

COMMUNITER



SLAM DUNK FOR LOCAL YOUTH

Community comes together to support local organization

Local businesses were swamped as the Sears parking lot in the Heritage Mall was overrun with 156 three-person teams, and all their friends and family.

Blaring today's top-40 music, the DJ got kids of all ages grooving as the weekend competition was set to start, Aug. 13-14.

Full story on page 8

PHOTO BY : BRIAN HAUSOTTER

DARI LAWRIE SAYS GOODBYE

Interview With Former LBCC Student Poet Laureate



PHOTO BY : ALYSSA CAMPBELL

Former Student Poet Laureate Dari Lawrie said farewell to Linn-Benton Community College at the end of the spring 2016 term. She'll be going into her senior year as an English undergraduate at OSU, and will be applying to master's programs in creative writing after graduating. After college Lawrie plans on teaching English and writing at a community college.

Full story on page 4

WANTED: BANDS SEEK LOCAL VENUES

Local band Space Neighbors rocks Sky High's rooftop with a full crowd



PHOTO BY : EMILY GOODYKOONTZ

Corvallians are thirsty for a local live music venue. They proved it in droves on Friday night, Aug. 14. Sky High Brewery's rooftop filled to capacity with revelers grooving to the homegrown tunes of South Town based band Space Neighbors.

Full story on page 5

THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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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:

Address:

The Commuter Office
Forum 222
6500 SW Pacific Blvd.
Albany, Oregon 97321

Web Address:

commuter.linnbenton.edu

Phone:

541-917-4451, 4452 or 4449

Email:

commuter@linnbenton.edu



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Emily Goodykoontz

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Nick Lawrence

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MASTERING CHANGE: FINDING COMFORT IN SOLITUDE

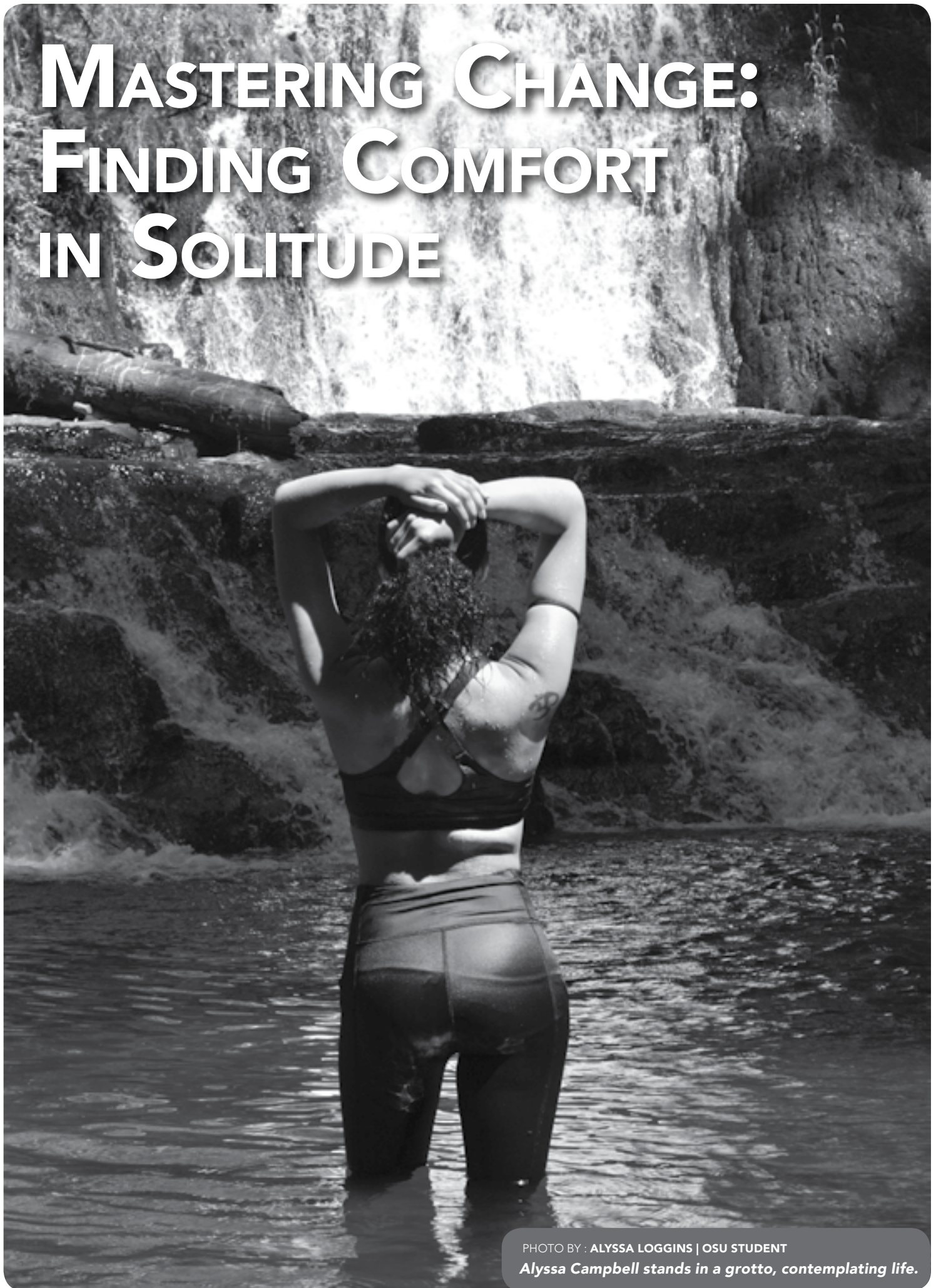


PHOTO BY: ALYSSA LOGGINS | OSU STUDENT

Alyssa Campbell stands in a grotto, contemplating life.

Adulthood on an inner level

Time moves fast when you're caught up in the anxiety of day to day life. In my previous column "Am I Adulthood Yet?" I discussed the uncertainty that comes with the dreadful quarter-life crisis.

This summer has given me a lot to think about regarding where I am, where I'm going, and what I'm doing to get there.

Besides the actual work that I am putting in towards my dreams, I've realized something that is also very important: Take time to focus on living a balanced life. Whether it be changing eating habits, drinking more water, going for a nature walk, hike, meditating, yoga, or just listening to what my body and soul need, so I can feel grounded in the present.

"This is critical because in our everyday normal states we tend to be tied either to recollections and vestiges of the past or to hopes and fears about the future," wrote the Dalai Lama, on discussing meditation and mindful observation, in his book "The Universe In A Single Atom."

From settling into a new community to picking up where I left off in college, making new friends, feeling lost, battling depression, deciding to take my writing seriously, and finding a voice through poetry; so much has changed within these two years since moving from California to Oregon.

Letting go of attachment has been something I've struggled with, and there's been a lot of inner work I've had to do; work that I'm still doing. At times I carry the overwhelming fear of failure and wish I had some guidance. But I realize life works in mysterious ways, and sometimes you just have to trust that everything will turn out okay.

I'm learning that it's not really about the answers or the destination—and I'm ready to get back to being amazed by the little things, while finding comfort in my solitude.

On Aug. 4, I went to Alsea Falls, somewhere I've been set on going for a while. And I have to say it was everything I expected. I definitely feel extremely grateful to be surrounded by so much

beautiful scenery. But most importantly, when I go on these hikes, I'm able to clear my mind from all the distractions.

"Recognize the good things about spending time alone! If you aren't familiar with it, embrace it and see if you can find positivity in solitude, and start viewing time alone as an opportunity rather than a threat," said Dr. DePaulo, Visiting Researcher at UC Santa Barbara, in an interview with Vice contributor Yasmin Jeffery.

Whether it be the latest breaking news, school, money, love, self-doubt, writer's block, or just the pressure of deciding what steps to take next, I think everyone comes to a point in life when they realize practicing introspection is needed. Not only to have a better understanding of the collective consciousness, but to maintain your own inner peace. Especially when it may feel like the world around you is falling apart.



COLUMN BY
ALYSSA CAMPBELL
@ALYSSAFAYEC



PHOTO BY : HANNAH BUFFINGTON
Moriah Hoskins proudly leans on her sketchwagon.

6 THINGS YOU LEARN FROM BUYING A SHITTY VAN

When life gives you lemons, buy a lemon

One sometimes finds themselves plunked into the brutal market of shady car dealerships and dubious craigslist ads. Whether it's moving out, an unfortunate accident or Martians have suddenly abducted your car, it's occasionally necessary to cave and buy a beater just to get you through your next term. I know I did, and here's what I learned from obtaining my own spectacularly shitty van. (A rusty 1996 Ford Windstar with the Phoenix Inn logos barely peeled off.)

Decisions Are Hard

There is nary a more vulnerable feeling than standing on a car lot, trying to decide if the Camry chop shop special to your left is less likely to make you die in a fireball than the hulking Windstar on your right. The salesman stares into your eyes, making you wonder if you should just take up biking. In the end, you just have to test drive and see where things go. Don't be afraid to leave and come back

again, but just bite the bullet in the end.

