Parking fees may double

By Amanda Downs

Parking fees and fines could double for Fall Quarter.
The increase is designed to discourage students from driving and parking single-occupancy cars on campus.

Vice President of Administration Laura Saunders held a forum to discuss the proposed solutions to cutting back on single occupancy cars and increase parking spaces on campus.

"The solutions are either already under way or are so common sense that we had to implement them," said Saunders.

College officials said they are being forced to act after the loss of overflow parking at the Midway Drive-in takes affect this summer.
The lot will be replaced by commercial development featuring a Lowe's Hardware store.

The price for a parking permit could read $32, while the basic parking fine could go from $5 to $30.

Michelle Tuscher, president of the Washington Public Employees Association, said that some students could react negatively towards the raise in parking fees.

"Some students feel that we are just taking another chunk out of them, and they as students still aren't gaining any ground in the parking battle," said Tuscher.

Tuscher was right; students said that they were appalled to hear about the projected rise in price.

"I wouldn't have minded paying a few extra dollars if the money was going to improve our parking problem, but it seems ridiculous to simply double the fee just to keep us from parking on campus," said student Jeffrey Tenns.

Jennifer Cratis agreed.
"Going here is already expensive; to increase the permit price so much just because they can is sad," said Cratis.

See Parking, Page 20

Making a splash in Spokane

Highline track coach gets a bath as the T-Bird men won the NWAACC men's track championship for the first time since 1989. The T-Bird women took fifth but won several events. See stories, photos, pages A9-A12.

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See seven amazing grads of the class of 200

See seven amazing grads of the class of 200

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She was only going 25

A woman was injured when she rolled her car on Kent-Des Moines Road. The accident occurred May 27, at about 2 p.m. She was heading west on Kent-Des Moines Road then she lost control of her car and veered to the right of the road, where she then hit a raised manhole cover and rolled her car. The extent of her injuries were unknown at press time. She told police she was traveling approximately 25 mph but witnesses told police she was going about 40-45 mph. The police ticketed her for driving too fast for the conditions.

Photo by Chuck Cortez

New Dean of Extended Learning to be chosen

By Justin Williams

The screening process is over and is now in the hands of the vice president of academic affairs to decide who the new dean of the Center for extended learning will be, Dean of Transfer Jeff Wagnitz said. All three prospective deans were required to go through a screening process that involved meeting with a screening committee, meeting with the vice president of academic affairs, and participating in open forums where staff, faculty, and students were able to listen and ask the prospective dean questions.

“There are multiple reasons for doing that,” Wagnitz said. He said that the screening process gives the college a chance to get multiple perspectives from different people about the candidate.

Wagnitz said it also gives the candidates an opportunity to meet with a variety of people.

The three candidates that are being considered for the position are Dr. Mary Avent, Collins Muske and Bonnie Jackson. Avent recently moved to Western Washington from Spokane, and is currently acting as the center's interim dean.

Muske is a former Highline student who worked at Boeing in finance and worked as a professor in Highline’s Business Department after taking a voluntary layoff from Boeing.

Wagnitz said that Jackson also spent most of her career at the Boeing Company.

Now that the screening process is completed, Wagnitz said it shouldn’t be long until the new dean is chosen.

Cultural Cafe discusses dating

By Dustin Lawrence

Dr. Joan Harris talked about dating at 16, ‘hooking up’ and other dating customs around the world during Highline’s last Cultural Cafe of the Spring 2004 quarter. “I will talk to you about dating, but I’m old,” Harris said as her introduction to her speech titled “The Dating Game: Dating Around the World.”

Harris talked about her experiences of dating a man from another country with customs that were different from her own. “When I went to college, I found out dating can mean very different things to people,” said Harris.

Harris told the class about how she was just friends with a man, but he and his family thought she was supposed to marry him. Harris also talked about how the meaning of dating has changed considerably in the United States.

When Harris finished her speech, students had the opportunity to ask questions and converse about how dating differs in the U.S. from their home countries.

“In Thailand, people don’t date until college,” student Sarawalak Buamane said.

