20,000 of personal property is approximately \$12 a month, and that a policy can easily be obtained through most insurance carriers with a 20 minute phone call.

"Call your insurance company. They'll have a renter's policy almost every time," Robblee said via email.



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Resources available at ASOSU Legal Services for student renters

Common complications for students include eviction rights, expectations of landlords

By ALEXIS CAMPBELL
News Contributor

As spring term approaches, many students will begin signing leases for off-campus housing. If they find themselves unsure about what rights they have as tenants, one option is to visit the Associated Students of Oregon State University Student Legal Services.

At Student Legal Services, legal advising is offered, where students can get questions regarding their rights answered. In some circumstances, Student Legal Services can also provide limited representation for landlord and tenant disputes.

One question students may be wondering about as they move into their new housing is under what circumstances they may be evicted.

According to Marc Friedman, an attorney and the executive director of ASOSU legal services, the most common reason for eviction is a failure to pay rent. Oregon law gives tenants seven days past the due date to make their payment. This is cause for an expedited eviction, in which tenants can be asked to move out with 72 hours notice. However, tenants have the right to immediately settle the issue by paying rent.

According to Friedman, if a student is in a month-to-month tenancy then they can be presented with a no-cause eviction with either

30 days notice or 60 days depending on how long they've lived there. However, new laws in Oregon will soon change this process, making it more difficult for landlords to evict tenants with no cause.

As far as what students should expect from their living space, Friedman said that landlords must ensure that the living space is clean and safe.

"First and foremost, they are entitled to live in a habitable dwelling," Friedman said.

Oregon has habitability laws, and the city of Corvallis also has its own livability code. Both of these can be accessed online. According to Friedman, habitability requirements include but are not limited to sanitation, heat, locking doors and a space free of pest infestation and mold.

Tenants also have a right to a certain expectation of privacy. According to Friedman, a landlord is required to give 24 hours of notice before entering a tenant's home. They are also not allowed to continuously enter after that first notice.

"If a week or two later they say I need to come back again, there's not a hard and fast rule but there's a point where that becomes unreasonable," Friedman said.

Friedman commonly sees issues relating to security deposits, usually in regards to

them being withheld for unjust reasons or not being returned within the 31 day limit of the tenant vacating.

According to Friedman, the best way for a tenant to ensure that they receive their deposit back is by carefully documenting the condition of the apartment at the time they move in. Friedman said that a reputable property management company will generally provide a checklist for tenants to mark off damages existing at the time of move in. However, they can effectively document the condition on their own by taking pictures and having them on record with the landlord.

According to Friedman, it becomes much more difficult to receive a withheld security deposit without this evidence.

"If we have good documentation of the condition, it is much easier for us to fight those battles," Friedman said.

First time tenants may be confused on what to expect from their landlords if something happens to break in their unit. According to Friedman, it is critical to immediately notify the landlord. Once the tenant has contacted the landlord, they should receive a response within 48 to 72 hours at the latest.

"If the tenant has made the complaint and the landlord is nonresponsive, they would want to come in and talk with us about the next

steps," Friedman said.

Friedman said that a nonresponsive landlord as well as critical habitability issues may lead to a tenant being able to terminate their lease early.

According to Friedman, a landlord is legally not allowed to take retaliatory action against a tenant for their actions. Yet, what counts as retaliatory conduct can be difficult to define and to prove.

"Say you complained about your shower, and the landlord fixes the shower and turns around and gives you an eviction notice. That's a little suspicious. So that could potentially be an example of retaliatory conduct," Friedman said.

Retaliatory conduct is another situation in which tenants will have an easier time proving it has occurred if they have documented interactions.

Before renting a unit, Friedman suggests that students meet with ASOSU legal services.

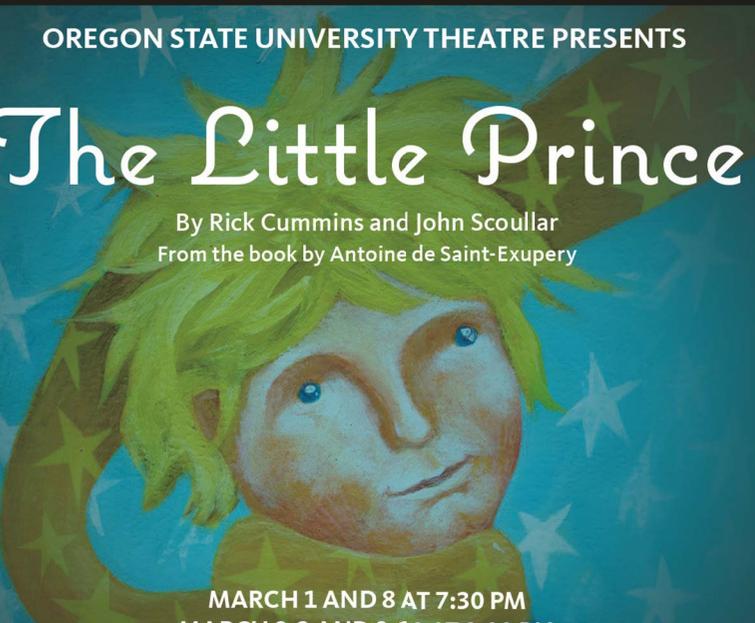
"We would encourage anyone before they sign the lease, if they've got any questions at all, or if they're just unsure, they can always meet with us and have us review the lease so we can explain what they're getting into," Friedman said.

