

# County infection rates climb

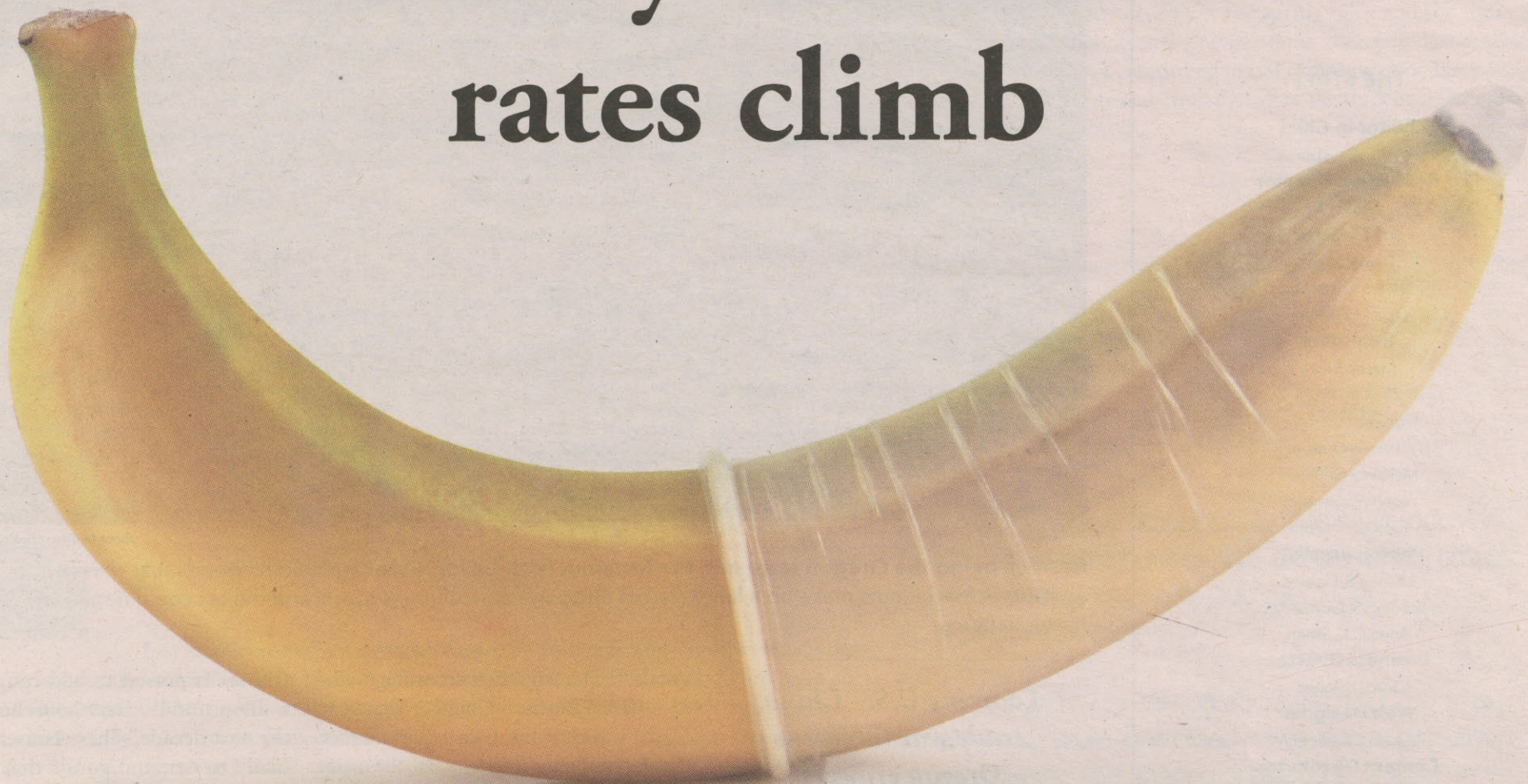


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**Health advocates  
recommend regular  
testing, protection**

**FIONA W. CORRIGAN**  
REPORTER

Lane County has been experiencing a high volume of sexually transmitted infections. The County Health Ranking for Lane from 2015 describes a 36 percent rise in chlamydia.