United States dating customs came as no surprise to most the students. Students from Japan, Korea, and India all had to wait until around the age of 16 to date. Harris had her own question for the class.

“I’m hopelessly out of date, what does hooking up mean?” Harris asked the students.

Laughter filled the room as one of the students answered, “I think it means sex,” said Buamane.

The atmosphere was full of laughter and discussion. Many of the students actively participated as the Cultural Cafe came to a close this quarter.

Cultural Cafe

They could not locate the child on campus and reported back to the police.

Students handle accident without police help

A Highline student backed into another student in the East Lot May 27, at 1:50 p.m. He backed into the other student's rear bumper. They exchanged information but did not report incident to police.

False 911 call brings police to Highline

A false 911 call was reported by the Des Moines Police Department May 31, at 8:45 p.m. An officer checked out the South Lot pay phone and came up with negative results.

---Compiled by Chuck Cortez

C R M E B L O T T E R

Student takes a fall

A Highline student was injured when she fell in the Building 26 stairway. She fell May 26 at 9:50 a.m. and injured her left knee. She declined medical attention and continued to class. An officer escorted her to her class, then to her car.

Des Moines Police call Highline in search of missing boy

Des Moines Police Department called Highline Security Office to check for a missing boy. The police called May 26, at 5:20 p.m. and the officers comb the campus. The police ticketed her for driving too fast for the conditions.

By Dustin Lawrence

Paralegal puts on mock trial

The advanced litigation class form the Paralegal Department will be having a mock trial on June 4, from 10-5 p.m. in the mock courtroom located in Building 23, in room 107 and 108. The trial will explore the tension that arises when different cultural and religious traditions conflict with existing laws. For more information contact Buzz Wheeler at 206-878-3710, ext. 3910.

Thunderword gets new staff

Amber Trillo has been named editor of the Thunderword for Fall Quarter. Trillo previously served as reporter, opinion editor, photo editor, and sports editor. Trillo will announce other appointments for fall.

Sara Loken will be managing editor, previously having worked as a reporter and news editor.

Chad Martin will be arts editor, previously having worked as a reporter and opinion editor.

Taison Davis will move from arts editor to opinion editor. Amanda Down and Cazzero Upton are being promoted from reporter to news editor and photo editor, respectively.

Current editor Collette Woods will move to advertising manager. Russel McLaren will serve as graphics editor.

Career Center offers help

The end of the quarter is coming to an end and the career center is here to help. The career center, located in Building 6, is offering help with resumes, cover letters, job searches, and interview help. The services are also open to the public. For current students there are many on campus and off campus work study positions available. For more information contact Dean Jim Miller in the career center at 206-878-3710, ext. 3350.

Family Fun Day at the MAST center

Join in on marine fun for the Family Fun Day at the Marine Science and Technology Center in Redondo. Touch the touch tanks and see lots of sea creatures. A puppet show, story telling, a scuba diving show and tell will also be available. Bring yourself, Friends and especially the kids. The event takes place June 5, between 2:15 - 5:30 p.m. For more information go to http://flightline.highline.edu/MAST

---Compiled by Chuck Cortes

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6/9/2004
Students, professor push more recycling

By Shannon Sims

Recycling bins could become more common at Highline. Currently paper is recycled, but not much else here at Highline. In every building there are white and colored paper bins. Highline uses West Seattle Recycling, according to David Kress in Central Services. Still, cardboard, plastic and aluminum recycling are limited. Most waste is being thrown in the dumpster.

Some people would like to see less garbage in the landfills and more being reused, and some believe that it may benefit Highline. A new policy is in development that would make recycling more available on campus. Woody Moses, a science professor at Highline, has proposed a plan to potentially save the college money, and the ultimate goal is to create more awareness.

Student Government Vice President of Legislation Michelle Kopolak is working with Moses to push this initiative through. Moses and Kopolak are looking for ways that recycling could be cheaper than trashing all of Highline’s waste.

“The large majority of the materials that get trashed could be recycled,” Kopolak said. So far, Kopolak has heard a lot of positive feedback from the many people at Highline she has talked to about the new recycling plan and petition.