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Students on the Street: What do you wish you knew before moving into your current living situation?

By NOAH NELSON
News Contributor

Photography By JACOB LAGMAY
OMN Photographer



ALEXIS MERCULIEF

Second-year HDFS graduate student

"I wish there were more ways to find roommates."



SUSMITHA MATLAPUDI

Third-year microbiology student

"One of the hardest things about living off campus is having to stay on campus all day. I have early classes, work, and late evening practices, and often end up having 12-14 hour days on campus."



JASNIT TIWANA

Fourth-year marketing and management student

"I wish I knew how long the commute would be beforehand."



EFRAIN ORTEGA

Fourth-year kinesiology student

"It's good to add the cost of utilities while calculating your budget."



EVIETTA CHAPMAN

Second-year business student

"I wish I would have known that I would not always have my own space. I have to share a desk."



SYDNEY HOCKIN

First-year marketing student

"I wish I would have found my way around before moving in, because orienting myself on campus was tough at first."



KEVIN HOO

Third-year marketing student

"I probably should have calculated how much the electricity bill would be, as well as wifi."



ANGEL ESQUIO RUIZ

Fourth-year psychology student

"I'm an RA, so I wish I would have known how much work it would be. I have to be responsible for so many students, so my living situation is also my job."



Q&A: Nathan Erickson, Sigma Phi Epsilon

By VADA SHELBY
News Contributor

One of the main conflicts students have when considering Greek Life is changes in pricing and lifestyle. A common misconception, according to first year Sigma Phi Epsilon Nathan Erickson, is that all houses are the same and ask the same out of their members. Although there is a process for joining a house different from dorm living, Erickson thinks it's worth it for many reasons.

Erickson explained that he lived in West Hall before moving into the house. He was chosen to be one of the few first year students allowed to live in the house, and says it has worked out for the best in his case. When living in West Hall, Erickson said he didn't feel comfortable asking anyone for homework help or approaching anybody.

What is your sleeping/living situation like in the house you live in?

We have sleeping porches that are basically the size of dorm rooms, but with lower ceilings. There's different sleeping porches for different people, like some for light sleepers or people who snore.

What are some unique things about Sigma Phi Epsilon?

There are multiple rooms designated to studying. The house is tailored to guys who are dedicated to academics. It's also a dry house, so there's no smoking or drinking at all. The house also has a private chef that cooks lunch and dinner for us. Lunch is at 11:30 and dinner is at 5:30.

What is your day-to-day like in the house?

We have a "bump sheet", which is a type of chore list that determines duties around the house as well as things like first dibs. At meals, you could be "bumped out" to the back of the line by someone higher up, but the upperclassmen don't do that to lower students, and sometimes even go to the back of the line on their own because there's always enough food. Since I'm low on the bump sheet, I usually do dishes.

What's something you think people should know about living in houses next year?

There's an accommodation plan coming for seniors next year where living would only be 450/term or 900/term with a meal plan. Also, every Monday night there is chapter. It's a big meeting where everyone in the house comes to regroup and discuss things like rules, morals, budgets, and activities. It's a formal activity where etiquette is important.

Q&A: Nathan Marx, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Had you ever lived in dorms before joining Greek Life?

If so, what are the pros and cons you saw to each? Yes, I lived in Weatherford. The best thing about Weatherford is that it was close to everything, but you weren't able to hangout with a lot of people. In the house, you are able to hangout with a lot of people, but you aren't close to a lot of things.

What's your favorite part about being involved in Greek Life?

Meeting new people.

What's something you'd like students not involved in Greek Life to know about it?

The stereotypes about fraternities are not always true.

What does your day-to-day look like in the fraternity?

Wake up, eat, go to class, hang out with my friends in the house.

What are you plans for living next year?

I plan on living in next year.

