

ADVENTURES IN ART

SEE PAGES 4-5

PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Students Bryce Smith and Emma Spaulding (right) enrolled in the Public Art class at LB. They explore a public artwork, "City Reflections," by Patti Warashina during their stint in Portland. They first travelled to Astoria then to Portland. More on pages 4-5.

THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters, and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to:

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COURTESY OF CAIT MORGAN

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault refers to any non-consensual sexual act. If sexual assault is about an absence of consent, what is consent?

Consent is...

- acceptance or agreement given with free will.
- actively given, not assumed.
- only possible when there is equal power between the parties. never given in response to fear or social pressure.
- something that cannot be granted if the survivor was under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; or mentally handicapped in some way.

About Sexual Assault.

If you or someone you know have experienced sexual assault, there is support available.

• Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence 24-hour Crisis and Support Line 541-754-0110 or 800-927-0197 – the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV) serves students and community members in Linn and Benton counties. CARDV offers services including emergency shelter, assistance with restraining and stalking order paperwork, support groups and community education. The 24-hour crisis and support line is a great resource for survivors. You may also call the support

line if you are supporting someone and want information, ideas or support for yourself.

• LBCC has confidential Victim Advocates on Campus – As an LBCC student, if you are experiencing domestic or sexual violence, you have the option to speak with a confidential campus victim advocate who can support you, offer information and resources, and help you consider options and make decisions about possible next steps. Victim Advocates have a role in supporting your healing and providing information about options such as access to medical care, making a report to local law enforcement, and/or making a report through the College's complaint process or receiving academic accommodations. Confidential victim advocates can be contacted via the Advising Center 541-917-4780 Takena Hall 101 during business hours (after hours, please contact CARDV at the number above).

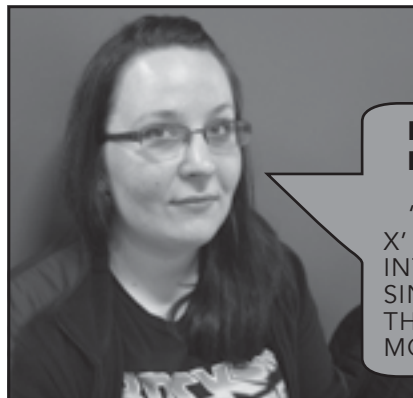
• Show your support to survivors of Sexual Violence this month: Participate in Denim Day on Wednesday, April 25. Wear denim on this day to support an international campaign to raise awareness and end sexual assault. Learn more at <http://denimdayinfo.org/about/>

• Participate in one of CARDV's Sexual Assault Awareness Month events. For a more extensive list of events, please visit: <https://www.cardv.org/saam>

Cait Morgan is a counselor and advisor, LBCC Advising Center.

CAMPUS VOICE

What movie would be greatly improved if it was made into a musical?



**KRISTEN HENSLEY
BUSINESS**

"'AMERICAN HISTORY X' BECAUSE IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE THEM SINGING AND DANCING THROUGH SUCH A SERIOUS MOVIE."



**LIAM LEE
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS**

"'HARRY POTTER' WOULD BE REALLY INTERESTING."



MICA LIVINGSTON

"'ZOOTOPIA' BECAUSE IT WOULD BE LIVELY AND FUN."



**MATTHEW FOON
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

"'LILO AND STITCH' BECAUSE IT WOULD RELATE TO KIDS AND EVERYONE LIKES DISNEY."

**MATTHEW SHELTON
ECONOMICS**

"'SAW' OR 'FRIDAY THE 13TH' BECAUSE IT WOULD BE JUXTAPOSED."



STORY AND PHOTOS: CAPRIAL LONG

YOUR PICK FOR PRESIDENT

Q&A with SLC president-elect Shelby Pick



STORY BY
JOSHUA STICKROD
@STICKRODJOSH

With the elections over, SLC is preparing to usher in a new year of student leadership.

President-elect Shelby Pick is currently working in SLC as a legislative affairs director until she is sworn in later this May.

Pick is finishing up her degree in business at LB this term and plans to begin pursuing her degree in early childhood education in the fall. She will also be looking to earn a bachelor's in business at OSU. She has experience as an intern at the state capital working under Senator Tim Knopp and says she found her passion for early childhood education when working at a preschool in Redmond, Oregon. Pick is also a member of the United States Air Force Reserves.

