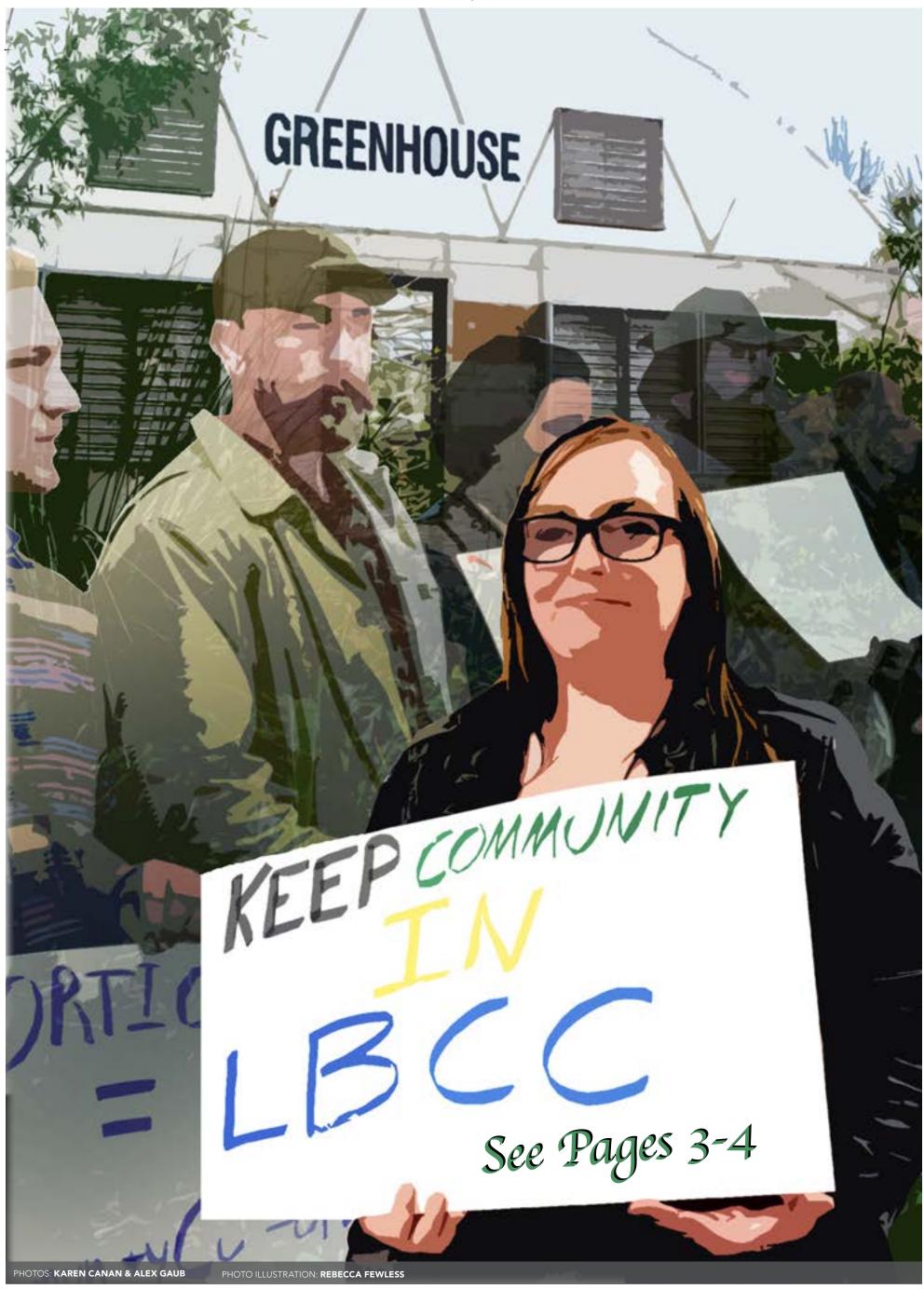
THE LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

50 EDITION 22 APRIL 3, 2019









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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:

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HARD WORK PAYS OFF

LBCC student athletes, teams earn academic recognition

Eight basketball student-athletes at Linn-Benton Community College earned individual academic honors from the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) and both teams as a whole posted team grade point averages of at least 3.0.