Just Because It Doesn't Have a Key Doesn't Mean it Won't Start

Apparently, all you need to look like the sketchiest driver in the world is a large screwdriver and an even sketchier van. Make sure to keep your license, title, insurance, and all the paperwork on you at all times, and leaving the price tags on the vehicle until you make it to the DMV to put your newest addition to the family in your name doesn't hurt either. Re-keying your ignition and doors is also a lot less expensive than you'd think, so don't worry.

Just Because It Starts Doesn't Mean it Won't Have Problems

The first time I experienced my van stalling on me was in the middle of an intersection. After my near-death experience, I quickly made sure my will was in order, and then took my van in for

a check up. A word to the wise, auto parts stores are less likely than a mechanic to charge you nearly \$300 to not tell you what the problem is, and are more likely to plug in a diagnostic tool and help you get the right parts. I learned this the hard way.

Just Because It Has Problems Doesn't Mean You Can't Fix Them

After your moment of existential dread concerning what happens to you after you die in yet another intersection, you will be more than happy to buy a few parts, and get some knowledgeable friends or even a mechanic to help you replace them. YouTube and auto parts stores are a wealth of knowledge, don't be afraid to ask questions and use your search bar heavily.

You Will Hate Your Vehicle

There will come a moment when you break down yet again, and honking cars

swerve around you, and that an insatiable urge to light your vehicle on fire and never look at it again will wash over you. Ignore this urge.

You Will Love Your Vehicle

There will also be times where you are parked out in the country, sitting on your crappy van, car, Vespa, or bike, and genuinely appreciate the decision you made in that dusty, hot, sketchy car lot. Hold on to these moments and save them for when your car breathes its lemony last and you have to set out yet again to purchase your next one.



COLUMN BY
MORIAH HOSKINS
@MORIAH_HOSKINS

LIFE HACKS: SUNBURN

Tips to help you beat the burn

1. Prevention

Always remember your sunscreen and to reapply often. It also helps to wear wide brimmed hats and clothes that are loose and cool, yet still cover your skin. For swimming, there's shirts and bottoms with sun-fighting properties woven into the fabric to keep you safe.

2. Aloe Vera

One must be picky with their aloe products. Aloe gels often contain fragrance and coloring which can be extremely irritating to skin, especially sunburned skin. When choosing your aloe gel, pick one that is 100% aloe, or even just buy a plant. When using a plant, simply cut off a leaf and cut it in half and squeeze out the juice. If you buy a bottle of aloe gel, you can pop it in the fridge to make it extra cool and soothing.

3. Vinegar

Did you disregard Step 1? That's okay. Right after you get inside take a cotton pad and pour some diluted apple cider vinegar onto it. Rub it onto your skin, and rinse off the vinegar soon after to prevent further burning.

4. Tea

Black tea is also known to help with a sunburn. Tying a couple bags to the faucet as you run a bath, or just dumping a mug in is known to help calm your skin woes.

5. Avoid soap and perfume

The alcohol, fragrance, and oil stripping properties of perfume and soap will make it even harder for your skin to heal. Avoid soap for a day or two after your burn to give your skin a chance to heal up.

6. Take a Cool Bath Before Bed

Sleeping with a sunburn is a miserable experience, and cooling off before bed can help calm your inflamed blood vessels.



COLUMN BY
MORIAH HOSKINS
@MORIAH_HOSKINS



PHOTO BY: ALYSSA CAMPBELL

From left: Robin Havenick, Jane White, and Dari Lawrie during the LBCC "Life in Art Project" celebration at the Benton Center on Friday, June 3.

DARI LAWRIE SAYS GOODBYE

Interview with former LBCC Student Poet Laureate

Former Student Poet Laureate Dari Lawrie said farewell to Linn-Benton Community College at the end of the spring 2016 term. She'll be going into her senior year as an English undergraduate at OSU, and will be applying to master's programs in creative writing after graduating. After college Lawrie plans on teaching English and writing at a community college.

Q: What inspired you to become the student poet laureate?

A: My best friend works with the elderly and she would tell me a lot of stories about things she encountered while she was caring for elderly people. A lot of things around how their identity was disappearing gradually with dementia. It just made me feel like it would be really great to do something that was around the topic of identity for some of the elders in our community; who are sort of disappearing in pieces. So I came up with this idea for "Life in Art;" of having student writers and photographers interview elderly people in our community, then write a part of their life story down. And also taking portrait pictures, or maybe painting a portrait of them as well.

Q: Can you tell a little about the projects throughout your time as a student poet laureate, and which ones have been your favorite?