“I’ve only had two people tell me they wouldn’t want to sign this petition,” she said. She also noted that neither of them were students. In order for Moses to get his vision enacted on campus, the initiative must go through Student Government. If they approve it, the plan falls into the hands of the Policy Development Council. The final decision comes from Highline’s Board of Trustees. The goal is to recycle more than just waste paper, Kopolak said.

Kopolak said that Highline has done a recycling program in the past, and the old student center had more receptacles. Students generally had a good job of keeping the garbage in the right cans. The main problem was that recycling was not cost-effective. This time around, Moses wants to find a way that Highline can save money, and it seems very possible that they could.

More students would follow the rules. One student suggested that the only restraining area for smoking should be the child care center. Some students were more optimistic about the situation and say that the publicity has informed students of the new rule and the designated areas for smoking.

Melinda Teixeira was sitting on a smoking bench, and wasn’t aware of it. She asked the two students if they could please stop smoking, and they informed her that they were allowed to smoke in that area. “Students are kind of cheating by smoking in other places, but it has cut down a lot,” said Melissa Lenchart. “Maybe if students were warned when they smoked in the wrong place, or if they were asked to put their cigarette out, they wouldn’t want to smoke there anymore.”

Some students say that the designated areas are not visible enough. “If there were signs in front of the buildings or the smoking areas were in a more social place, more students would stick around those areas,” said Georgina Olatunjo. “More publicity.” Olazepan suggested “We have to be specific.”

Location of the smoking areas was a concern for many students. “It rains a lot here, and the areas need to be covered,” said Teixeira. Many students smoke near the ventilation areas of a building, seeking a covered spot to avoid the rain.

“Building 10’s bathroom reeks like tobacco,” said Nimarta Gill. “Maybe if the smoking area was in front of Building 26, in a big open area, we wouldn’t have that problem.”

Next fall the policy will be fully enforced, college officials say, although they have not indicated how this will happen.

Smoking policy acknowledged by some

By Martha Molina

Some students believe that the smoking policy is working out, while others have not seen any change.

The smoking policy was adopted earlier this January and began to take effect this quarter. “Smokers smoke where they want. There has been no change at all,” said Jo van Crump. Many students agree with Crump, and some are not even aware that a new smoking policy was taking effect.

Student Davit Brown did not know about the policy, and couldn’t tell the difference between last quarter and this quarter. “Cars are still smoking all over campus,” said Brown. “I was walking to the library and this girl lit up her cigarettes as she walked by.”

Brown says that if security would spend more of their time on campus titillating the parking lot, more students would follow the rules. One student suggested that the only restraining area for smoking should be the child care center. Some students were more optimistic about the situation and say that the publicity has informed students of the new rule and the designated areas for smoking.

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Now that I’m done, I know what it’s all for

Here it is that time of year that all sophomores wait for, graduation. I have been waiting for this day more than many here at Highline. I have waited so long that I have had the graduation experience twice. I won’t lie I have been at Highline A LONG TIME enough said, no more details. But I would not trade on this experience for anything.

Michelle Kolpack and I went to Highline and watch through their two years, and there is nothing wrong with that, if you know what you want to do.

But if you are like me you entered Highline with an idea of what you want to do, but did not know exactly what you wanted to major in. These last few years have brought me many things, most importantly though a profession that I feel even more compelled to do then I think most people that leave Highline.

Now I’m not saying you all should spend as much time as I have at Highline. But instead of whistling through your time here at Highline, and coming out the other side with no real idea of what you want to do. Take time and really explore your interest and find out what you want to do, so that when you do leave you will know what you want to do.

The college experience is so much better if you’re able to go through it with an actual goal.

Many of our classmates in high school that went straight to college spend their first few years in a drunken haze, and we at least get to spend less money while in a drunken haze.

As a longtime Highline student I feel it is necessary for me to dispense valuable information to those who are behind. First, get your math classes done early, this has been the bane of my existence. Get involved in the school’s extra-curricular activities, it will make you feel more associated with the school. Plan your schedule ahead of time, so you will know what to take ahead of time. Know the college you want to transfer to and what it takes to get in.