According to Planned Parenthood, STIs are “infections that are passed from one person to another during vaginal, anal and oral sex.” They are common, yet often lack symptoms. Anyone involved in sexual interactions with another person can contract an STI.

Planned Parenthood encourages sexually-active people to use barriers, which “cover parts of your genitals, protecting you and your partner from body fluids and some skin-to-skin contact, which can both spread STDs.” Some commonly used barriers include condoms, female condoms and dental dams.

Eugene’s Planned Parenthood offers an appointment-based STI testing for chlamydia, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis C, herpes, HIV, HPV, Molluscum contagiosum, pubic lice, scabies, syphilis and trichomoniasis. There’s an option to bill insurance, as well as insurance compensation for those whose insurance does not cover Planned Parenthood, and for those

who are uninsured.

Lane Community College’s Health Clinic offers HIV and hepatitis C testing. The Health Clinic also offers some free gonorrhea and chlamydia testing, specifically for students who are 25 years old and under. These tests are circumstantial and require an appointment.

“We have really affordable STI testing here,” Carly Policha, a registered nurse at Lane’s Health Clinic, said.

Students can attend walk-in clinics every Monday from 12:40 p.m. to 4 p.m. or schedule an appointment by calling 541-463-5665. The testing comes with an option to bill insurance. The Health Clinic is in Building 18, room 101 on LCC Main Campus.

Another resource for students is the less-frequent free testing, which is a mutual effort of Eugene’s HIVvuv Alliance and LCC’s Health Clinic. Their free clinics are specifically for HIV and Hepatitis C. The people “most at risk for HIV are: gay/bi men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, and partners of people living with HIV/AIDS,” the HIV Alliance said on their website.

In order to qualify for either of the walk-in clinics, students must not be showing symptoms of an STI. Patients who are experiencing symptoms must instead schedule an appointment. In order to take advantage of the Health Clinic, students have to be enrolled in at least a one-credit class on the main campus.

Lane students are encouraged to take advantage of the sexual health resources offered by the Health Clinic. The next free drop-in clinic is on Tuesday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 18, room 101.



## NEWS

## theTorch

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STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Growing apart



photo by Diana Baker / art director

Besides being the Oregon state nut, the hazelnut is on China's list of agricultural goods that will likely be taxed as imports. Hazelenuts make up a large part of Oregon's agricultural exports and the tax could negatively affect hazelnut farms.

### Looming U.S. - China trade war threatens Oregon growers

SABRINA PICCOLO  
REPORTER

In April, the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China published an online statement in which it announced China's tariffs on imported U.S. goods, likely to affect Oregon's agricultural goods.

According to a CNN report, the tariffs affect about \$3 billion of U.S. exports. This was in response to the import tariffs the U.S. had placed on goods from China, including solar panels, steel and aluminum, according to the article.

China's increase in taxes on American agricultural goods could affect Oregon, which exported \$5.6 billion worth of

goods to China in 2016, according to the U.S.-China Business Council. That year, China was Oregon's main export market. The Euromonitor International, the major provider of worldwide market data and analyses, states that China is Oregon's fourth-largest international market for the state's food and agriculture.

Last year, the Oregon-China Sister State Relations Council, a nonprofit organization that encourages economic exchanges between Oregon and China, described China as "critically important" to Oregon's economy. The organization quoted Steven White, a sales manager of Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods, a grains and baking mix company based in Oregon; approximately 300 million middle-class citizens in China purchase goods from the company, White said.

Andrea Cantu-Schomus, the director of communications at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, said that

China "is poised to add roughly 160 million middle-class households over the next decade." These households are likely to demand goods that Oregon excels at producing, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

"We want to connect Oregon producers to that kind of purchasing power," she said.

Regarding the how China's increased import taxes could directly affect Oregon, however, Cantu-Schomus said that "[i]t really is too soon to make a prediction."