A: I would have to say it would've been that first project we did. I was working with a gentleman named Larry, who was 100-years-old. We both shared a favorite poem, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." We just had such a lovely connection, and he was very funny. When he came to the reception and heard me read his poem he cried. It was the last time he left his house, so it was really special for me. He died a few weeks later. It just felt like 'what a lovely connection you can have with somebody that you might never have met.' But we've done a lot of things, and a lot of the things we do were established long before I came. We do ekphrasis projects every year, where we work with artists. Basically our art talks to each other. To me it's all about community anyway, when you have artists working together in the community it just seems



PHOTO BY: ALYSSA CAMPBELL

Lawrie gave thanks to all involved in the "Life in Art Project."

more powerful as an art form. It's just new ways to connect with each other.

Q: What is the process of workshopping like in poetry club?

A: It's a very personal thing; it's an art form. So workshopping is this really delicate process. You have to sort of look at yourself while you're doing it too, and try to make sure that you're not putting your ideas on to something. Sort of just helping that person clear the way so their ideas come out more strongly.

Q: So that it's still their voice, and not becoming yours?

A: Right. Listening is the most important part of what we do in poetry club. Actively listening to somebody's poem is really healing I think for that person. But it's also really healing for me, because I can actually be surprised by something that I might not have seen before. It just leaves a lot of space in the room for things to happen. I would say that's the thing I've gotten from poetry club, just open actively listening.

Q: Why do you want to teach at a community college?

A: I feel like community college is a place where you can make more of a difference as a teacher. My interest is in teaching, not in research or being published, which is sort of an expectation of a university professor. I really like the community I have found here at LBCC.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

A: Yes, I've always been a teacher. I taught kindergarten and I've taught first through sixth grade.

Q: You're from Australia, right?

A: I'm from Australia. I traveled a lot after high school, and I spent almost four years in India. I traveled in Europe and Asia, then I went back to Australia periodically. Then I met an American man, got married, moved to Oregon, and had children. Then got divorced but stayed, because of my children. So I've been here for 20 years.

Q: Favorite book?

A: Right now, my favorite book, that

"Really, Robin Havenick is the reason there's a beating heart of poetry in our school. She's one of those people who seem to find the very best in everyone and then celebrate that. It makes it easy to want to be good, easy to shine, because she believes in you."

changes constantly is "Beloved" by Toni Morrison. I'm enjoying American novelists from minority backgrounds, like Junot Diaz, Toni Morrison, N. Scott Momaday.

Q: If you could describe your poetry style how would you describe it?

A: I was just so tired of writing about myself all the time. So I started writing more external poems, and I actually think those are better. I think there's a lot of different ways you can enter them. For me it was starting with myself. Now I'm really consciously trying not to just write poems about how I feel, although I still do. I feel like using it for a purpose is helpful; saying things that need to be said.

Q: Anything else you'd like to share about your experience as poet laureate?

Poet laureateship, the way I see it, is more of a service position. I think it's more about how you can support other people in your community. Giving students opportunities and raising them up in a sense, valuing the arts, and the power of poetry.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
ALYSSA CAMPBELL
@ALYSSAFAYEC



FUNK THE FUNK OUT!

Local band Space Neighbors rocks Sky High's rooftop with a full crowd



PHOTO BY: EMILY GOODYKOONTZ
Brent Carmer on keys, one of the recent additions to the band.

Corvallians are thirsty for a local live music venue.

They proved it in droves on Friday night, Aug. 14. Sky High Brewery's rooftop filled to capacity with revelers grooving to the homegrown tunes of South Town based band Space Neighbors.

Under a moonlit sky, locals took full advantage of a chance to shake loose, dancing and downing the hair-on-your-chest cocktails served at Sky High's rooftop bar.

Formed in 2009, the group of musically inclined friends blasted off on a journey to create original, intergalactic-inspired tunes.

A self-proclaimed disco-gypsy-jam-funk band, the group spouts super-danceable rhythms. Their sound combines eclectic percussion with a bluesy horn section consisting of tenor saxophone and trombone, guitar, keyboards and the vocals of several members.

Over the years, members and instrumentation have changed, leaving only a few original members.

John Nevarro, a founding member of the band, works a day job as a physician's assistant at the Corvallis Clinic.

On stage Nevarro is known as "Yohan Solo" and leads the band through a raucous set. Both singer and bassist, his

"There's always been this flow. It's rich and bold and you just want to be in it [the music]."

galactic stage presence connects at full-on g-force with the crowd.

"It's good music," said Ibrahim Moussaoui, a Corvallis native who took an aerial film of the show with a Phantom 3 DJI drone. "That guy [John Nevarro] knows what he's doing on stage. I thought I might turn into a gypsy."