Q: What would you say your personal mission statement is?

A: I think that my mission in life is to continuously promote others around me. That's why I want to become a preschool teacher, because children at that age really need that support, they need that extra boost of confidence and they need opportunities to start learning at a young age, because a lot of communities don't have that. I think at a college level we're the same way. We just need the opportunity to grow and flourish and that's why I got involved in [SLC]. We have so many opportunities to help students like the lunchbox and the energy assistance program, and there's a million others...I care about seeing other people flourish in their life. That's why it breaks my heart when I see homeless people and that sort of thing because I think that we're surrounded with so many opportunities and I just want everybody to know that we have them and everybody's willing to help if they're taking advantage of those opportunities.

Q: Besides SLC, do you do any other community outreach activities?

A: Yeah. I've always raised cattle, I was raised on a cattle farm, and I'm highly involved with the 4-H and FFA community. I raise cattle and then I work with 4-Hers. So I will sell cattle market price to 4-H members in the



community...Then I go and individually work with those students with their animals, helping them get confident with them, helping them with showing, helping them with speaking, helping them with presentations... that's kind of like my giveback because I grew up in 4-H and I really flourished in that position and the opportunities that it gave me. I also go to old folks homes. I know that's really silly, but I love old people, they are amazing and they have so many great stories to tell. My favorite are old veterans because they are hilarious and they just want to talk...Maybe that's not technically community service but it's just getting to know people and what makes them thrive.

Q: How do you plan to apply lessons you've learned from past experiences in student government to your new position as president?

A: Right now we are putting into action new binders to get our new members up to date and make the

transition in easier. We're kind of directing the whole SLC office right now and putting in better guidelines to help our students flourish...With our new interview committee we actually gave them feedback on their interviews so that in the real world they could go out and do better with their interviews. We're doing thank you letter classes and classes on presentations so that as SLC members we can present ourselves better at a more professional level so that we can help others.

Q: What is a major issue facing students at LBCC that you would like to address?

A: There's a lot. I think the main thing is that a lot of community college students are so different. We have a lot of students from OSU and a lot of them have federal aid and are funded and they're okay. But then you have a lot of parents that are coming back to school that have their own issues and then you have old people coming in, and then you have new students. So taking all of those problems and being able to meet the requirements of all the students, I think that's the hardest thing for a community college. Making sure everybody knows how we're helping each of them.

Q: Do you have any early ideas on how to combat the challenges of such a diverse campus?

A: What we're trying to do is implement an opportunity of 'hey, this is what's going on, this is how you can help yourself out.' We also put up posters and try and get people involved and we try to talk. So we're doing more class raps where we come into the classroom and we present on something. So right now I'm doing class raps on the Vote OR Vote campaign. But it could be on little things that are going on in school. Whether that's an upcoming event, or a blooddrive, or the energy assistance program...I think our best way to combat it is just getting the word out and making people feel welcome and try to break down those barriers to where people have the support they need. Because a lot of students are scared.

If anyone has additional questions you can visit the SLC office at the northeastern part of the courtyard by Hot Shot cafe on the Albany campus.

RUSSELL TRIPP THEATER PRESENTS "SCAREWAVES"

COURTESY OF LBCC NEWS SERVICE

The LBCC Russell Tripp theater presents a special event Friday, April 13 with "Scarewaves," a horror-comedy in the style of classic radio drama.

Recently discovered in the catacombs beneath the LBCC Russell Tripp Theater were two lost, never performed scripts from the little-known, and possibly non-existent, horror writer Meridian Welch: "The Dark

Mansion's Curse" and "Captain Steadfast Meets Dr. Draculanus."

Join us for an evening of chills, creaking doors and the bizarre as we listen into the abyss. What do we hear? Our own rapid heartbeats! Footsteps behind us! A squeaking dog toy! More creaking doors!

"Scarewaves" plays Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m., LBCC Russell Tripp Theater, Albany. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for students and seniors. Buy

in advance at linnbenton.edu/tickets or at the door one hour before the show starts.

Show proceeds benefit the sixth annual Midsummer Arts Festival held in Albany. For more information, contact the LBCC box office at 541-917-4531 or theater@linnbenton.edu.

FREE "EARTH DAY FAIR"

COURTESY OF LBCC NEWS SERVICE

LBCC's 8th annual free Earth Day Fair will be held Thursday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the college courtyard.