"What is also unknown is whether Chinese consumers will be willing to pay more for our products or if our competitors in the market will take the market share our Oregon companies have worked hard to establish," she said.

Cantu-Schomus added that the Oregon Department of Agriculture continues to work on connecting producers in Oregon with China and other international export markets.

## Crimes strike Valley River area

### Police seek information about attempted carjacking, kidnapping



MCKENZY  
GAUSNELL  
REPORTER

The Eugene Police Department is investigating an attempted carjacking and a separate attempted kidnapping that took place in the Valley River area on Saturday, April 7.

According to an EPD press release, the first incident occurred at 9:21 p.m. near the theater parking lot where a 5'10" white male opened the driver's side door as a

19-year-old woman was getting into her car. The suspect was described as having a thin build, no facial hair, hair that was longer on the top and shorter on the sides and wearing a hooded black raincoat.

Less than two hours later, a 35-year-old woman reported a similar incident as she was getting into her car at 10:42 p.m. in the Olive Garden parking lot. A 5'9" white male opened the driver's side door and grabbed the woman's arm, telling her to get out. The suspect was described as being around the age of 20-25, weighing 160-170 pounds, with curly brown hair, dark eyes, fair skin, no facial hair and wearing a hooded cobalt blue rain jacket and black pants. The victim remembers seeing a second suspect, a white male standing approximately 5'7", acting as what appeared to be a look-out. The second suspect was described as being

the age of 20-25, weighing 150 pounds and wearing hooded black rain gear, a black bandana and a blue and yellow backpack.

K-9 units were dispatched for both incidents but were unable to find the suspects. The EPD has not determined if the two cases are related, but have stated that the first case is considered an attempted carjacking and the second case is considered an attempted kidnapping.

The press release stated, "Use the buddy system when walking after hours as there is greater safety in numbers. As soon as you get into your vehicle, lock the doors." Until the suspects are in custody, EPD recommends that the community take extra precaution.

If anyone has any information about the incident, they are encouraged to call the non-emergency line, 541-682-5111.



# NEWS

## Seeking a safe space

**New report finds high rates of bullying among LGBTQ+ youth**



**SABRINA PICCOLO**  
REPORTER

A report based on research done in 2017 shows that LGBTQ+ middle school and high school students in Oregon experience

more bullying than their peers do.

The report was carried out by the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition, which works to reduce youth suicide in the LGBTQ+ community. It was authored by June Heffernan, the co-chair of the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition, and Tina Gutierrez-Schmich, the equity director in the Bethel School District.

The results of the report showed that sexual orientation and gender identity,

referred to as SOGI, minority students in Oregon “are at a significantly high risk for bullying, school-based violence, sexual assault, absences from school, and suicidal ideation.”

In 2017, 35 percent of transgender and gender nonconforming high school students experienced bullying, and 47 percent of LGB 11th graders contemplated suicide.

Valerie Hoffman, who has been the president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Lane Community College, said that GSAs are vital safe spaces in high schools, where bullying is especially rampant.

“People who don’t support safe spaces don’t understand that we have safe spaces because we had to deal with harmful pains our whole lives,” she said.

She added that when she was in high school, her GSA could have prevented instances of bullying if it had included more adults, including faculty and administration members.

The GSA at LCC remains a safe space for LGBTQ+ students. Its Facebook and email contacts can be accessed on LCC’s website.