Take time and remember the people that you meet at Highline because sooner or later you will be pushed to the real world and things don’t get any easier.

But most of all have fun while you are here, it will be over before you know it.
EDITORIAL

The good, the bad and the ugly of 2003-2004

All good things must come to an end. That's right kids, the year is over, say adios to 2003-2004. Let's tip our glasses and reminisce on the year past at our much-loved Highline.

Oh no, we will not be sugar coating anything. This is the good and the bad and the ugly all rolled into one.

We're sad to see that the Midway parking lot has been purchased by Lowe's, but glad to see that Highline has been forced to reassess student parking.

Luckily, Dr. Bell pulled a rabbit out of her hat and convinced the Legislature to grant Highline $550,000 to help with the parking problem. Unfortunately, this will mean higher parking permit fees. Interesting how things work out.

A good thing is that all the Highline athletic teams played well and made it to the NWAACCS, always happy to see that.

Despite the fact that all of Highline's athletic teams made it to the playoffs, only one of them won. Cheers to the mens track team, you guys rock.

Another good thing is the smoking policy, students should be able to walk from class to class and not be subjected to toxic smoke from cigarettes.

Funny, smokers still litter the campus with their butts, and most are either totally oblivious or couldn't care less about the smoking policy.

We mustn't overlook facilities staff for keeping our campus nice and pretty during the construction of the new buildings.

Highline is now looking for a new food provider, which could be bad or good. You decide.

We also found out that the state Legislature will be raising tuition, yet again.

We are happy to see that the new Student Union building is finally taking shape.

Not so happy to see that construction plans have been pulled back. Now they project it will be complete and up and running for Winter Quarter.

Highline had its own little Florida ballot problem, with the Student Government election. However, they finally worked things out and got officials in office, good job.

Another bad thing is that Highline is still the car theft capital of South King County. Thieves are now going as far as to siphon gas out of cars. Will it ever stop?

We think not.

We have a bit of good news, it seems that the Kent Police are cracking down on Highline students' and their blatant disregard for pedestrian crosswalks.

Excellent to see that Kent's finest are on the case and its comforting to know that the police have their priorities in order.

It seems that Highline had a bit of a class overload problem, some students were caught forging entry forms so they can get on the roster for the class they needed. As a result the school has formed a class wait list, which has been getting good reviews.

As the god Alice Cooper once said, school's out for summer (except for the poor saps taking classes in the summer) school's out forever, (well, at least for those graduating) everyone else, we'll see you in the fall.
Angels in the auditorium

By Jordan Goddard

Five local Christian bands took the stage Friday, May 28 in Building 7 at the Free Spring Concert, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. Glimpse, Orizon, Reveling, Cue for the Crusade, and As I Am played for free to help raise awareness and funds for Campus Crusade for Christ through a raffle.

Glimpse took the stage first. Their black T-shirts and shaggy hair gave them a very typical Seattle rock-band look. They complemented their outfits with a variety of stained rock band movements and dances.

Lead vocalist Chris Silva seemed to take many of his cues from Jim Morrison, starting songs with his back to the audience and then spinning about when the tempo picked up. Many of the lyrics were muttered and inaudible, but the music still came through with a well-rehearsed sound.

After several original songs, they finished up with a serviceable cover of "Bullet the Blue Sky" that seemed to bring a little energy to the growing crowd.

A quick speech at the end about love topped off the opening act. Orizon followed Glimpse after a brief intermission. This emo-rock band brought a typical punk look, but after a short time, it became obvious that their sound was far less typical.

Lead vocalist Matt MacDonald began each song with little emotion, standing almost perfectly still as he sang. Eventually, the music's tempo would drop, followed by an explosive increase.

A violent torrent of movement and passion would burst forth from the entire band, almost chaotic and uncontrolled.

Even drummers Skip Erickson would jump up on his stool and throw down to continue playing or simply bash his head as he kept the beat. Their energy was undeniable as they put on a show of polished madness.