Nevarro and the other band members feel the community lacks enough opportunity for local bands to play good live sets.

"I'd like to see more venues develop for live music," said Nevarro.

Venues in Corvallis attempt to provide for bands and their fans, but many basic live-music essentials are missing, including stages, lighting, and streamlined sound systems. Because the venues are foremost restaurant-based businesses, shows are sporadic and space is limited.

"Bombs Away and Cloud [and Kelly's] are good places to play music, but really they are converted restaurants," said Nevarro.

On Sky High's rooftop, doormen

turned away groups of would-be revelers, remaining strict to the 200-person capacity code.

"We just need a venue, it's really all about that," said Captain GalexC, who joined the ensemble six months ago.

GalexC partakes in four separate music projects around town. His hand-built percussion set includes a stainless steel bell made by the Captain himself and a mini symbol he cut of a larger, broken symbol.

His contraption is a visual echo of just how creative this band can be.

"We [Space Neighbors] don't have a formula," said GalexC.

Each song played was original except one; a instrumental rock-out of the Star Wars "Cantina Song."

Space Neighbors will be featured at 2 Towns Ciderhouse's Harvest Festival in October and are ready for an upcoming album release.

"Their sound has really evolved over the years," said Starina Sparktacular, a dancer who partakes in local burlesque troupe Tart of the Valley.

She has danced to Space Neighbor's music for seven years and watches venues come and go in the community. No business dedicated to live music has taken hold.

But the Space Neighbors keep on playing shows when and where they can.

AT-A-GLANCE

The band also includes:

- Rigel "VII" Woodside on drums.
- Nick "The Nick of Time" Rivard on guitar.
- Brent Carmer on keyboard.
- Melanie "Moonbeam" Reid on vocals.
- Ed Propst on trombone.
- Brian "Legs" Myers on tenor saxophone.
- John "Yohan Solo" Nevarro on bass.
- Captain GalexC on percussion.

Space Neighbors will be featured at 2 Towns Ciderhouse's Harvest Festival in October and are ready for an upcoming album release.

"There's always been this flow. It's rich and bold and you just want to be in it [the music]," said Sparktacular.

On nights like this, Sparktacular's goal is to get a sluggish crowd moving. This crowd didn't need much encouragement. They were ready for the energetic release of good live music, and the band sent the crowd spinning around the rooftop.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
EMILY GOODYKOONTZ
@SHARKASAURUSX



COURTESY: SONY PICTURES

MOVIE REVIEW:

Ghostbusters**DIRECTOR:** Paul Feig**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:** Dan Aykroyd**BUDGET:** \$180 million**BOX OFFICE:** \$144 million**RATED:** PG-13**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★☆**VERDICT:** Wait for Rental if you're still skeptical (unless you go to a theater like Cinebarre in Salem that offers \$6 movies Mon to Thurs).REVIEW BY **MORGAN CONNELLY**

To mixed reviews by audiences, going into *Ghostbusters* was a Schrodinger's cat experience.

This was either going to be a godawful reproduction, ruining the careers of four of comedy's queens, or it could be surprisingly great.

This was the latter.

Melissa McCartney and three of SNL's funniest female cast members -- Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig, and Leslie Jones -- lead the next generation of paranormal prowlers to victory in a different take on the classic series. The cooky special effects and sci-fi vibes were reminiscent of 2002's *Scooby Doo* movie.

Chris Hemsworth starred as the Ghostbusters' "dumb blonde secretary." If it weren't for the fact that

it highlighted Hemsworth's more childlike side, the secretary would have just been a parasitic add-on. He was weird, but it was a likeable, different side to the beloved Thor actor.

What made this movie work was how well it was produced and written. Again, there was the potential for a series of talented SNL and comedy experts to completely destroy what had already been called an unnecessary spin off. Believe me, I just thought it was done for the feminism factor, and it was when you consider the team of fierce independent women and an air headed Hemsworth. But I can't help agreeing with one online commenter: this is a great way for a current generation of young girls to look up to these women as

icons. And seeing how none of the Ghostbusters fit the bill of a Hollywood starlet like Blake Lively, that's not exactly a bad thing.

VERDICT: I predicted the movie to be a kooky, unnecessary, girl-power add-on to the original series, but this was far from it. I hold an additional realm of respect for the sheer fact that the original cast appeared in cameos throughout the film.

Today, in the land of "how many unnecessary remakes can we create," (Andrew Garfield's "Spiderman" and Michael B. Jordan's "Fantastic Four") this was a more spooky and paranormal version of the 80s smash hit.