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EUGENE AIRPORT

Eugene

Communication between landlord, tenant needed to address damages

Damages due to neglect or improper use could often lead to loss in security deposit return

By MORGAN MAWN
News Contributor

After Oregon State University first-year students fulfill their live-on requirement in the residence halls, some of these students become first-time renters. When searching for a place to rent, students are confronted with a new financial landscape involving security deposits and tenant's rights, an environment they may have never encountered before.

Duane Jager, a landlord of properties in Corvallis, said that good communication between landlord and tenant is crucial for alleviating the tenant's stress and preventing further harm to the home. Damages left unattended can worsen over time or even cause new issues. As the issues worsen and multiply, the money necessary to fix them will also increase. Landlords will often not charge tenants for normal wear and tear damage, but damages that occur due to neglect or improper use will lead to losing the money a tenant has put into the security deposit.

"It is important to know about issues right away, especially if they involve water, electrical, heating, or payment of rent. Not only is it important because the landlord want as little damage to the property as possible, but I feel it is also important that the tenants are happy," Jager said via email.

Jared McMullen, a second-year OSU student and tenant of Jager, recounted when the toilet in the main bathroom of his home began leaking and required immediate action to prevent water damage to the floor. McMullen said that Jager had someone out to the house within a day or two to alleviate the problem.

"We had no idea how to fix it ourselves, so we were really grateful for our landlord's help," McMullen said.

While the form of communication that works best for tenant and landlord may vary case by case, Jager said that texting is often the best way to get a quick response while email or phone call may be best for a longer conversation.

McMullen said that texting his landlord to resolve issues or questions has been the most effective tactic for him and his roommates. Whenever there's damage in the house or a question about rent, McMullen uses text to communicate questions and concerns to his landlord.

"Our landlord's response is always really timely, so we never really have to worry about something becoming a long-term problem," McMullen said.

Although many students choose to live off-campus after their first year, some students opt to remain in the dorms as a resident or resident assistant. Unlike living off-campus where it is often optional, it is required to report damages upon move-in to avoid future charges.

Kathryn Magura, assistant director of operations for OSU, said that students living in the dorms are recommended to report damages during move-in because these reports will later be compared with damage found after the tenant has moved out. If there is unreported damage in the room, the tenant will be charged. Magura said that by not reporting damages, students are practically signing up to lose money.



RIDWANA RAHMAN | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Tenants and landlords should remain in communication to ensure problems and damage are resolved quickly, and tenants are not charged excessive fees.

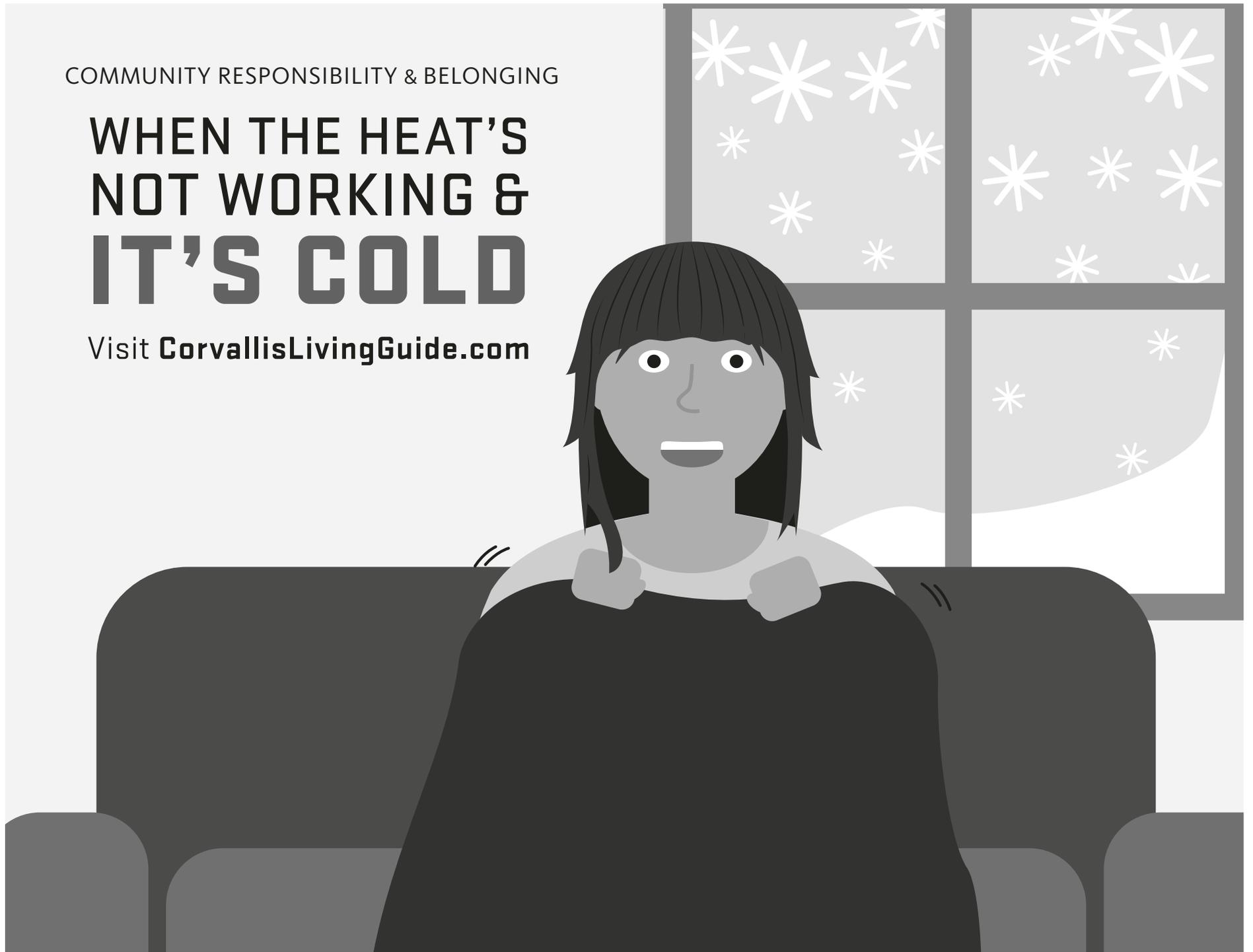
Learn everything you need to know about living in Corvallis:

- Finding a place to live
- Your rights as a tenant
- The application process
- Budgeting and paying utilities
- Safety/theft/fire hazards
- Living with roommates and pets

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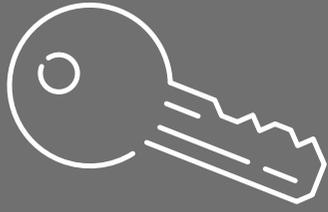
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Do you know your options and resources for housing problems? Who do you call to help resolve a conflict with your roommate or when you're concerned about an unreturned security deposit? Learn more at CorvallisLivingGuide.com.

ADULTING

Living away from home can be both intimidating and exciting – new experiences, and new responsibilities, too. Here are some resources and tips to help you meet your new adulting responsibilities:

TENANT RIGHTS

- The city of Corvallis has recently enacted a municipal code aimed at protecting public health, safety and welfare in regards to real property. Find out more about the Corvallis Livability Code here: corvallisoregon.gov/cd/page/corvallis-livability-code. Call the Rental Housing Program at 541-766-6552.
- ASOSU Student Legal Services offers free legal services, including lease reviews. This is a great opportunity to learn everything about your lease before you sign it. They may also advise students on how to resolve problems with their landlord according to landlord-tenant law.

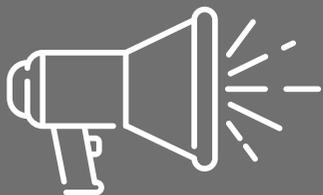
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

- As an Oregon State student, you represent the university – whether you're socializing on campus, eating at a restaurant in Corvallis or visiting friends in Portland. Breaking the law or violating a city ordinance is a violation of the OSU Code of Student Conduct, and in addition to citation fines and fees, the university's

Student Conduct and Community Standards will initiate conduct proceedings that generally involve a hearing, investigation and, if found responsible, sanctions.

COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT

- Poor communication can often escalate problems, and make or break relationships. Many students believe that moving in with their best friends will be drama free, but being roommates can certainly change things. A roommate agreement may include a written contract that outlines agreed upon terms and conditions of living together and a process for resolving conflict.
- When you encounter a problem with your property, talk to your property manager. If you have a problem with your roommate you should generally have a direct conversation with your roommate first. There are other resources and strategies to resolving conflict, too, but when you have a problem with someone, direct communication is usually a good place to start.
- If extra support is needed, the University Ombuds Office and Neighbor-to-Nighbor Community Mediation services are fantastic resources for roommate or other conflicts.



Have you ever been worried about getting the police called on you for hosting a party? CorvallisLivingGuide.com has the resources you need to prevent this from happening.

PARTY SMART

If you decide to host a party or just have a few friends over, be safe and respectful of your neighbors. Below are some tips:

RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Notify your neighbors about a party in advance and give them a phone number to call if the noise becomes excessive. Keep in mind, neighbors have no obligation to call you before they call the police.