This reviewer could not resist visiting their website www.orizonmusic.com after the show to download their demo songs.

After Orizon finished its set, Reveling followed. The lead male vocalist of the seven-member band announced that they were on tour from "a speck of a town in Montana."

A drummer, keyboardist, and pair of vocalists complemented three guitars. Reveling brought a sound much more typical of Christian rock than their two predecessors. A soft, pop sound mixed with decent guitar work characterized their set.

The male and female vocalists performed with energy and harmony, and fans were asked several times to talk with them after the show.

Overall, their sound seemed to draw heavily from today's popular youth-oriented evangelical music.

Cue for the Common came to the stage as the fourth band to perform. The trio from Northwest College presented the most common "Christian band" look, despite the name.

A pair of acoustic guitars, played by Tim Williams and John Clemen, and a set of drums did not promise the same excitement that Orizon had created an hour before.

However, when they began to play, it quickly became clear that their appearance had no relationship to their talent. Well-written, original lyrics accompanied by tempo melodies kept the audience moving.

Cue for the Common put so much energy into the opening number that one of the lead-men broke a guitar string.

"I wrote this next song just for this very occasion," the other guitarist quipped before launching into a solo number while his bandmate searched for a replacement guitar.

After only a few songs, Cue for the Common surrendered the stage to As I Am. Many fans had departed by the time the final band began their set. As with much in life, good things come to those who wait. The sparse crowd quickly came to life when As I Am, featuring brothers Nate and Joshua Boyt, launched into its opening number.

The lead male vocalist's fiery, red dreadlocks thrashed violently as he poured his energy into his microphone and guitar.

The female vocalist, known simply as Rachel, showed off her angelic voice as they covered a parade of Christian rock favorites, some performed as well or better than the originals.

A screw popped out from frontman Nate Boyt's guitar snap early in the set, offering the band members a moment to speak to the audience as they searched for duct tape. After a heartfelt prayer and some background on the band, the intense show continued.

Even though As I Am went past their time limit, the audience demanded an encore. The band happily complied with a final song that brought a number of people to their feet.

An announcement of their forthcoming album, info on their website, www.asiamtheband.com, and thanks to the people who made the show possible concluded the free concert.

Highline library enters a different world

By Jessie Elliott

This summer the library will be featuring an art show using mix of media. Thesia Alston and Susan Landgraf, two faculty members at Highline, will be showing an exhibit titled "Different Worlds."

"Different Worlds" is a collaboration using poetry, oil and watercolor paintings.

Landgraf is showing poems for this art show. She has done many exhibits and said she enjoys collaborating with other artists.

"What is always feel energized when I work with artists in other fields," Landgraf said.

Alston will be showcasing watercolor and oil paintings. It is her first showing in the library art gallery and she said she is very excited to be a part of it.

"I enjoy the creative and spiritual process in presenting impressions of familiar and unfamiliar worlds," Alston said.

These artists get inspiration from many different places. Alston took her observations from her travels, from the people, political struggles, and cultural values, and says she attempts to bring all these elements to each painting.

Landgraf said her inspiration comes from many different sources: "Everything I observe nature, people, events, ideas, feelings, experiences, people, places, things."

This art show brings these different worlds together, representing many facets of life. "Different Worlds" will be in the Highline Library Art Gallery from June 6 to July 6.
Kent sets stage for a snow white play

60 Children are the stars of the Snow White production

By Jesse Elliott

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs will be visiting Kent this summer courtesy of Missoula Children’s Theater. Kent Parks, Recreation, and Community Services hosts 30 productions in a year, including Spotlight Series, Kent Kid’s Arts Day, Summer Concert Series, Canterbury Arts Festival, Kent’s 4th of July Splash, and an annual Halloween Party.

The aspect of this production that sets it apart from all the others is the fact that the Missoula Children’s Theater brings everything except the actors.

The Missoula Children’s Theater is based in Montana, however they have a tour project in which two actors travel across the country and produce children’s shows. The Kent community is allowed the chance to get involved in one of the annual productions and act in the plays.