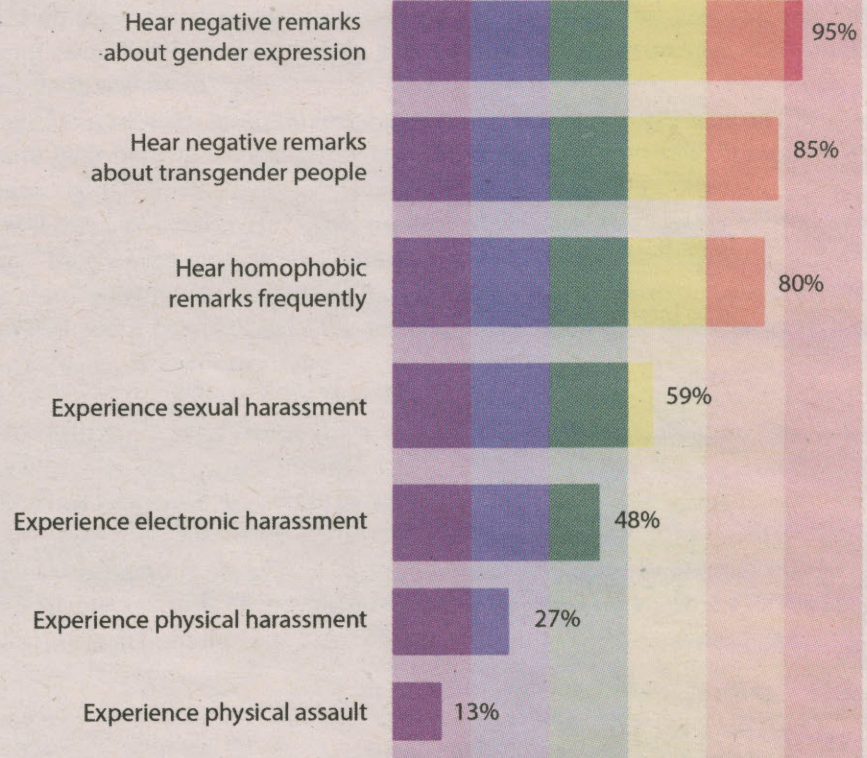
**“People who don’t support safe spaces don’t understand that we have safe spaces because we had to deal with harmful pains our whole lives.”**

— Valerie Hoffman,

President of the LCC Gender and Sexuality Alliance

## LGBTQ Youth Experiences Being Bullied

### Bullying Experienced



Percent of LGBTQ Students

\*Data from the 2017 State of Safe Schools Report by Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition

illustration by Diana Baker / art director

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## NEWS

# Fisherman spots oil slick



photos by Sterling S. Gonzalez / photojournalist

**The McKenzie River, which** runs through Eugene and Springfield, was exposed to approximately 200 gallons of hydraulic oil on March 13. The oil spill occurred 800 feet from the Eugene Water & Electric water intake, spurring a county-wide emergency response.



## Portion of McKenzie River closed indefinitely

SABRINA PICCOLO  
REPORTER

On Tuesday, March 13, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies responded to an oil spill in the McKenzie River from Hayden Bridge in Springfield to Armitage Park in Eugene. The area is currently inaccessible to the public during cleanup.

Approximately 200 gallons of hydraulic oil was discharged from a pipe at the International Paper plant in Springfield, according to ODEQ. The oil sheen on the McKenzie River was reported to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Emergency Response on March 13.

Thanks to emergency responders, ODEQ's statement added, the plant's pipe leakage has been stopped and oil-absorbent materials have been placed in the river to remove the spill from the water. The area near Hayden Bridge will be blocked due to these materials until further notice.

The International Paper plant is about 800 feet from the area near Hayden Bridge that the Eugene Water & Electric Board uses to provide drinking water to consumers, ODEQ states.

EWEB Commissioner John Brown said Eugene's drinking water supply has not been affected, however.

He added that EWEB, which implements the McKenzie Watershed Emergency Response system, has contributed to the cleanup process, such as by using booms to absorb oil in the river, and continues to monitor the progress of the cleanup.

Aaron Helfrich, who helps manage a fishing and rafting business that often uses the McKenzie River, reported the spill while he was fishing with a friend.

"It was detrimental to the health of the river ecosystem, from aquatic insects, fish and mammals," he said regarding his decision to report the oil sheen.

Despite the progress of cleaning up the oil spill, Helfrich is still concerned that another



**The March 13 hydraulic** oil spill may affect local ecosystems. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting an ongoing investigation to determine the severity of the impact the oil has on local wildlife.

incident like this may happen again and feels that "[International Paper] took too long to react."