Four student-athletes each from the men's and women's Roadrunner basketball programs earned NWAC all-Academic honors:

Women's Basketball honors went to Ashlie Collins, Megan Ely, Kalli Frieze and Jhana Lane.

Men's Basketball honors went to Everett Brandt, Riley Davis, Matthew Ismay and Taylor Jensen.

Additionally, Davis was named to the men's NWAC all-Defensive team, and freshman Amyr Lowe earned the women's NWAC all-Defensive team honor.

Both basketball programs posted team grade point averages of at least 3.0: the women's program boasts a cumulative GPA of 3.07; the men's program posted a 3.0 GPA.

The Roadrunner volleyball program posted the highest GPA for the athletics department with a 3.33 team average. The average of all four Roadrunner teams' GPA's

> On average, student-athletes outperform the general student body at LBCC by more than four-tenths of a grade point (3.0 / 2.57) in the most recent two-year cohort.

Academic performance is one of seven key performance metrics that are tracked by LBCC and the Athletics Department. Other key metrics include retention, academic

progress, completion of core courses, graduation and successful transfer.

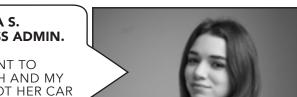
COURTESY: LBCC NEWS SERVICE

What was the highlight of your spring break and why?



JACK LAMONT **BIOCHEMISTRY**

"I GOT TO GO FISHING WITH MY FRIENDS I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A WHILE."



MARISSA S. **BUSINESS ADMIN.**

"WE WENT TO THE BEACH AND MY FRIEND GOT HER CAR STUCK IN THE SAND. WE ENDED UP HAVING TO PAY LIKE \$100 TO **GET IT OUT."**



ASHLEY BRUNER BUSINESS ADMIN.

"PROBABLY NOT HAVING TO WORK. I QUIT MY JOB TO PURSUE SCHOOL, SO I FINALLY HAD A WHOLE WEEK TO BE HOME WITH MY KIDS."

SAM SOMATIS COMPUTER SCIENCE

"PROBABLY JUST BEING DONE WITH WINTER TERM, I GOT TO RELAX."



TIERNAN TOWEY PSYCHOLOGY

"A TERRIBLE CAMPING TRIP THAT WAS CHAOTIC, BUT FUN.



STORY AND PHOTOS: RUTH NASH

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

APRIL 3, 2019

Program cut aims to reduce tuition increases for the next two academic years



STORY BY
CALEB BARBER

Talk of increased tuition is buzzing around campus, but students and faculty are seeing the first concrete examples of LBCC's reduced budget. Along with several cuts to staff, the most pressing concern to many is the proposed elimination of LBCC's horticulture program.

"We had to start building our budget before we knew what the legislature was going to do," said LBCC President Greg Hamann. "We picked \$590 [million], and the legislature happened to pick the same number. We were at \$570 [million], so that's not nearly as much of an increase, and that's not enough to cover our expenses."

With a stagnant rate of property tax dedicated to school funding, and the redirecting of much of Oregon's budget to struggling programs like the state health plan and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), higher education all over the state is feeling increasing economic strain, and LBCC is no exception.

"I think everybody understands the circumstances of the budget, it wasn't until it actually impacted persons and programs that it started to feel real."



President Hamann explained that instead of raising tuition by nearly 18 percent for all of the students, the board is deciding whether to try to reduce overall expenses of the institution by making individual cuts. This way, they would only need to raise tuition by 7 percent. These cuts would include reducing paid positions on campus, removing vacant positions, and most notably the terminating of the LBCC horticulture program.

Students and faculty currently involved in the horticulture program have expressed frustration at this proposed cut. Lawn signs posted in front of Takena Hall invited the community to speak up about the issue at a board meeting held on March 20.

"We're eliminating a vice president position, five classified positions, we're doing a lot of things that impact a lot of people's lives," Hamann admitted.

"It would be nice not to have to do things like that. This is hard for the whole institution."

This isn't the first time a program has been cut for the sake of budgetary restrictions. Several office management programs were cut in previous years, mostly because there was a significantly smaller job market for those in that field.