ALCOHOL

- Have sober monitors who can look out for anyone getting intoxicated and speak to the police or neighbors if they stop by.
- Don't allow open sources of alcohol or premixed and sweetened drinks such as jungle juice. The alcohol content may vary and can be masked with high levels of sugar.

NOISE AND TRASH

- Keep the party inside to keep down the noise. Can you hear music from outside? If so, turn down the music and close the doors and windows.
- Clean up after yourself and your party. You may have had a party, but it shouldn't look like it the next morning.

RESPECT THE LAW

- Don't let your guests drink and drive. Even riding a bicycle when impaired is considered a DUII. As the host, you may also be liable if someone at your party receives a DUII. Call a taxi or use ASOSU SafeRide to get your guests home safely.
- Consider applying for a sound permit (it only costs \$5!) through the City of Corvallis if you are planning on throwing a party with loud music to avoid conflict with the law.



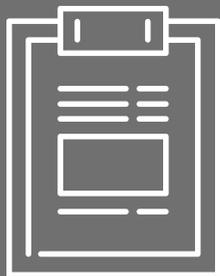
Want to protect your possessions from theft? Learn how at CorvallisLivingGuide.com.

THEFT PROTECTION

Corvallis is a safe place to live, and the crime rate is relatively low. Break-ins and bike thefts are the most common type of thefts, so learn how to keep your home, car and belongings safe:

HOME PROTECTION

- Keep all doors and windows locked, including garage doors. A surprising majority of burglaries are reported as unforced entry.
- Prevent window shopping. Close curtains or blinds.
- Don't leave valuables in your car.
- Be bright. Connect an automatic timer plug to an interior lamp and turn on your porch light to deter burglars.
- Burglars often target homes when they see mail piling up on the doorstep. Use the free hold mail service if you're going to be away.
- Don't trust the garden gnome. Burglars know all the hiding spots for house keys.
- Getting to know your neighbors can greatly reduce the chances of a break-in.
- Keep in mind that burglaries tend to increase during winter and spring breaks. Take extra precautions if you plan on leaving Corvallis during breaks.



Are you stressed and anxious about finding a rental? Visit CorvallisLivingGuide.com to learn the ins and outs of the application process.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION PROCESS

- You and each of your roommates may be asked to fill out an application, and there is usually a fee of about \$30 to \$75 per person.
- The landlord may run your credit report and/or a criminal background check.

SIGNING A LEASE

- Once your application has been approved, you will sign a lease. If you will be living with roommates, make sure all tenants and co-signers sign the lease and submit it all at one time. You do not want to end up signing and submitting your copy of the lease only to discover that none of your roommates and/or co-signers signed or submitted theirs. You could be held responsible for the total rent amount for the entire lease term.

- Each roommate should determine their own personal budget. How much can you afford for entertainment, cable and rent every month? Roommates should discuss their collective budget. How much can roommates afford to pay in monthly rent collectively? Will roommates have their own room or share?

SCAMS

- Far too many students are preyed upon by rental housing scams. Here are some red flags:
 - Requests to wire funds via Money-Gram or Western Union
 - Long-distance landlords
 - Requests of personal banking information
 - Requests for verification codes



Participating Housing Providers

The following property managers/properties are participating in the Corvallis Living Guide program. Each housing provider offers either one \$50 discount per rental unit (only one student in the rental must pass the quiz), or a \$50 discount to each student within a rental unit who passes the quiz (i.e., five students=\$250 discount).

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NYJAH GOBERT | ORANGE MEDIA NETWORK

Maggie Murray splits chores with her roommate in their apartment.

Kalama: Choose your roommates wisely

By JAYCEE KALAMA
Columnist

Right now is the time to start looking into housing situations for next school year, it's also the perfect time to begin the search for roommates. Although it may seem like the best idea to room with a close friend, there are other factors that play into what makes a roommate a good roommate. Finding a compatible roommate is important because you will probably sign a lease, which means that you'll be stuck together until your contract ends.

While you and your best friend may be used to spending every waking moment by each other's side, in the case of living together, the friendship could violate personal boundaries. The notion of personal space could become a vague concept that could later manifest into a much larger issue in the future.

It is important to take time for yourself not only in college, but in all parts of life. If you and your roommate lead balanced and separate lives, there will be a satisfactory amount of alone time.

"Having a college roommate can help students be exposed to – and learn how to get along with new types of people," said John Edwards, professor of psychology and associate dean for Student Services in the College

of Liberal Arts.