The mill's manager, Kally Hodgson, apologized in an email via a communications specialist "for the disruption to the waterway and the community."

"We are grateful to the local authorities, our team members and community partners who have helped us work through this event," Hodgson said. "We understand that healthy watersheds are essential to the community and we remain committed to operating safely and in an environmentally responsible manner."

The DEQ website advises the public to avoid participating in activities near the area of the McKenzie River between Hayden Bridge and Armitage Park until further notice. EWEB will continue providing updates via social media about the cleanup progress, the safety of drinking water in Eugene and the accessibility of the McKenzie River.



## NEWS

# Shake, shimmy and swing



## Track Town Swing holds monthly social dance clubs

FIONA W. CORRIGAN  
REPORTER

In the midst of swirling skirts and crisp corduroy jackets stood Track Town Swing Club founder Nick Davis. Davis' monthly Lindy Hop swing dances are a local gem for Eugene and Springfield dancers.

"I actually learned the dance at LCC," Davis said. He started with hip-hop, then moved towards Latin and ballroom dancing. "One of the years I was taking ballroom," Davis said. "The ballroom teacher did one week where it was like 'this is what Lindy Hop is,' and she basically let me know that there was a swing dance teacher in Eugene - this was back in like 2001 or 2002. I met that teacher and she introduced me to Lindy hop swing dancing."

In 2012, Davis and his then-dance partner started meeting at a dance studio and practicing. "I was just like 'we're getting together at a dance studio, do you want to come hang out with us?' Davis said. "Nobody would come hang out with us."

"After a while, it was like three people, four people, then twelve people came." It wasn't

too long, though, before the two held the first Track Town Swing Dance. "We just rented a space," Davis said. "A bunch of people came down, we had like eighty people come down."

"I really like swing dancing 'cause it's really creative," long-time Lindy hopper Amanda Lachner said. "I do ballroom, mainly, and it's more restrictive on like, what you do and do not do in the dance."

The club now holds monthly social dances, usually featuring live music. "It's just fun to move your body to the music," swing dancer Zach Jandrasi said. "I mean that's like the idea, right?"

Local band Whiteaker Hot Club, performed at Track Town Swing's Saturday night dance. "The younger generations aren't that into this kind of stuff anymore, and we definitely don't want this to die out," Whiteaker Hot Club clarinetist, trumpet player, and singer Parkpoom Aempoo said. "We don't want all of this music to just go away. Jazz and swing is such a deep-rooted thing in American culture."

Davis' club also offers lessons, from beginner to advanced. "I enjoy all the people I've met through it, for sure," Track Town volunteer Dodi Hake said. "There's a lot of really cool people that like swing dancing."

"I really like the venue and the dancing for Track Town Swing," Lachner said. "Nick puts on really cool dances."

The club's monthly social dances are hosted at the Veteran's Memorial Building, at 1626 Willamette Street. The next dance will be May 11 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., with musical stylings from the Blue Skies Big Band and a 15 dollar cover charge.



**Track Town Swing volunteer Andrew Wray** and partner dance to local band, the Whiteaker Hot Club, at the monthly community event. Wray has taken part in instructional dance videos and performances as a part of the swing club.



photos by Nathan S. Calkins / photojournalist

**Partners Nick Davis and Nika Jin** watch as community members swing dance. Davis is the founder of the Track Town Swing club and the main instructor for both the weekly classes and monthly events.



**Madelin Woodrum and Andrew Wray** lindy hop together at the Track Town Swing dance held in the Veterans building every second Saturday off the month. The first monthly gathering attracted nearly 80 attendees.



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**FRIDAY**  
APRIL 27

**CHRIS LAKE**

**SUNDAY**  
APRIL 29

**WILD CHILD**  
Stelth Ulvang



# NEWS

## Club council to host charity carnival



ZACHARY BRUHL  
REPORTER

On April 18 and 19, the Lane Community College's Council of Clubs and Center for Student Engagement will host the annual Carnival of Clubs. Games and activities will be spread across Center Plaza and Bristow Square from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Student clubs will be present to share information on what they have to offer to interested students. LCC's own Rainy Day Food Pantry and No Cash Clothing Stash will be accepting donations and the Titan Store will be operating a snack bar in the plaza.