If the program ends up being cut, horticulture students will be "taught out" their last year before the program is terminated.

"There is incredible uncertainty," said Stefan Seiter, horticulture program chair. Seiter teaches horticulture, agriculture, and soil sciences courses at LB. "Full time students will be taught out, but those students who go to school part time won't be able to finish, and will be left hanging."

This year there are 32 horticulture students who will be transferring and 19 students who will not. Those students who will not be transferring will have one year to complete their CTE before the horticulture program is terminated.

"LBCC is the only college in the southern half of Oregon, west of the Cascades, that provides this broad of a program," said Seiter, "I get people from Klamath Falls, Roseburg, Medford, and Eugene who move here to attend these classes."

There are only two other crops production programs offered by Oregon community colleges, so if LBCC's horticulture program disappears, students from all over Oregon would have to drive to Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario or to Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

Erin Day-Gennett is enrolled in the horticulture program who will soon be travelling to Washakie County, Wyoming to assist with a program that addresses and

CUT GRASS NOT PROGRAMS HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

works to solve poverty-related food security issues within the community. Since she will be away for a year, she will not be able to complete her horticulture studies at LBCC if the program is cut.

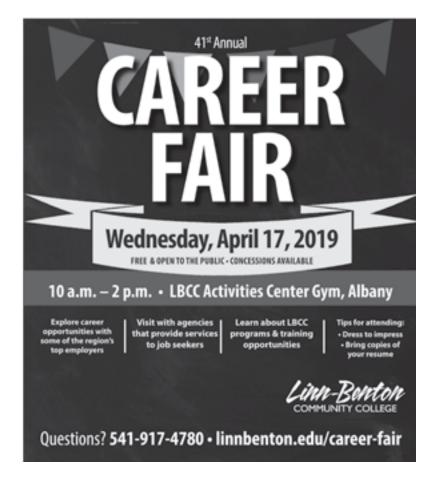
"I am planning on returning to the Albany area after my service ends," Day-Gennett said via email, "I really don't know what will be waiting for me when I get back. If they're phasing out the horticulture and crop production programs over the next year I won't be able to get an Associate of Applied Science in horticulture at LBCC. The only other places to receive two year horticulture degrees that I could find were Clackamas and Chemeketa where I have no idea if any of the classes I have already taken will transfer."

Having moved from The Dalles to this area, Day-Gennett is one of many horticulture students who moved near LBCC because of how successful the program is.

"If they go through with the program suspension," she said. "This will be a loss for the whole community in the region."







APRIL 3, 2019 LBCOMMUTER.COM ©

LBCC Administration Moves to Cut Horticulture

College board members listen to testimony from citizens invested in the program



STORY BY
ALEX GAUB

Local voices sought to be heard in support of LBCC's Horticulture Program in a Calapooia Center boardroom on March 20. Former students of the program passed current students in the hall holding colorful handmade signs with hopeful messages on them. One read, "Horticulture equals community culture."

"It was in that program that I discovered a deep connection to organic vegetable farming," said Liz Shinn, a local farm owner and graduate of the program. "I would not have been as successful, as fast, as I have been today, because of this program."

Facing a budget cut that will take effect over the next two years, Oregon's 17 community colleges are scrambling to fit within the proposed state budget that the Oregon legislature has recommended to provide to community college education. With the state set to finalize the budget by July 1, community colleges have had to create their own budgets that fit within the Governor's proposed base budget of about \$543 million. That is 4.8 percent below the current budget that has seen the college through since 2017.

LBCC administration has decided that part of the school's solution will be to cut the Horticulture Program.

"At the moment, the step is to suspend that program, but that doesn't mean forever," said LBCC President Greg Hamann

The cut is viewed by some locals, students, and faculty as not only a loss to the school, but to the community as a whole.

"We work really closely with the Horticulture Program," said Sarah Booth, and instructor of Culinary Arts at LBCC. "It makes such a difference in showing students where our food comes from."

"The loss of this program would be a loss to us as well," said Booth.



PHOTOS: KAREN CANAN

Harrison Williams, along with 15 others, spoke in support of the LBCC Horticulture Pogram.