This year's theme is "End Plastic Pollution," featuring

information on what we can do reduce our plastic use.

Community tables and college programs will be on hand with information on sustainability efforts and earth science, including the latest recycling information.

Activities include a shoe recycle for your old or slightly-worn shoes, flower pot planting to support student

scholarships, and "Earth Day Café" lunch offered for \$5, \$4 for students.

LBCC Earth Day Fair is free and open to the public. Event is sponsored by the LBCC Student Leadership Council.



PHOTOS: ANGELA SCOTT

Renee McKitterick is a professional artist and an art instructor at LBC. She teaches Ceramics, Design 3, and this spring she is teaching a Public Art class where students learn to write proposals, work in groups and design larger works for public spaces.

ADVENTURES IN ART

Students explore galleries, exhibits, and public artworks in Astoria and Portland

STORY BY **EMMA SPAULDING**

Linn-Benton public art students traveled to Astoria to attend an art opening at Clatsop Community College on April 5. The show featured artwork from Linn-Benton ceramics instructor Renee McKitterick, as well as artwork by artists Frank Boyden and Rich Bergeman. Boyden had a series of prints on display along with ceramic work, while Bergeman showcased prints of his infrared photography.

The artwork by McKitterick involved both ceramic vessels and wall installations. She spoke about some of the inspirations for her artwork before answering questions from the audience about her process and her decisions about how to install the wall installations. For this show, McKitterick was inspired by abstracted literary elements and forces of nature. When asked about how she balances teaching with her artmaking, McKitterick said she felt energized

by her students and this fueled her work on the weekends.

The show "Empathies and Energies" is on display at the Royal Nebeker Gallery in Astoria through May 10.

The following day, McKitterick and her public art students traveled to Portland to visit the Portland Art Museum. The students explored the museum for a few hours before regrouping as a class and visiting some of Portland's most famous works of public art.



Renee's installations are made from ceramic pieces that were shaped in her studio and her installation was more, 'impromptu', based on the gallery space that was available.



(From left) Bryce Smith, Emma Spaulding and Renee McKitterick, discuss the exhibit, "Empathies and Energies" during its opening reception in Astoria. Students from the Public Art class travelled to see her work alongside others in a different environment.



"Fox Wheel" by Bruce Nauman is one of many works displayed in the Portland Art Museum that students were given the opportunity to view.



Michael Bosch, Renee McKitterick and Emma Spaulding

Laika studios, a popular animation house based in Portland, is currently exhibiting their work at the Portland Museum of Art. Laika is the backbone behind productions such as, "Kubo and the Two Strings," "Coraline," and other movies where much of the set is designed by hand.



After viewing works in Portland Art Museum, members of the Public Art class walked around Portland to critically assess parameters that currently exist between environment, art and audience.



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GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL!



COURTESY: NINTENDO



STORY BY
STEVEN PRYOR
@STEVENPRR2PRYOR

“Detective Pikachu” is the latest spinoff in the long-running “Pokémon” video game series. Originally released in Japan in 2016, this unique take on the world of Pokémon is a worthwhile addition to the 3DS’ library and a fun introduction to the genre of detective video games.

The premise of the game is as follows: you play as a young man named Tim Goodman, who has come to Ryome City to search for his father, who disappeared two months prior to the events of the game. He must then partner with the titular Detective Pikachu in order to find him, as well as unravel a series of mysteries that all build up to part of a greater conspiracy.

While the Pikachu in this game may not actively battle other Pokémon, his deductive skills come

in handy over the course of the game’s story. The plot is contained in nine chapters that make up three episodes of content. Rather than traveling the globe and engaging Pokémon trainers in battle, the game focuses on puzzle solving and trying to uncover culprits in cases ranging from stolen jewelry to corporate cover ups. In many ways, the game’s combination of humor and strategy recalls many classic adventure games such as “Maniac Mansion” and “Day of the Tentacle.”

The game’s graphics also have a unique art style that makes good use of the 3DS’ hardware. While the Pokémon are rendered their usual Japanese style, the environments and human characters have a more Western style that would not be out of place in an animated film from Disney or Pixar (a live-action adaptation of the game is set for release in May 2019).