It could also be difficult to expand your friend circle if you and your roommate are too dependent on each other's friendship. Living with your BFF might actually close doors for you in terms of your social life. Choosing to room with someone who is not in your immediate friend group is a great way to network.

"My roommates and I definitely had different social lives. It affected how close of friends we became since we never got to talk much," said Alex Houlette, a first year biochemistry and molecular biology student. "I would advise roommates to talk more, even if social lives don't connect as well as you would like."

Get habituated with your roommates. Find out how your prospective roommates live and socialize with others. Do they stay home all the time, never home, like being alone or like hanging out? Get as much information about their social habits as possible before you move in together. These habits are things that you must be able to live with, so make sure you will have enough alone time to maintain your individuality while still being able to create new relationships along the way.

Money issues can arise in any household. Money conflicts can strain an otherwise happy

See ROOMMATES Page 26



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Aries March 21 – April 19

Today is an 8 -- Relax and enjoy the company. Ponder big questions this month under the Pisces Sun. Philosophical inquiries engage you. Share your dreams with someone interesting.

Taurus April 20 – May 20

Today is a 7 -- Domestic matters have your attention. Succeed with teamwork this month. Community efforts flower, with the Sun in Pisces. You can get what you need.

Gemini May 21 – June 20

Today is an 8 -- Edit your expressions before sending. Professional creativity flourishes this month under the Pisces Sun. Advance in your career through communicating passion and inspiration.

Cancer June 21 – July 22

Today is a 9 -- A profitable idea develops. Talk about your dreams. Educational pursuits and discoveries expand, with the Sun in Pisces. Draw up plans and budget carefully.

Leo July 23 – Aug. 22

Today is a 9 -- Get a lucky personal break. Contribute to expanding joint financial ventures. Coordinate with your partner for mutual benefit. Share considerations, wishes and ideas.

Virgo Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

Today is a 6 -- Rest and make plans. Share the load over the next month as a partnership flowers under the Pisces Sun. Collaborate to realize a dream.

Libra Sept. 23 – Oct. 22

Today is an 8 -- Get out with friends. You're physically energized this month, with the Pisces Sun. Practice to refine your technique. Consistent efforts win over the long run.

Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today is an 8 -- A professional opportunity takes focus. Distractions include someone attractive. You're especially lucky in love this month, with the Sun in Pisces. Balance business and pleasure.

Sagittarius Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Today is a 7 -- Explore and study options. A month-long domestic phase dawns with the Pisces Sun. Make home improvements, repairs and upgrades. Tend your garden, and enjoy your space.

Capricorn Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Today is an 8 -- Make plans together, and adjust budgets to suit. Writing and communication projects flourish over the next month, with the Sun in Pisces.

Aquarius Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

Today is a 9 -- Collaboration proves fundamental. Work together to get farther. Lucrative opportunities develop this month. Direct energy under the Pisces Sun to pull in a profitable harvest.

Pisces Feb. 19 – March 20

Today is a 9 -- Nurture your health and energy. Begin a power phase, with the Sun in your sign this month. Advance personal dreams and objectives. Find a satisfying purpose.

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C R O S S W O R D

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Across

- 1 Class-conscious gp.
- 4 Big name in underwear
- 9 Near-sighted Mr.
- 14 ___-de-sac
- 15 Conical home
- 16 Do penance
- 17 Extreme-weather restriction, perhaps
- 19 Dwindled
- 20 Krispy ___ doughnuts
- 21 Chat room chuckle
- 23 Japanese computer giant
- 24 18-wheeler
- 25 Title bear of '60s TV
- 28 A flirt may bat one
- 31 Mount McKinley, now
- 32 '60s "acid"
- 33 Like baggy pants
- 36 Bewilder
- 37 Brit's trash can
- 39 Paris' river
- 43 Boxing's "Iron Mike"
- 44 Yahoo! rival
- 47 Obtain through intimidation, as money
- 49 Attached, as hotel rooms
- 51 Classic French song whose title means "It's so good"

Down

- 1 Cut for an agt.
- 2 Thanksgiving birds
- 3 Fearful
- 4 Flower part
- 5 Brazilian soccer legend
- 6 Msg. for a cop car
- 7 "Their Eyes Were Watching God" novelist Zora ___ Hurston
- 8 Arc lamp gas
- 9 Animal's gullet
- 10 Finished
- 11 (Having) spoiled
- 12 Like amoebas
- 13 Wordsmith's ref.
- 18 Wedding wear
- 22 Inc., in Toronto
- 24 French salt
- 25 White-sheet wearer, on Halloween
- 26 Singer Rimes and soaps actress Hunley
- 27 Never, in Neuss
- 29 Birch family trees
- 30 Not worth a ___
- 34 Hog's home
- 35 "Barnaby Jones" star Buddy
- 38 + or - particle
- 39 "Just a ___!"
- 40 Carry out, as a task
- 41 "Don't believe that!"
- 42 Ailing
- 44 Hotel room amenity
- 45 It's a law
- 46 Opposite of pos.
- 48 Comic Conway
- 50 Maritime safety gp.
- 52 Joy of "The View"
- 53 Maine college town
- 57 Sports betting numbers
- 58 Browning or Burns
- 59 Pickle container
- 60 Ave. crossers
- 62 As well
- 63 Beauty of "Deliverance"