Although the cut may be a divisive issue, college administration believes it necessary to keep tuition increase below 7 percent in the coming year.

"It must be stated over and over again that none of these expense reductions can be made without real, and sometimes painful, consequences, especially those involving the reductions of personnel. At the same time, we recognize that, in the absence of these reductions, our budgetary circumstances only become worse and further jeopardize our capacity to serve our Mission, our students, and our community," President Hamann said in a campus notice.

In the greenhouse, prior to the board meeting, a group of Horticulture Club members sat talking and

writing their messages on white cardboard signs. Amidst the bright shades of green, a palpable sadness hung in the

"It gives me a defeatist feeling, like there will be no legacy behind me," said Brittanny Franzoni, a student who will graduate from the program in the spring.

"I feel in a way that this will diminish my degree, diminish the value."

But worst for Franzoni is that others won't have the opportunity to experience the Horticulture Program as she has.

"We are all pretty open here, it's the place where you find all your best friends."



Members of the LBCC Horticulture Program stood with signs to voice their disapproval of cutting the program.





ROADRUNNERS CONTINUING OFFENSIVE STRIDE

APRIL 3, 2019

LBCC Men's Baseball continues their six-game winning streak with fireworks



STORY BY
CAM HANSON

On a sunny day moments before the opening pitch, you'll find a scene that unites a brotherhood with a will to win. Players huddled in a circle playing hot potato with a hacky sack, coaches smiling and laughing with their players, and a few guys who are zoned in, preparing themselves for another duel. Coach Peterson's energy creates a good relationship with his players, whether it be at the dugout or third base, and it breeds success across the team.

The #7 Roadrunners have fired on all cylinders the past two weeks, putting together a six-game win streak highlighted by stellar offense. The Roadrunners have managed to score double figures in four of their six games, with their best being a 16-0 drubbing of the Southwestern Oregon Lakers (7-13 overall, 0-4 conference) which was part of a series sweep. Before the series with the Lakers, the Roadrunners faced the Linfield College Wildcats JV team, winning both games in the series by 13 runs, allowing Linfield only one run between both contests.

The teams production under first-year head coach Andy Petersen is nothing short of spectacular, and the team has already shot to a 4-0 record in the

south division, tied for first with the Lane Community College Titans. The Roadrunners have a total of 160 runs which sits towards the top of the NWAC. Another star you'll see on some NWAC leaderboards is Jacob Melton. Melton currently sits at second in the NWAC in batting average with a .456 and also holds the third place for RBI, at 24. Melton is just one of many Roadrunner freshman that have stepped up to the plate and performed on the bigger stage. In an 11-0 win against Southwestern Oregon, Melton whacked a homerun with two men on bases and followed this up by hitting a triple, pushing the already insurmountable lead to 10-0. Not to mention his homerun in the 16-0 victory against the Lakers.

LBCC looks to carry this momentum into their next opponent, the Clark College Penguins. Clark resides in the southern division along with the Roadrunners and holds an 11-11 record, the Roadrunners being their first conference opponent. Clark shares a similar high powered offense, scoring 132 runs on the year thus far with a .275 batting average. The series provides the Roadrunners with an opportunity to extend their dominance in the conference and remain atop the top 10 in the NWAC polls.

The Roadrunners will start their first game in the series against Clark on April 5 on the road before taking the second half of the series back home.



Colton Tralton winds up before launching a home run in the bottom of the first. Tralton's hit boosted the momentum of the Roadrunners early.



Richie Mascarenas hit three pitches and had three runs in Saturday's matchup against the Lakers. Mascarenas is one of the many Roadrunners that have stepped up this season.

 ${\tt PHOTOS:} \ \textbf{CAM HANSON}$

The forecast was gloomy before LBCC's Saturday match-up, but the sun came out moments before the opening pitch.





LBCC catchers spent time warming up before the game against the Lakers, contributing to Saturday's 11-0 shutout.