The most shocking part: I'm totally ready for a sequel. Don't knock it 'till you've tried it.



POKÉMON GO FOR DUMMIES

Learn how to use Pokéstops, lures, Razz Berries and more!

Let's do the timewarp again!

Within the ever-increasing popularity in 1990's trends, it was only natural for the card game to "evolve" for a smartphone filled generation.

For those who have been living under a pop culture rock, *Pokemon GO* is an augmented reality app game where trainers must physically walk around trying to catch the namesake creatures (*Pokemon*.) These *Pokemon* tend to show up more commonly in areas where cell phone activity is high, which is why you'll see groups of people staring at their cell phones at parks or nearby statues. For the rare, hard-to-catch *Pokemon*, players flock to cities like Portland and Seattle to increase the quality of their *Pokemon* collection.

And for those of you who are concerned about the safety of players, the app opens with a picture of the gigantic sea serpent, Gyarados, standing right in front of a player oblivious to his surroundings because he's distracted by his phone. (We've been warned.)

HOW TO PLAY:

Trainers begin the game by selecting a Starting *Pokemon*: Squirtle, a water

type turtle; Charmander, a fire type; and Bulbasaur, a grass type. There's an "easter egg," where you can walk away from these three choices to choose Pikachu, an electric mouse *Pokemon*, instead. (In the original television series, the main character Ash famously gets assigned a stubborn Pikachu.)

After selecting a Starter, the game is fairly straightforward and involves a lot of walking around. While the object of any rendition of the game is to collect *Pokemon* (hence their catchphrase, "Gotta catch 'em all!"), newcomer trainers are advised to locate "Pokéstops" in order to collect items like Pokéballs that are necessary for catching a *Pokemon*.

Other items players can obtain from these stops include healing potions, revives for fainted *Pokemon*, eggs, and Razz Berries that make it easier to catch *Pokemon*. Sometimes, players can even get lucky and discover items like incense, lucky eggs, incubators, and lure modules.

GOTCHA!

For new Trainers, catching a *Pokemon* can be a bit tricky at first, and it's necessary to have several Pokéballs at hand in case you don't get it on your first try. (Writer's note: You think you will. You won't, and

that's okay.) Finding a *Pokemon* is a matter of taking the time to walk around your neighborhood, preferably a popular area like a park. On the other hand, there are several ways of catching *Pokemon*:

EASY: Using incense, a personal item that attracts *Pokemon* for you for a half hour, or a lure module, incense that everyone can use. These items can be found at Pokéstops.

HARDER: Using the "nearby *Pokemon*" feature on the bottom right corner of your main screen to locate specific *Pokemon*. The more steps under the *Pokemon*'s silhouette, the farther it is from you.

Once located, simply click on the *Pokemon* you've discovered when you're close enough to it. Then comes the tricky part: swipe the Pokéball towards the critter with the hopes of capturing it inside the ball. As mentioned previously, you can never have too many Pokéballs in your inventory.

A possibly helpful way to catch 'em: Use the circles that appear around the *Pokemon*.

Your ultimate goal is to try and hit inside the inner colored circle. The

smaller the circle, the higher the chances of you carefully catching the *Pokemon* without it escaping.

Using Razz Berries when you're in the capture screen help make the *Pokemon* easier to catch. This is especially helpful with *Pokemon* that you really need to catch. As you level up, you will be able to use more advanced Pokéballs. These are rare, but also make catching easier.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS:

If you see a Pokéstop with pink confetti around it, this is where a lure module has been used. They are active for 30 minutes, and everyone can benefit from catching the *Pokemon* that are drawn to them.

If you have tossed your Pokéball but have failed to catch the *Pokemon*, quickly tap the fallen Pokéball within the first bounce.

Name your Eevee to choose it's evolution. Use Rainer to evolve to Vaporeon. Use Sparky to evolve to Jolteon. Use Pyro to evolve to Flareon. (This easter egg has been verified by the creators.)



COLUMN BY
MORGAN CONNELLY
@MADEINOREGON97



COURTESY: SONY PICTURES

MOVIE REVIEW:
Star Trek Beyond

DIRECTOR: Justin Lin
BOX OFFICE: \$195.4 million
FILM SERIES: Star Trek
SCREENPLAY: Simon Pegg, Doug Jung
RATED: PG-13
OVERALL RATING: ★★☆☆☆
VERDICT: Wait for Redbox.

REVIEW BY **MORGAN CONNELLY**

There are two types of people in the audience of the modern Star Trek movie: those who are watching as Trekkies, and those who watch it for the entertainment value and sci-fi factor.

