



Leslie Hammond

May 31, 1978 - May 23, 2026

Leslie Allison Hammond arrived very quickly in the early morning hours of May 31, 1978, in San Diego, California. She never slowed down.

Moving to Bovill, Idaho (population 289), in 1979, she grew up in a village of loggers, truck drivers and a close-knit community where everyone knew her name. She spent a brief period of time living in West Carrollton, Ohio, while her father completed medical training, before returning to Bovill for elementary school. In 1989, the family moved to St. Maries, Idaho, where Leslie graduated from high school. Those years were filled with softball, basketball, bowling, fishing, camping, hiking, and huckleberry picking in the Idaho woods.

Her college career began at what was then Albertson College of Idaho, where she majored in Theater, graduating in 2001 and being selected as the commencement speaker. A welding class she took in high school led to a summer job at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and began her journey in theater technology.

In 2002, she and Sonia Ruyts moved to Jersey City, New Jersey. Sonia attended the French Culinary Institute for Pastry Arts while Leslie worked at various local jobs, including in a coffee shop and in real estate. In November, she and Sonia invited friends and family to their wedding, which was preceded by a NYC scavenger hunt in which teams traveled the streets and subways of

the city looking for clues and reenacting famous scenes from movie locations.

In 2003, they moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where Leslie attended Indiana University and obtained her Master of Fine Arts degree in Theater Technology. That led to an appointment at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, where she was in charge of theater productions, set building, lighting, and props. After a couple years, she joined the faculty at Yale University, but the call of the Pacific Northwest was too great, and she accepted an invitation to manage the theater at Linn-Benton Community College in 2010.

Leslie was thrilled to become a mom, first to Ben in 2010 and then to Calvin in 2015, and spending time with them was a high priority in her life. There were family trips to Hawaii, Puerto Rica, Costa Rica and, of course, Disneyland. But just as fun were weekly family movie and pizza nights at home.

The desire for a schedule that was more aligned with a healthy family life was a motivating factor in her transition to administrative positions at Linn-Benton. She moved through several leadership roles, eventually becoming the Dean of Academic Foundations, where she worked with students and her team of counselors to help students succeed in reaching their goals.

Her Oregon years included many outdoor adventures with her sister Laura, including successfully hiking South Sister and scaling Mount St. Helens, among numerous other trips. She was a student of film, a trivia night whiz, and loved going to movies with her kids and friends. In October 2025, she hiked 88 miles through the Alps in Switzerland.

Leslie had a natural talent for design and building, and her training ensured everything she built, from coat racks to patios, was strong enough to hold a baby grand piano. She was always ready to lend a hand, share her skills, and

show up with way too much food. Her creativity and humor were consistently on display, both as an improvisational actor and as an administrator who provided collaboration and encouragement to her team and to the students at LBCC. Leslie loved her work and was deeply grateful for the support, kindness, and community that surrounded her throughout her life.

Service details are pending.

Memorials honoring her life can be made to the Leslie Allison Hammond Scholarship Fund through the Linn Benton Community College Foundation. Calapooia Center, Room 107, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany OR 97321. Or foudation@linnbenton.edu.

Or.. Please consider making a donation in Leslie's name to one of the following:

Chintimini Wildlife Rehabilitation Center,

Or her Alma mater, college of Idaho.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 27. 3:48 PM (PT)

Linn-Benton Community College- Tripp Auditorium
6500 Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321

Public Reception to follow service

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Leslie Hammond.



June 09 at 11:36 PM

AN

“ Leslie and I went to College together and were in the theater program together. My earliest memories of her were building sets together after classes. We lived together for a summer before senior year while we worked for the school's physical plant. Leslie mowed the lawns like a boss, like she did everything. She never let me forget how bad I was at cleaning the bathroom, but that was only because I never did it. We lived together again after graduating. My cat then ruined a bunch of her books, but she wasn't mad at me or my cat but I still felt bad.

I came out to New York for her wedding and she let me stay with her because I didn't really understand how to travel. Sonia and her had a beautiful wedding and I was so happy to be a part of it. Later on they moved to Indiana, but surprise!, so did I. While Les was at University of Indiana, I was at Purdue. During this time, Sonia and Leslie hosted Thanksgivings at their place in Bloomington. During one of those visits, when I may or may not have got the time wrong and made all their guests wait for me to show up, they introduced me to Arrested Development, a show that still accounts for an unreasonable amount of my references. I'm heavily in their debt, is what I'm saying. The next stop for me was Oregon. Surprise! They moved out here shortly after me. Over the years we would help each other out in various ways. I helped build part of the kids' playground with her and she recruited me as a part time Ethics teacher at LBCC. Later I helped her and Sonia prepare the yarn shop for opening and they helped me move a couple times. I looked up to Leslie and I always admired her confidence and directness. She kept me honest: helped me when I needed it and called me out when I needed that.
She will always have a place in my heart.

Alex Nuttall - June 08 at 09:51 AM

EB

“ I met my dear friend Leslie at roller derby practice. While derby didn't end up being a big part of our lives, our friendship was. One of my favorite memories of Leslie was when she brought an apple, cool whip, and Snickers "salad" to a potluck and insisted it was the best potluck dish ever. By the end of our conversation, she had me fully convinced it was. She was so fun and joyful, but my favorite things about her were her caring heart and the gentle way she spoke when she knew you were hurting. I'm sending you off on your next journey with so much love and goodwill, friend. I'll think of you often and miss your laugh and beautiful smile.