REDBOX REVIEW:

Fantastic Beasts: The **Crimes of Grindelwald**

DIRECTOR: David Yates (based on a story

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by J.K. Rowling)

STARRING: Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler and Johnny Depp with Ezra Miller and Claudia

RATED: PG-13

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★☆



STORY BY STEVEN PRYOR **@STEVENPRR2PRYOR**

"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" is the sequel to the 2016 film adaptation of "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," and the second of five planned installments. While not the best entry in the Wizarding World of the "Harry Potter" universe, it does make a solid overall second act for the series and an entertaining fantasy prequel on its own merit.

Set in the year 1927, the film follows the further adventures of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) as he tracks the fugitive wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) to Paris; where Grindelwald and other followers of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named seek to take advantage of a more divided world in the events leading up to World War II. Also in the fray are the shapeshifting serpent Nangini (Claudia Kim) and the "obscurus" Creedence (Ezra Miller), all across an exotic story taking place decades before the birth of Harry Potter.

Amid a runtime of 134 minutes (as well as an extended director's cut), there is no shortage of

impressive visuals and creative fantasy action scenes. The film opens on a midair prison break from a flying carriage and shows off impressive attention to detail in its period setting. On a \$200 million budget, many returning crew members from the "Harry Potter" series depict parts of the world that no longer exist and a plethora of otherworldly creatures that never existed at all. The final clash between Scamander and Grindelwald in a Paris opera house easily ranks among the best wizard duels in the series.

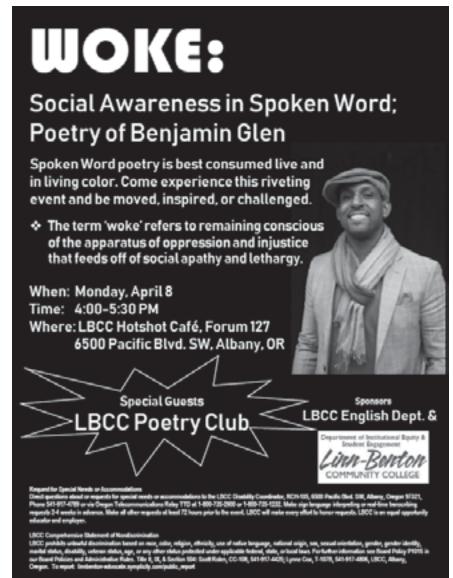


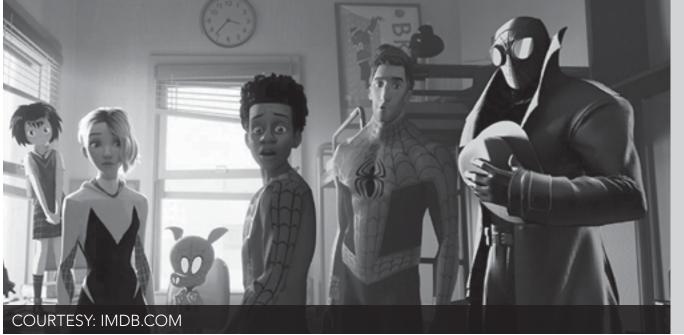
Yet, the film isn't without its flaws. There is a much larger emphasis on setting up future films in the series as much as there is on expanding the story already in progress. Though the desire to use events of the past to explore similar issues of the present is always an interesting idea, the script does get heavy-handed at times. The film is also currently the lowest-performing entry in the series critically and commercially.

Still, the movie still shows endless potential to expand on the Wizarding World over its planned story arc of five films overall. There is also persistent talk of other films based on the books "Quidditch Through the Ages" and "The Tales of Beedle the Bard." The third film in this series will be released in the fall of 2020.

Above all, "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" is a flawed, but ultimately enjoyable sequel to the 2016 hit film and a solid chapter in the "Wizarding World" of "Harry Potter." With Warner Brothers still having the series as one of their major assets along with Lego and DC Comics, let's hope the next three installments can keep delivering the magic as time goes on.







REDBOX REVIEW:

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (2018)

DIRECTOR: Rodney Rothman, Peter Ramsey and Bob Persichetti (based on characters appearing in Marvel Comics)

STARRING: Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, Mahershala Ali, Hailee Steinfeld, Brian Tyree Henry, Lily Tomlin, Kimiko Glenn, Nicolas Cage, Liev Schreiber, Luna Lauren Velez and John Mulaney

RATED: PG

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★



STORY BY STEVEN PRYOR **@STEVENPRR2PRYOR**

Since the first appearance of Spider-man in 1962, there have been countless unique interpretations in comics and other media since the wall-crawler first swung through the pages of "Amazing Fantasy #15."