Auditions are only one week before the performance, open to grades K-12. Once the cast is picked, they only have one week of intense rehearsals before the show.

Approximately 60 children are cast in the play, and they put on two public performances. “This production is a ‘must see’ because the kids are so amazing,” said Lesli Opsahl, the cultural programs coordinator at the City of Kent.

Breeders Theater offers comedy and wine

By Cazzeti Upton

A Burien winery is featuring much more than enjoyable wine tasting this July, Breeders Theater will be performing their newest comedic production.

Breeders Theater will be putting on two one-act plays in July, Truffles Chantrelle and the Cure of the Singing Mummy, and Murder at the Zoo.

Both of these plays are written by Dr. T.M. Sell, an instructor at Highline.

“[It’s] contemporary adult humor without profanity,” Sell said of the plays’ style.

Truffles Chantrelle and the Cure of the Singing Mummy is a play about a reporter for the Daily Times-Apologist who finds herself mysteriously in another country somewhere between Asia and Africa. It is directed by J Howard Boyd.

Murder at the Zoo, directed by Doug Koop, is a mystery about someone or something killing the zookeepers at the Mount Rainier Zoo.

The cast of the play features two Highline alumni, as well as current student Carlos Cabes.

The cast is usually the same for each performance, with some variation.

“Almost everyone in the cast was recommended by someone else,” Sell said.

Most of the cast members have degrees in theater, and these talented artists are growing in popularity.

Breeders Theater has been asked to travel to Yakima in the fall, and they performed at Bumbershoot last year.

Also featured in the performances is choreography by Linda Matthews, music by Nancy Warren, and original lyrics written by Sell.

Breeders Theater is performing at E.B. Foote Winery. The winery has been home to Breeders Theater for the past six years.

Not only are there comedic performances at the winery, but there is wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres, and free parking as well.

The theater also has a scholarship program founded in 1999 that rewards a student each year. Breeders Theater is a unique group in the South King County area.

“You won’t be seeing the same old stuff,” Sell said.

Breeders Theater will be performing the one-acts July 9-11, 14, 16-17, 21, 23-24. Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $20.

E.B. Foote Winery is located at 127-B SW 153rd St., Burien. Typically, the shows that Breeders Theater puts on sell out quickly.

To reserve tickets, visit the winery, Corky Celliers, 22511 Marine View Drive, Des Moines, or call 206-834-9462.

YOU WOULDN'T TRUST JUST ANYONE TO DRIVE YOUR CAR, SO WHY TRUST JUST ANY COMPANY TO INSURE IT?

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Midsummer’s music marathon

By Billy Naylor.

Some of the most anticipated concert tours are going to be blazing stages left and right this summer.

The Prince of #5 Sing Dark - ness, Otzy Ozbourne, will be performing with Black Sabbath for the first time since 2001 and the Queen of Country Shania Twain is making her way to Seattle. Along with Sabbath, Black Metal bands like Dimmu Borgir will be headlining OzzFest and radio-rotation-heavy Hip-Hop groups like Lil Jon and the Eastside Boys are set to get enuff in the Gorge at Summer Jam. The Northwest is definitely covering its bases.

A word of advice: there’s nothing more annoying than seeing someone wear a band shirt to a concert that the band isn’t even playing at. Be sure you check your name on your chest before head - ing out.

OzzFest (July 27, Auburn, White River Amphitheater; $49.50 to $79.50 @ ticketmaster.com). To grab your band shirt, buy your tickets soon and get ready for the hardest event of the summer. You’ll certainly get your moneys worth seeing Ozzy back in Black Sabbath (for their first performance since 2001), Slayer, Judas Priest, Slipknot, Hatedeer and many more tear up the stage and spit it in your face. You might want to invest in a rock brace after hitting up this show.

Kube 93’s Summer Jam (July 31, The Gorge; $76 @ ticketmaster.com). Ying-Yang Twins, Lil Jon, Lil Flip, Twista, Chingy, and Ja Rule will have the Gorge packed and bouncing in a 6-4 Impala at the year’s biggest rap event. It might be wise to bring extra water with you, because the water prices are ridiculous and you’re going to sweat like crazy.