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Ten dollar-store hacks and DIYs



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Patterned contact paper can help personalize a room by adding a splash of color and patterns, according to columnist Jaycee Kalama.

By JAYCEE KALAMA
Columnist

When you finally find a place you can call home, it is a good idea to decorate it and add your own personal touch. Adding personality to a space is an exercise carrying significance not only for the occupants, but for anyone who may visit, because it creates a welcoming sense of comfort. College is a stressful and a money-tight time in many people's lives and many students want to make their home feel comfortable on a low budget. Here are some dollar store tip and tricks to making your space feel like home.

to add your personality to a room through your own words, favorite quotes and lyrics. Prints can also add some art that livens up the room, or a thoughtful quote. After selecting a print you like, you can choose your favorite style of picture frame from the dollar store to put it in. The dollar store also sells peelable letter stickers that you can put on the glass of picture frames to display your favorite quote from the Office.

2. Create DIY floral wall art from scratch.

I made this wall art for my roommates and to personalize our home. The dollar store has a floral section with a wide variety of plants to choose from. They also have ribbon and letters to throw into your DIY to really make it yours.

I put floral wall art above our TV on a big blank wall. This DIY goes hand-in-hand with tip number seven. The plants incorporated into your wall art help create a fresh feel to the room.

3. Buy contact paper in the kitchen to bring individuality and creativity to the room.

Contact paper is an adhesive surface cover which is easily removable, making it optimal for temporary setups, like a rented apartment.

On one hand, if you have neutral colored counter tops, use a bright patterned contact paper to act as a backsplash. This will make the kitchen feel like a welcoming place with a touch of personality.

On the other hand, if your kitchen features a colorful countertop, such as the red counters in my apartment, I would recommend a neutral pattern for the walls of your kitchen. Use the color of your counters as an accent color and embrace it. Incorporating that color throughout your kitchen will tie the room together.

The great thing about this DIY backsplash is that it only costs a dollar per roll at the dollar store and it can be used anywhere

in the house. Whether that be the counters, your desk or dining table, it will make any room look personalized.

4. Stack upward with organizers, not outward, to create more counter space.

Many college-budget residences do not have much counter space in the kitchens or the bathrooms. Using stackable storage from the dollar store will save space and create the illusion of a tidy surface.

In my kitchen, I used the one dollar space-saver to store my plates, bowls, mugs and things that I use on a daily basis. Not only did this free up space on my counters, but it also created room in my cabinets for pots, pans and snacks.

This storage hack can also be used on desks,

See DOLLAR Page 26



1. Make DIY decor for your home.

You can make one-dollar decor pieces look like a million bucks if you add your own personal touch to it. Letter boards are a great way



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Columnist Jaycee Kalama created floral wall art by hand.



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Objects like chess boards can become a statement piece if they are laid out in a prominent, tasteful space in a room.

DOLLAR, Continued from page 25

in pantries, under sinks and for countless other uses. For example, stackable storage can be used to hold a video game console, the games themselves, as well as the controllers. This will make any desk or TV stand that much less crowded.

5. Take advantage of over-the-door storage.

This hack can be used universally anywhere in the home. Over-the-door storage of any kind is efficient and organizational. Over the door shoe storage can also be used in the pantry for canned foods and other contents of the pantry. It can also be used in a closet to organize accessories or socks.

Other type of over the door storage, such as the one that can be found in my kitchen, was bought at the dollar store and is now being used to hold my spices and hand towels. Pro tip: not all over-the-door storage needs to be hung over the door. This type of storage could also be used under the sink to hold cleaning supplies and dish soap, or next to the bathroom sink to store a razor, shaving cream and a wash rag.

6. Use magazine holders and desk organizers throughout the space.

Any type of desk organizer is a great way to store small everyday objects like remotes, books, spatulas, cleaning supplies and in my case, video games and movies too.

These were also a dollar each but provide a larger purpose. Stacking movies is a form of

Simply putting objects you reach for every day into a specific place makes them easier to find and better to look at.