Games and activities will range from carnival-style games to a dunk tank where attendees can plunge deans and LCC president Dr. Margaret Hamilton. The Council of Clubs will provide some free snacks and art students will be offering free face paint.

Admission to the carnival is free, but tickets for the games will be donation-based, according to ASLCC senator Nick Keough. Donations can be in the form of cash or useful donations for the charities involved, such as clean clothes or non-perishable food.

Tents will be set up to protect attendees from the spring rains and the Council of Clubs and CSE are expecting more students than ever before. This should be the "largest student-run operation since Lanestock", according to CSE Administrator Tracy Weimer.

Starting at 11 a.m. both Wednesday and Thursday, all of the student clubs will be set up and looking to recruit new members.

## 'Fake news' blues



### Sinclair scripts stoke concerns about local news media consolidation

MAREK BELKA  
REPORTER

Last month, a controversial video created by the sports blog Deadspin went viral.

In the video, dozens of anchors from small local news stations all over the country read from an identical script that criticized media outlets for publishing "irresponsible, one-sided news stories." All the anchors in the video are employees of Sinclair Broadcast Group, a Maryland-based media organization that currently owns 193 TV news networks across the United States, including KVAL in Eugene (KTMR in Springfield has a content distribution deal with Sinclair, but is not formally owned by the company). The video incited widespread controversy and sparked debates about the role of local news media in the current age of social media and "fake news." Many people were outraged and called for a boycott of Sinclair-owned TV stations. In Eugene, the reaction was similar to news of the Register-Guard's sale to GateHouse Media, a New York-based newspaper conglomerate.

"I don't see how these people can call themselves local news anymore," Greta Cappelmann, a first-term Lane student with aspirations of a career in broadcasting, said. "How can someone from Baltimore or Chicago or wherever know what's best for Eugene?"

As the controversy about the so-called "Sinclair script" spread, so did reports that some anchors had refused to read the statement. Lauren Lapka and Cameron Walker, morning news anchors for KVAL, said that they weren't "comfortable" with the statement and declined to read it. Both journalists declined to comment further about their refusal, but Lapka released a statement via Facebook addressing concerns about her continued employment at KVAL.

"In light of recent events, I just want to take this time to say that I will always be here for you, the viewers," Lapka said. "whether it's Chicago, southwest Missouri, Oregon — or wherever my future takes me."

KVAL's Jackie Garrity and David Walker read the Sinclair script, as did KTMR's Alan Matthews.

The renewed controversy over Sinclair's consolidation of local media comes at a crucial moment in the company's expansion. The Federal Communications Commission will soon reach a decision about Sinclair's proposed takeover of Tribune Media Company, which owns 39 TV stations across the United States, including KRCW in Salem and Portland. If the sale is approved — which the U.S. Department of Justice has signaled is likely, according to the Wall Street Journal — Sinclair could potentially reach over 70 percent of American households, an unprecedented share of the national media landscape. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said that the company would be forced to sell "12 to 13 television stations" to comply with antitrust laws, but has also expressed a desire to remove those regulations prior to the approval.

Despite the seemingly overwhelming public criticism of Sinclair's content distribution practices, some Eugene-area residents feel that the company's warning about "fake news spread on social media sites" is warranted.

"I honestly don't see why everyone is so against local news right now," Greg Davis, who managed a radio station in Indiana before retiring and moving to Springfield. "I thought it was a perfectly legitimate criticism of the mainstream media's bias problem, one that's only gotten worse in the last few years."

Davis says he watches the local news "every single night," often flipping between different evening news programs to find interesting stories, though he believes that KVAL is "the most honest."

"I think local news is far superior to the national networks," Davis said. "I don't really mind that they're owned by a big company because that means they'll have the resources to keep doing good journalism."