The attraction to seeing this spinoff makes “Beyond” that much more appealing to trekkies when considering the easter egg scene of a tribute to the original Mr. Spock himself, the late Leonard Nimoy who passed earlier this year. In terms of entertainment value, it’s a continuation of a story four years in the making, one which leaves a lot of blank spaces for a film with such a long production time.

For those who have forgotten the last movie’s storyline, the plot didn’t click until the end of the movie:

taking down the dark lord Krall and his servants from destroying the Enterprise. This is basically the generic plotline for any science fiction or fantasy movies like Star Wars, the Hunger Games, Avatar and Harry Potter.

Scenes went by within the blink of an eye, leaving very little context at times. At one moment, Captain Kirk was discussing the potential of earning a higher rank. Three minutes later, we’re beamed up onto the Starship Enterprise.

From there, the plot was predictable: the Enterprise attempts to save the day with the small numbers they have against Krall’s mighty army. Good vs. evil is debated, when Kirk and Krall discuss the Enterprise member’s allegiance to faithfully obeying the rules. Krall, being

the antagonist, naturally suggests that allowing chaos and feuding can be a healthy part of our lives. For many members of the Enterprise, obedience alludes to peace. A world without conflict or fighting.

VERDICT: Wait for redbox.

We see a lot of psychological thinking become thematic within “Beyond,” and with that follows much more character development. With a cast of A-List actors like Zoe Saldana, Chris Pine, Simon Pegg, and Zachary Quinto as an incredible reincarnation of Mr. Spock, the movie disappointed me in terms of execution.

It may just be because I’m a Star Wars megafan. It could also be a lack of knowledge, or perhaps it’s just because it wasn’t great.



COURTESY: DC ENTERTAINMENT INC.

MOVIE REVIEW:
Suicide Squad

DIRECTOR: David Ayer
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Zack Snyder
BUDGET: \$175 million
BOX OFFICE: \$384 million
RATED: PG-13
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY **TRUMAN TEMPLETON**

Since the first teaser hit Comic-Con back in 2015, comic and movie aficionados have given no shortage of attention to director David Ayer’s “Suicide Squad.” Taking place in the DC Comics universe with famous names like Batman and Superman, “Suicide Squad” puts a spin on the genre by casting the villains as the main characters, leaving the well-known heroes as nothing more than footnotes to their story.

While it was a fun ride that could make for a great night with friends or a date, those experiencing a monumental blockbuster a la “The Avengers” will be left underwhelmed and disappointed.

An intelligence operative from the United States Government (Viola Davis) teams up with a special forces operative (Joel Kinnaman) to assemble a task force of notorious baddies for the purpose of combating potential threats posed by superhumans. This group consists of Deadshot (Will Smith), expert assassin; Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), former psychiatrist turned lover of the infamous Joker (Jared Leto); Captain Boomerang (Jai Courtney), a legendary thief who takes his namesake from his signature weapon; El Diablo (Jay Hernandez),

a former gangster/human flamethrower; and Killer Croc (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje), a human-crocodile hybrid. Three tag-along characters are also included in the squad’s roster.

That’s a lengthy character list, and one of the main problems with the film. Ayer wanted to throw in a lot of characters, but could barely keep track of them. Anyone not familiar with the D.C. universe isn’t going to understand why these characters are even here, including most of the audience. There are moments where all the tag-along characters only exist to fill up screen time. As the movie goes on, the characters feel more and more like one-dimensional extra baggage. If they whittled down the cast to the government agents, Deadshot, Harley Quinn, the Joker, and Dr. Moon, the plot could have stayed pretty much the same.

What little development there is for the bigger characters is unfortunately rushed. The first act of the film builds character and plot, but it all comes at you very fast and cuts corners where it doesn’t need to.

However, the film is not a total disaster, and has many aspects worthy of praise. Robbie and Smith steal

the show as Harley Quinn and Deadshot, and Smith’s performance is definitely one of his recent best. And then there is Leto’s Joker. Always a fascinating character, the combination of classic clown criminal with modern-day gangster works well, helped of course by Leto’s immersive and convincing performance. However, the Joker didn’t get enough screen time to really shine and impress us as a character. If some of the other characters had been set aside, Leto alone could have been the film’s saving grace.

With better storytelling and directing Suicide Squad could have been really phenomenal. The performances are top-notch, the special effects are fun, and the script does well enough on its own. To boot, the soundtrack is a sweet mix of classic rock and contemporary hip-hop. If you’ve got time to kill, money to spend, and friends or family to do it with, then go for it and enjoy the ride. But those looking for an exhilarating rollercoaster should probably search elsewhere.