While there have been many "Spider-Man" films and animated adaptations over the years, one in particular released this past December has stood out as one of the best versions in years; "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse." Following the adventures of a young Miles Morales (voice of Shameik Moore), this unique take on the series ensnares a story that is the perfect blend of superhero action, humor and surprising emotional depth.

Joining forces with an older, hobo-like Peter Parker (voice of Jake Johnson), Miles must learn to master his new powers as well as stop the "Kingpin," Wilson Fisk (voice of Liev Schreiber), from causing havoc in New York with an experimental particle accelerator. Also in the fray are the 1930s detective "Spider-Noir" (a gleefully crazy Nicolas Cage), and the anime-infused Peni Parker (voice of Kimiko Glenn). Notable standouts include the perky "Spider-Gwen" (voice of Hailee Steinfeld) and a goofy pig known as "Spider-Ham" (voice of John Mulaney).

Over the course of 116 minutes, the heroes unite in a clever story from writers Phil Lord and Chris Miller; drawing from classic stories from the 1960s as well as newer comics from scribe Brian Michael Bendis. On a \$90 million budget, the film has a distinct animation style that takes influence from everything from Looney Tunes to 1990s anime. The style can best

be described as "2.5D," with the 3D animation using lighting, color and movements of 2D animation to give the film the appearance of a living, breathing comic book. There are tongue-in-cheek homages to previous adaptations ranging from the Sam Raimi trilogy to the memetic 1967 cartoon series.

With the film having won multiple awards and becoming the most successful release from Sony Pictures Animation, the creators behind the film already have plenty of ideas for sequels and spinoffs.

Above all, "Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse" has easily joined the ranks of not only the best versions of "Spider-man;" and not just one of the best superhero films, but one of the best animated films of the decade so far. It takes the material in creative new directions and provides a simple yet effective message: "anyone can wear the mask."

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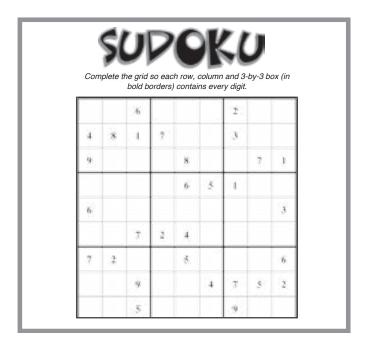
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COACH EVERETT HARTMAN RETIRES

Men's Basketball head coach leaves the program after a 51-35 overall record



STORY BY CAM HANSON

Men's Basketball head coach Everett Hartman announced his retirement from coaching earlier this week, leaving the program with a successful three seasons under his belt. During those seasons, Coach Hartman led his team to a 51-35 overall record.

"Anytime you finish doing something you've loved for 32 years, there will be a bit of mixed feelings," said Hartman.

Hartman revitalized the Linn-Benton basketball program, achieving things that many coaches from decades past tried doing themselves. His success the past few seasons has bred a good culture within the LBCC basketball program and he has a good formula for success; one that is all about unity and communication.

In 2016, Hartman finished with an overall record of 14-13 and 8-8 in conference. This proved to be the Roadrunners first winning record since the 2006-2007 season, just barely missing out on the NWAC playoffs by one game. The next season, Hartman and the Roadrunners achieved a 22-10 record. This record made history, as it was the best Roadrunner record since 1972-1973, a 45-year span. They proceeded to make it to the Final Four in the NWAC playoffs, but fell short of the title. Hartman capped his career off at LBCC by

finishing 15-12 overall, despite losing their number one scorer, Bailey Evers, to a broken wrist nine games in. They finished with a 9-7 record in the southern region, once again one game short of the playoffs.

Five freshman will return to the roster next season, as well as an upcoming transfer from Concordia University in Portland.

"The staff will look to recruit seven to eight players at positions needed. They'll focus on skill development and weight room work to be bigger, faster, and stronger," said Hartman.