Even though the game may not be as complex as similar titles such as “Professor Layton” and the “Ace Attorney” franchise, don’t be fooled: Game Freak’s longtime partners of Creatures, Inc. have crafted another

GAME REVIEW:

Detective Pikachu

PUBLISHER: Nintendo/The Pokémon Company
DEVELOPER: Creatures, Inc.
PLATFORM: 3DS
ESRB RATING: E
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

worthy spinoff that can be enjoyed by “Pokémon” newcomers and true believers alike. Although it may seem simple on the surface, the later cases will keep you guessing, even when playing on easy difficulty mode. There’s also plenty of humor to be had from the title character. Rather than the usual cute personality people normally associate with Pikachu, the character is a much different breed in more ways than one. The way this snarky, deep-voiced electric mouse wears a hunting cap and guzzles coffee in his favorite café is one of the many reasons the game is a worthy addition to the world of “Pokémon.”

Overall, “Detective Pikachu” is another strong spinoff for the “Pokémon” franchise and well worth playing for fans and 3DS. While it remains to be seen what the main series will do when the highly-anticipated Nintendo Switch entry launches, the decision to localize this game after its successful release in Japan was definitely “a bolt of brilliance!”



COURTESY: DISNEY



STORY BY
STEVEN PRYOR
@STEVENPRR2PRYOR

The long-running “Pokémon” anime has entered its 21st successful season with “Pokémon The Series: Sun and Moon-Ultra Adventures.” Continuing the storylines established in “Pokémon the Series: Sun and Moon,” this adaptation of the hit video game series is one of the most unique versions of the franchise in years.

During the course of his studies at the Pokémon Academy, Ash discovers a mysterious Pokémon while exploring the woods with Pikachu. After he and his classmates dub the creature “Nebby,” the activities of strange Pokémon known as “Ultra Beasts” attract the attention of the “Island Guardians”

as well as a company known as the Aether Foundation. As a scientist known as Faba seeks to use Nebby to further his research on the Ultra Beasts, the Alola region is about to face its biggest challenges yet.

While many longtime fans of the franchise initially scoffed at the changes made to the story structure of the anime, this version of the series has established itself as one of the most distinct versions of the world of “Pokémon” yet. Much like the video games the series adapts, the anime gives a shakeup to the conventions that have been part of the series for years. The character dynamic and plot lines blend humor and adventure with a vibrant, colorful art style. The animation uses a fluid way of movement that often resembles Western-influenced anime, such as “One Piece,” “Cowboy Bebop,” and “The Big O.”

Even though some fans are still unhappy with

the liberties taken with the games, as well as how the anime varies so much in style and tone compared to the “XY” series of the anime, this second season of the “Sun and Moon” series has definitely helped the journey in Alola come into its own. Mentor figures such as Samson Oak and Professor Kukui are joined by the likes of Professor Burnet as well as the Aether President Lusamine and her assistant, Wicke. Lillie’s brother, Gladion (voice of Eddy Lee), is one of the most compelling rival characters of the franchise in years, and the series is also teasing appearances from characters such as Sophocles’ cousin Molyne as of the latest Japanese episode.

Overall, “Pokémon the Series: Sun and Moon-Ultra Adventures” is a unique take on the long-running anime that suggests a strong future for the franchise “under the Alolan moon.”

TV SERIES REVIEW:

Pokémon The Series: Sun and Moon-Ultra Adventures

NETWORK: Disney XD (Check Your Local Cable or Satellite listings)
STARRING: Sarah Natochenny, Rosie Reyes, Marc Swint, Laurie Hymes, Jessica Paquet, Alyson Leigh Rosenfeld and Ikue Ohtani with Daniel J. Edwards, Abe Goldfarb and Marc Thompson
RATED: TV-Y7-FV

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

A RESPONSE TO CNN

COLUMN BY JEREMY DURAND

Under an attention grabbing, all-caps, "ANALYSIS" on the CNN Website sits an article entitled "Sanders and Harris crossed the base. What will it cost them?" The article, written by Gregory Krieg, opens with "On consecutive nights last week, in two cities more than 2,000 miles apart, a pair of the Democratic Party's best bets to oust President Donald Trump in 2020 created headlines that could stalk them for the next two years."

"Intriguing," I thought. "What happened?" I asked.

Sanders' crime? Criticizing Former President Obama.

"But his mention of Obama -- at that time, in that place -- caused anger and frustration in some already skeptical quarters of the Democratic base, particularly among those who argue Sanders' insistence on framing inequality as a chiefly economic matter, with racial concerns existing downstream from that core divide, effectively downplays the fight for racial justice," Krieg's "analysis" read.