PHOTO BY: BRIAN HAUSOTTER

Team Fearless members Zachary Rumble, Hali Rumble, Lizzy Floro, Jazmine Chapman, Asthon Faulkner.

Community comes together to support local Boys and Girls Club



PHOTO BY: BRIAN HAUSOTTER

LBCC's Men's Basketball Coach
Everette Hartman.

Local businesses were swamped as the Sears parking lot in the Heritage Mall was overrun with 156 three-person teams, and all their friends and family.

Blaring today's top-40 music, the DJ got kids of all ages grooving as the weekend competition was set to start, Aug. 13-14.

Albany Hoop Jam is a three-on-three basketball tournament featuring youths ages 7 to 19.

While competing for bragging rights in a round-robin tournament, teams are also raising money for the local Boys and Girls Club of Albany.

The sweltering 90-degree weather made staying hydrated a priority as the cheeks of many grew rosy, and the air filled with the smell of suntan lotion.

The 7 through the 10-year-olds games

were the most entertaining and least serious, as the fundamentals are still being learned. Despite still gaining new skills, the kids did not lack the desire to win.

The older-aged kids brought more intensity as well as their teenage swagger. Most wore the latest model basketball shoes fresh out of the box, along with their favorite player's jersey.

Team Fearless coach and father, Zachary Rumble, stood by as his girls soaked up some shade after a loss.

"This is the first time we entered, but the girls have been practicing at the house three days a week," said Rumble. "I am just happy they are off their phones and into something physical, it's been great."

There were lots of other activities to compete in between games, including a three-point contest, free throw contest, slam dunk contest and even some dancing as the emcee kept things moving.

Linn-Benton's Men's Head Basketball Coach Everette Hartman was out to judge the slam dunk contest, and Oregon State women's basketball player Samantha Siegner made an appearance to support her little sister's team. Siegner participated in OSU's championship basketball run last year.

By the end of the first day teams were exhausted. Most had competed in four games, setting up their second day of action.

Day two brought the sizzling heat back as teams were bumped. The reality of being eliminated showed on their faces, some trying to hold back the tears while others just let loose.

The victors awaited their turns on the

championship court with heads held high, sizing up their next opponent.

The competition intensified as the cream rose to the top, and the best of the best squared off.

Parents and grandparents who had been cheering moved with their teams. Some leaving and having to console, while others made their way to the championship court.

Cheers were loud, and the disagreement with the calls were in unison.

As teams were eliminated and the crowd shrunk, the volunteers and Boys and Girls Club staff were well organized and efficient as they were continually breaking down things and consolidating.

No Dinx was the title sponsor for this fundraising event. General Manager Trent Leslie, who once worked for the Boys and Girls Club, now does all their

screen printing of banners, T-shirts, hats, and signs.

"This is one of our favorite events to sponsor," said Leslie. "The Boys and Girls Clubs do so much for the youth in the communities they are involved in, and we are tickled to be able to help."

Each winner of their division was given a Hoop Jam T-shirt and a medal inscribed with their division and champion. The money raised was estimated roughly \$18,000 and will go straight to the Boys and Girls Club, which provides sports scholarships for local children.

For complete results see, bgc-albany.org



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
BRIAN HAUSOTTER
@BHAUSOTTER

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Isaiah Edwards, Albany Hoop Jam 2016 Dunk Champion.



LINN-BENTON VOLLEYBALL PRE-SEASON CALENDAR

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Wednesday	August 24	Scrimmage Tournament @ Pacific University	Forest Grove, Ore.	TBA
Sat-Sun	Aug. 27-28	NWAC Showcase Tournament @ Willamalane Center	Springfield, Ore.	TBA
Monday	August 29	Edmonds	LBCC	1 p.m.
Wednesday	August 31	Linfield JV	LBCC	6 p.m.
Wednesday	Sept. 7	Pacific University JV	LBCC	6 p.m.
Fri-Sat	Sept. 9-10	Walla Walla Tournament	Walla Walla, Wash.	TBA
Tuesday	Sept. 13	vs. Shoreline @ Bellevue College	Bellevue, Wash.	4 p.m.
Tuesday	Sept. 13	Bellevue	Bellevue, Wash.	7 p.m.
Wednesday	Sept. 14	South Puget Sound	Olympia, Wash.	11 a.m.
Wednesday	Sept. 14	Lower Columbia	Longview, Wash.	5 p.m.
Sat-Sun	Sept. 17-18	Clackamas Tournament	Oregon City, Ore.	TBA

*** OSU will hold its Orange and Black volleyball scrimmage 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at OSU.**