Emily Torres Barton - June 07 at 04:39 AM

HC

“ I haven't kept in touch over the years, but back in high school she was one of my track buddies.

We were getting timed in the 200 meter race at practice and I took off with the starting whistle, a few steps in I got the biggest charlie horse in my calf and fell to the ground... she was luckily-split right next to me helping me up as our coach ran over, we all chuckled at how we'd never seen the coach run that fast before, taking my mind of how my calf was throbbing. She was caring and ready with a comment to lighten the mood and make us laugh.

May the comfort of all the memories she left with her family and friends help them through this time.



Heather Chamberlin - June 03 at 07:08 PM

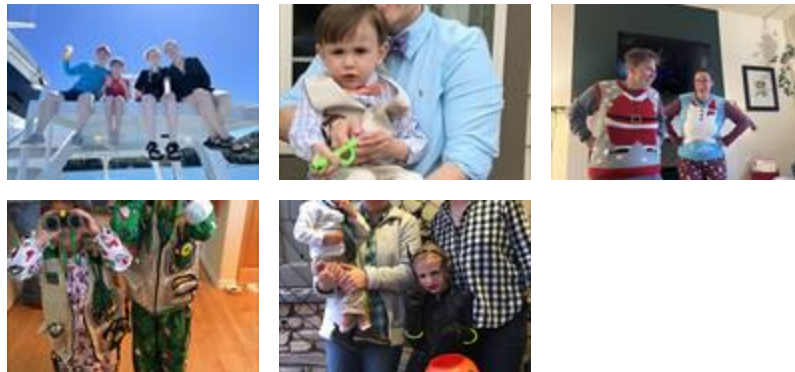
AS

“ In my childhood memories, Leslie is a smart, laughing, fearless force of positive momentum. I feel sure she injected that energy throughout her journey, where it remains today - a legacy for all of those she has known and loved.

Adrean Stephenson - June 03 at 01:22 PM

KR

“ So many wonderful memories of and with Leslie! She was an intrepid explorer, kayaking and caving in Alaska to crocodiles in Costa Rica. Holidays were a major highlight for her and she was a most thoughtful gift giver as you can see the cousins in their adventure outfits. I never went without flowers on Valentine's Day, even this year she sent them from her hospital bed! My heart is broken but I'm so thankful to have been her mother in law. Her spirit lives on through all of us. Love you always and forever, Leslie!

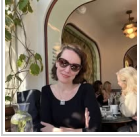


Kathy Ruyts - June 02 at 09:49 PM

DI

Great pictures of an active and full life. I'm so sorry she left so soon.

diane - June 04 at 11:23 AM



“ *Leslie's smile and generosity will always live on in my mind. In her time at Choate Rosemary Hall, she was so loved and respected by students and faculty. I was drawn to her laughter, creativity, silliness, and positive energy. She was always looking out for other people and trying to find ways to brighten their days. I loved hanging out with her backstage and seeing her help students with creative projects once the set for a show was completed. I am so saddened for her family and friends. She was such a bright light!* ”

Rebecca Joy - June 02 at 01:54 PM

ML

“ *Majestik De Luz lit a candle in memory of Leslie Hammond* ”



Majestik De Luz - June 02 at 11:20 AM

SM

“ *You will be missed, Leslie, by everyone who met you.* ”



Steve Mutmansky - June 02 at 10:16 AM

“*Leslie and I were both freshman at College of Idaho at the same time, and I knew right away I wanted to be her friend--she was incredibly smart, sharply hilarious, and paradoxically kind. We were both cast in the fall play that year: Reckless. We were elves. We didn't have any lines, but lingered in the background of the scenes and changed the sets. We wore green tunics, stripey tights and converse sneakers, and we were in nearly every scene--the patients in the waiting room, the figures in the car driving behind the main character, the assistants of a game show--elves everywhere you looked. Leslie had a knack for comedy--she could be funny without saying a word. I vividly remember one moment of Reckless where she was supposed to move an office chair-- a simple task, but Leslie made it a whole bit every single time. I thought she was brilliant. As our years at C of I passed, Leslie played the lead role in a play I wrote, and I had a part in one that she wrote and another that she directed. She was a gifted actor, writer, and director. She was also simply a wonderful human being. Whenever anyone hit a rough patch, Leslie would quietly step up with her support. She was the very best kind of friend.*

Years later, I was on a book tour in Portland, and Leslie came to hang out with me for an afternoon. We spent a few hours together catching up, and then it was time for me and three other authors to head off for our joint book event. That's when we discovered that our ride to this event had been cancelled. Leslie volunteered to drive us. The only problem was that she owned a tiny car that would only seat four people . . . and there were five of us. Undeterred, we all crammed into Leslie's car, and she whisked us off through rush hour traffic. She called us "my clown car full of authors." As she darted through traffic, she kept everybody laughing all the way to the bookstore. We made it just in time.

I have so many good memories of Les--so many images of her in various costumes and situations. It's so easy for me to call up the sound of her voice, which always makes me smile. The world truly does feel like a duller, more somber place, knowing she's gone, and

I feel so lucky to have known her and called myself her friend.

Cynthia Hand - June 02 at 12:01 AM

DP

“ Always a fun time camping with the Hammonds. Leslie was such a wonderful light 🕯️



Dani Pierson - June 01 at 09:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



McHenry Funeral Home - June 01 at 12:26 PM