Others are less concerned about Sinclair's reach because they simply don't have access to broadcast news.

"I get why people might be upset, but I literally don't own a TV," Lane student Macy Potter said. "I didn't even know what Sinclair was a couple of weeks ago, and now it seems to be on everyone's mind."

To Potter, the solution to Sinclair's growing influence on local news is clear.

"If you don't like what you're watching, don't watch it."

**"How can someone from Baltimore or Chicago or wherever know what's best for Eugene?"**

— Greta Cappelmann  
LCC student

### Sinclair Script

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(B) More alarming, some media outlets publish these same fake stories... stories that just aren't true, without checking facts first.

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(B) We work very hard to seek the truth and strive to be fair, balanced and factual... We consider it our honor, our privilege to responsibly deliver the news every day.

(A) Thank you for watching and we appreciate your feedback"



## SPORTS

## Titans march past Penguins



**Lane pitcher Trestyn DuMilieu** launches a pitch to a Clark batter. In more than five innings, Eugene-native DuMilieu amassed a 4.26 ERA with one strikeout during an April 13 matchup at Titan Field.

photos by Nathan S. Calkins / photojournalist

*Lane conquers doubleheader against Clark*

**NOAH NOTEBOOM**  
REPORTER

The Lane Titans hosted a doubleheader showdown with the Clark Penguins on Friday, April 13. Before their

April 13 matchup, the teams played one game at Kindsfather Field in Vancouver, Washington that ended in a 4-3 Penguin victory. The Titans conference record dropped to five wins and three losses, placing them in second behind the Linn-Benton Roadrunners.

Clark opened the scoring with two runs in the top of the first inning, but Lane kept it close after sophomore Jackson Soto hit a single to outfield which drove in Tielar Murray to put the score at 2-1.

The Titans blew the game wide open in the fourth inning when they scored four runs and extended their lead to 5-2. Four different Titans recorded hits, including Murray, who is second on the team with nine hits this season.

The Penguins struggled to answer the Titans' scoring outburst, going scoreless through four innings. That was until Clark pitcher Chad Lopez stepped to the plate. With one out in the top of the sixth inning,

Lopez hit the first home run of the game and his fourth of the season, tied for sixth most in the NWAC.

Lopez's home run tied the score at 5-5, but Clark retook the lead shortly after when Cody White hit another dinger. Those two home runs took all the air out of the Titan dugout while all they could do was watch the scoreboard switch to 6-5, advantage Clark.

Their lead was short lived, though. With the bases loaded, Murray hit a grand slam which produced four runs for the Titans. That brought the energy and enthusiasm back to the Lane dugout as Murray slowly trotted his way past the Clark dugout and gave the Titans a 10-6 lead. Murray went 3-for-3 from the plate and batted in six RBIs in the first game of the doubleheader.

Lopez seemed to have the Titans' number on Friday afternoon as he turned his next plate appearance into another Clark home run and chipped the Titan lead to 10-7 with only one inning left. Rice also hit two home runs Friday afternoon, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Titan lead.

The Titans held on and won their fourth conference game of the season by a final score of 10-8. Lane left-handed pitcher Riley Howard earned his third win on the season on the mound. Thomas Rudinsky and Jaden Hanna recorded three and two



**Titan Cade Kissell** makes his way to home base during Lane's matchup with the Clark Penguins on Friday April 13 at Titan Field. The freshman shortstop got one hit and scored two runs in the Titans 10-8 win against the Penguins.

hits, respectively.

The second game of the doubleheader was a much more defensive game — a defensive game that had Lane shut out Clark with the help of Bryce Mulcahy, who started on the mound and struck out a season-high 11 Clark batters. The Titans only allowed a single hit while five different Titans made it to base.

The Titans won 3-0 to sweep Friday afternoon's doubleheader. The teams were scheduled to play two more games but both games at Clark were canceled due to poor weather. The Titans will continue their conference schedule when they face off against SouthWest Oregon beginning on Wednesday, April 18, at Titan Field at 4 p.m.