Sanders' exact comments did not have anything to do with the above. "(Obama) was obviously an extraordinary candidate, brilliant guy. But behind that reality, over the last 10 years, Democrats have lost about 1,000 seats in state legislatures all across this country," Sanders said, and honestly, he's right, and honestly



doesn't go far enough with his criticisms.

You see, Barack Obama, while being the first person of color to serve as President of the United States, was not perfect by any means, and while I believe that recognizing his historical importance in that regard, it would be an injustice to ignore Obama's other actions in office.

President Obama ran on a campaign of universal healthcare, closing the US blacksite in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and pulling US Troops out of Iraq. Obama failed to accomplish all three goals.

President Obama promised to reform the healthcare system, however, 10 years after he was elected, all we got was a right-wing healthcare reform plan that was introduced when the left controlled both houses and the presidency, all introduced in the name of "compromise" and what happened? Republicans moved to the right and denounced their own plan, that was

very similar to a healthcare reform plan instituted by a certain republican governor of Massachusetts and 2012 Republican Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney.

The problem with the Affordable Care Act is that it doesn't go far enough. Millions of people are still uninsured, and Republicans spun the bill around to stoke anger against the left.

The fact that that Guantanamo Bay remains open under President Obama, adds to the many stains on his legacy. The CIA expanded their "enhanced interrogation" (their fancy word for "torture") programs under President Obama. Guantanamo Bay is still open, and there are still hundreds of "enemy combatants" being "enhancedly" interrogated for information.

And, while we "ended" the war in Iraq, we still have troops there, now fighting ISIL instead of Al-Qaeda. President Obama also expanded the drone warfare program, which enabled the mass slaughter of anyone within a 100 foot radius of a terrorist, including women and children.

So, no Krieg, there are more than a handful of valid criticisms against President Obama, despite his historical accomplishments. History will likely judge him by not only those accomplishments, not only for being better than Bush (not a high bar), not only for being better than Trump (an even lower bar), but for the bad too. One needs to remember this considering the fact the Democratic Party lost a large amount of its power.

CAMPUS NEWS

LB iLEARN STAFF WORK TO TRANSITION STUDENTS

COURTESY OF LBCC NEWS SERVICE

Since receiving the news in January, LB iLearn staff have been working to transition all students out of iLearn, as the College decided to discontinue the program for financial reasons. Although this is sad news for the community, the good news is that teach-out plans have been made for those students still in the program. LB iLearn has served 372 students in over a dozen states

and five countries since 2015. Of those students, 26 percent completed their educational goal and 15 students completed a certificate or degree program. During their time together, the iLearn team created several unique program offerings that will live on at LBCC. Of those offerings, the Social Media Specialist Certificate and Vet Radiology Certification will become part of Short Term Training. The Computed Tomography Certificate and Interventional Radiology Certification will become part of Diagnostic Imaging. And, the partnership and

transfer pathway created with OSU's College of Business, allowing students to earn up to 120 credits at LBCC towards their Bachelor's in Business, will be available through the Business department. Most iLearn staff will transition out of iLearn in April. While transitioning students may continue coursework through the end of the year, the iLearn office will tentatively close by the end of June.

LBCC APPROVED FOR STEM-HUB, \$65K GRANT

COURTESY OF LBCC NEWS SERVICE

LBCC received a \$65,405 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation Oracle STEM Education Fund to expand STEM-CTE activities in the region, including Pipeline, a program of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. The grant covers year one of a three-year potential grant to expand Pipeline, which provides a bridge between K-12 education, post-secondary education and employment in STEM-CTE fields. The OCF Oracle grant will be administered through the Mid-Valley STEM-CTE Hub, a partnership between LBCC, Oregon State University, Linn Benton Lincoln Educational Service District, Linn and Benton K-12 school districts, and industry and community partners such as the Albany Chamber of Commerce's Pipeline Program and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Approved by the

Oregon Department of Education in December 2017, the Mid-Valley Hub joins a statewide network of hubs established to improve awareness of CTE and STEM opportunities. Funding will offset transportation costs to STEM-CTE activities for rural students and the costs of "Pipeline" STEM-CTE programs like manufacturing and healthcare events, and will support LBCC student ambassadors who will take hands-on activities into classrooms in elementary and middle schools to bring awareness of STEM-CTE activities and careers. Funds will also improve outreach to Hispanic communities that the Hub will serve, including translation services and programming for entire families.