Coach Hartman has spent the last three years working at creating a different culture and frame work, and what he's done for the program has lifted it to heights unseen in decades. In terms of a replacement, Athletic Director Mark Majeski has began the process of a new hire, but no names have been mentioned yet.

"Teams reflect the personality of their coaches, and Everett's team was gritty, gutsy, no-nonsense, and focused on the fundamentals. Everett and his coaching staff maximized each players ability and collectively they demonstrated high IQ," said Majeski.

Despite his departure, Hartman remains confident in the future of LB's basketball program.

"All things look on the upswing for the Roadrunners heading into 2019-2020 and I'm sure Mark will hire the right person to carry on the positive environment established," said Hartman.



PHOTO COURTESY: LBCC NEWS SERVICE

BEN NORMAN

Drummer in local band Flow Resale brings energy and passion to the stage

STORY BY **DAVIS IHDE**

"How are you doing, everyone? We're Flow Resale and this is our new single, 'Inside Her Head.'"

This is how the local band Flow Resale opened their set at Luckey's Club on March 9. They like to start off their shows with the fan favorite, "Inside Her Head," a song that gets the crowd's energy to create the right atmosphere for their music. The only thing left to do was to wow the crowd.

This was not Flow Resale's first rodeo; the band had already played many sets in Albany, Corvallis, Salem, and now Eugene. The band always makes sure to keep the energy high, and a huge source of energy for them comes from the drums.

This is where Ben Norman does his part. He is the drummer for the hot local band Flow Resale. They have featured multiple drummers over the last few years, but he is the one they have kept; for many reasons. Flow Resale began in 2016 as a group of students from West Albany High School who wanted to perform at the school talent show. After they practiced and performed together, they realized they had some real talent and chemistry.

Norman has a raw passion for the drums that is evident when he plays, and he uses this to keep the crowd excited at his gigs. After all, he has played percussion in his school band since sixth grade. But drums aren't the only instrument he is passionate about; He is proficient in playing guitar, bass, and keys along with his drumming skills. For Norman, it's the marriage of all these different kinds of instruments that kindle his love for music.

"Drums are interesting to me because they're like a double-edged sword," Norman said. "On one hand, drums and guitar are at the very front of the band.



COURTESY: FLOWRESALE

You can't ignore them. On the other, if you mess up, you can't ignore that either. That puts a lot of pressure on the drummer but it's also what makes it fun."

Norman's band mates recognize this, too. He is always involved in the writing and creative process of their songs, and they even hold the band practices in the basement of his house. Along with practicing the drums for the songs they make, he is constantly experimenting with the guitar and bass, trying to think of new riffs to incorporate.

"He's always willing to push outside of his comfort zone more than anyone else and is willing to try new things and spice up the show. In practice, he always

tries his best to push the band to its highest potential," says Brandon Dodd, the bass player for Flow Resale.

Lead singer Mari Stenger added, "He definitely brought a lot of commitment and drive. He's really good about getting gigs and was actually the one who got us a manager as well!"

Although Flow Resale is a central part of Norman's life, music plays a much bigger role in Norman's life than just the band. Ever since middle school, he's used music as a creative outlet.

"Ben discovered drums in sixth grade," said Jennifer Norman, His mother. "I encouraged him to join band class and steered him towards percussion, so he didn't have to sit still all day. He came home from school the first week and told me how much fun it was when the band managed to play a song together. Flow Resale is his dream come true."

He is currently majoring in popular music at the University of Oregon and hopes to make a career out of the band. If that doesn't work, however, he wants to be a recording engineer or a producer.

Music has also played a large role in shaping who Norman is as a person. He is someone who values being unique and independent and says that he wouldn't be who he is today without music. In fact, he was voted most original in the yearbook for his senior year of high school.

"For almost my entire adolescent life, I've been playing music, and it has defined who I am. However, I don't think that just playing music by myself shaped me all that much until I joined the band. I also think that listening to certain types of music shaped my identity. Let's just say I definitely wouldn't be the same person I am if I hadn't played music," Norman explained.

Next time you do what you love, think about how it has shaped who you are today. For Norman, music is a piece of him that will never go away.