7. Use plants throughout the house to liven up a space.

The dollar store offers a variety of fake florals and succulents as well as colorful vases that can bring any room to life. If your couch or walls are a neutral color, I would recommend using flowers and an accented pot for a splash of color.

My apartment features a salmon colored couch, so I stuck with greenery in simple pots. This allows the couch color to pop while the plants make the living room feel fresh with a touch of simplicity.

My tip? You can never have enough plants in your home. Put plants on your desk, bookshelf, coffee table and even in your kitchen. I put a hanging plant in my kitchen to save counter space while still making the small kitchen feel homey.

8. Turn an ordinary object into a statement piece.

As you can see in the picture, I used a chess board on my side table as decoration. Not only does this tell people that I like to play chess, but it shows guests I can make my home look stylish without much effort.

If you are into listening to music on a record player, use it as a decor piece on your bookshelf, put your vinyls on display or even frame a few for your walls. This makes your hobbies and interests easily accessible and visible to your guests, as well as being a good conversation starter.

9. Use mirrors anywhere you can.

Mirrors aren't just good for looking at yourself, they also create the illusion of a bigger room. It is important that your home feels open and airy for you and your guests because it brings a sense of comfort. Mirrors reflect the natural light, making any room feel brighter as well.

I put a big mirror over my couch to open

up the space and I added little accent mirrors on a small wall between my windows. This is a great way to make use of awkward spaces in a room. I found the three round mirrors at the dollar store for a dollar each and it was a great purchase because the small mirrors made a big difference to the room.

10. Hide ugly walls with art.

Whether it be peeling paint or an electric panel, use art to cover that eyesore. Some things are unavoidable, I used a macrame wall hanging to hide an electric panel on my wall. It's the little extra touches like that which take the level of a room that much higher.

The dollar store sells placemats that can be put on your dining table to protect the surface and elevate the look of the room.

They also sell sticker labels that can be used in the pantry or on a bookshelf to make organizing a whole lot easier.

I would recommend taking a trip to the local dollar store to see what you can find and what you can create for your home. The possibilities are endless when it comes to expressing yourself through home decor.



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Mirrors mounted on walls of a living space can reflect light and make the room brighter.

ROOMMATES, Continued from page 23

roommate situation. Being able to pay rent on time, pitching in for necessities and not stealing each other's food seems to be common knowledge when rooming with someone in college. If you and your roommate are not on the same page about your economic situation this can be a problem.

Instead, have a money talk. Get with your prospective roommate(s) to discuss every bill, the portion expected to pay and estimated monthly amounts. Make sure all parties have the ability to pay for said bills and employment is a sure thing. This is a good time to bring up food costs as well. Most roommates are not open to sharing food and food costs, so be sure to establish how you want to handle that.

Find someone who's able to contribute to everyday needs and who shares the same cleanliness habits. You want a roommate who will pitch in with household chores, groceries and other critical responsibilities in the home. Otherwise, you'll likely become resentful if you feel like you're doing more than your fair share.

Whether you split up cleaning tasks so each party does something each week, determine which day of the week is cleaning day or even make a chore chart, it's better to make a plan than to just assume everyone will do something. Same goes for paying for shared groceries. Make a shopping list and divide up the costs between you and your roommates. One can buy the toilet paper and milk while the other buys dish soap and cereal.

"You want to live with someone who isn't really different from you in terms of critically important values. But the most important thing, really, is to figure out how to get along with others," said Edwards.

The easiest way to find common ground with someone is through shared interests and values. Having similar beliefs as your roommate can help avoid those awkward confrontations. For example, if smoking is generally a deal-breaker for you in a relationship, it's best to avoid living with somebody who smokes at all.

"If I were looking for a new roommate I would want someone who had more similar morals and values as me. I would look for someone who had the same interest and wanted to do the same types of things," Tyler Pederson, a second year biohealth student said. "The main reason I moved out of my old living situation was because of my roommates. There was no communication between my roommates and I, and any communication that did happen did not seem to stick. I would recommend having open communication with your roommates, even if it's an awkward conversation."

Find out what your prospective roommate expects from you and ensure that your roommate knows what you expect from them. It is important that all parties can conform to these expectations. When you have found someone that you can live with, put as many of the terms that you discussed in writing and be as detailed as needed. Informality and vagueness never helped anybody.

"People who live together have to learn how to get along with each other, learn how to compromise, and learn how to get over disagreements without holding grudges or making negative attributions about the other person's character," said Edwards. "If the two parties can't do that, then life together won't go well. In general, if a person acts from a place of compassion towards others, things are most likely to work out for the best."



organization but it does not look tidy to the eye.

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