THE COMMONS
* CAFETERIA *

4/11 to 4/17

Wednesday 4/11: Smoked Salmon Benedict, Pan Seared Chicken Breast*, Fettucini w/Sauteed Veggies. Soups: Italian Sausage*, Curried Eggplant & Zucchini* Salads: Green Salad w/Pork Carnitas OR w/Spinach & Cotija Quesadillas.

Thursday 4/12: Pasta w/Red Wine Braised Pork & Pancetta, Spicy Shrimp Stir Fry w/Rice, Shakshuka w/Garlic Crostini. Soups: Smoked Salmon Chowder, Potato Leek*. Salads: Smoked Salmon Caesar w/Hazelnut Crisps, Vegetarian Caesar w/Avocado.

Monday 4/16: Chicken Marengo*, Grilled Pork Chop*, Power Bowl w/Veggies & Rice*. Soups: Egg Flower*, Tomato Basil. Salads: Green Salad w/Grilled Shrimp OR w/Couscous, Black Bean, Corn Salad & Avocado

Tuesday 4/17: Braised Brisket w/Hot Sauce & Roasted Chilis, Fish-n-Chips w/House made Tartar Sauce, Fettucini w/Shitakes & Asparagus. Soups: Cuban Black Bean*, Creamy Coconut Carrot* Salads: Mediterranean Chicken OR Falafel w/Hummus & Focaccia.

Monday to Friday - 10 AM - 1:15 PM

HUMANS OF LBCC



AMERIKA ROJOS

"I grew up speaking Spanish: it wasn't until I entered preschool that I was taught English. My parents taught me Spanish because they didn't speak English well and because they wanted me to be able to communicate with the rest of my family, especially my grandparents. Growing up, we were only allowed to speak Spanish at home, with the exception of when our friends came over. Being bilingual was tough at first, I used to really struggle

with reading. At home, I was being taught how to read in Spanish, while at school I was being taught in English, frequently mixing the two. Now that I am older, I really appreciate my parents for forcing Spanish upon my siblings and I because it has been helpful and I think it's a cool quality to have."

STORY AND PHOTO BY **SAMANTHA WILSON**



AUSTIN MALONEY

"The reason I chose LB is because right out of high school I didn't have the best grades due to me taking honors classes my senior year, which wasn't the best choice, but at the same time it worked out well. I didn't have the GPA to go straight to OSU so I chose LBCC, and I ended up liking it a lot because I felt like I got more attention overall and in the subjects I struggled in, like math. Professor Mary Campbell helped me throughout my math classes and helped me get those core classes done. I had a counselor named Mark Weiss who helped me get into OSU and explained what classes I could segue into OSU. He also helped me get my associates in business here as well. I appreciated the attention I got and was able to get a great education for a much lower price that is just as effective".

STORY AND PHOTO BY **CAM HANSON**



CASEY HADLEY

"My dream job is to be a veterinarian someday but I just found out the US doesn't give felons their certificate so I have a fallback dream job, which is to open my own crossfit gym. I've always wanted to own my own business. It takes seven years to get something expunged from your record. That means I have hope. I can always go back to school if I want to. But that's why you always have a fallback. I think most people in my situation would

say being a felon [is the biggest struggle in their life], because when people hear that you're a felon, they don't look at you for the person you currently are. They look at you for what you did in your past and most people think you can never change. But it's not our past that defines us, it's how we utilize our past and our mistakes that makes us who we are."

STORY AND PHOTO BY **SARAH MELCHER**

KELLY SKAER

"A mom of six kids, my boys are 13,11,10, and 8, and my girls are 4 and 20 months. I married into a community that doesn't support women going to college or working much outside the home. When the marriage ended, the court ordered no contact, mainly because of physical abuse. I knew it was time to do what I had always wanted to: pursue a degree and get myself a little career going to support my family."



STORY AND PHOTO BY **SAMANTHA WILSON**

EARTH DAY

LBCC April 19

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • Courtyard
6500 Pacific Blvd S.W., Albany

End Plastic Pollution

EarthDay.org
#EarthDay2018 #EndPlasticPollution

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Courtyard lunch!

- Flower Pot Planting 🌸
- Organic Garden Produce Sale
- And More!

STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations: Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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