Lollapalooza (July 14, 15, White River Amphitheater, Auburn; $16.25-$45.75 per day; $35 for a two-day pass) In the past, Lollapalooza has sported some of the most popular bands to date, and 2004 seems to be keeping up with the tradition. Sonic Youth, the Von Bondies, Morrissey, Le Tigre, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Isasaquah natives Modest Mouse are taking the main stage for the first day. String Cheese Incident, Basement Jaxx, Flaming Lips, Gomez and TV on the Radio, will rock the main stage on the following day. With two other stages and a host of groups, a two-day pass might be the best deal.

Bumbershoot (Sept. 3-6, Seattle Center; $55 four-day pass, $28 two-day pass, $15 daily ($25 at the gate); $3 daily for children and senior citizens) The lineup hasn’t been announced yet, but with Nas, N’Klebe, and The Finess heading-line, it might already be worth the visit. Here’s the great thing about Bumbershoot, if you don’t dig all the music, there is still tons of activities to take part in. This might be the most fun you have all year, so bring the whole family and make it memorable.

Kenny Chesney (June 17; Tacoma Dome, $39.50-$59.50 @ Ticketmaster.com).

Shania Twain (June 18, KeyArena, Seattle; $45-$85 also @ Ticketmaster.com).

Country fans better slip on their cowboy boots and ten-gallon hats because two of country music’s biggest stars are playing back-to-back dates. The Rascal Flatts and Uncle Cracker will accompany the Kenny Chesney show. Emerson Drive will be opening for Shania Twain.

The Pier in Seattle (Get tickets @ http://secure.onereel.com/www/summerfest/tickets.htm).

Macy Gray-6/17; $35 Gipsy Kings-6/29; $60 Jonny Lang/Keb Mo’-7/3; $45 Box Scaggs-7/13; $32 B.B. King Blues Festival-7/31, 8/1 $56

This is just a taste of the flavor to be found down on the Pier; check out the website above for the other artists.

Chateau Ste. Michelle (Go to chateauste.michelle.com for tickets and additional information).

This famous winery is not only home to award-winning wines and vineyards, but they also make live musical acts as well. They’re kicking off its 21st summer concert series with a solid performance from Jewel. The house will also be hosting Chint Black, Smokey Robinson, and The Funk Brothers among many others during later dates.

The 2003 Lollapalooza brought quite a crowd to White River Amphitheater; young, old, conservative or wild, the concert’s a guaranteed screams.

Photo Courtesy of www.whiteriverconcerts.com

Local’s celebrate independence — and more

By Carzeri Upton.

Summer is here, and with that comes many reasons to celebrate. There is sure to be a festival or event near you, from the Strawberry Festival in Burien to the Canterbury Fair in Kent.

Almost every town will be celebrating its own Independence Day festival, but when you’re finishing with the typical red, white, and blue, check out some of these other unique festivals:

BURien (www.ci.burien.wa.us)

• Burien Strawberry Festival: Celebrate the arts and heritage of Burien while enjoying arts, crafts, food, music, dance and theater performances. June 19 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and June 20 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dottie Harper Park, Burien Community Center, and the Burien Historical Center.

• Summer Concerts in the Park: at Lake Burien Park School, SW 148 and 16 Ave, SW; Thursdays 6:30 - 8 p.m.

July 8- Layla Angelo (Jazz)

July 15- Fireside Syndicate (Punk Rock)

July 22- Coreo Acoreo (Mexican/South American)

July 29- Mark Whiteman Blues Band (R&B)

August 5- Fabulous Roadstars (Jazz)

DES MOINES (www.ci.desmoines.wa.us)

• Fireworks Over Des Moines: Fourth Annual Independence Day celebration at the Des Moines Marina Pier on July 4th. Fireworks will be launched at approximately 10:15 p.m.

• 2004 Soundwaves Summer Concert Series:

July 6- Back and Elizabeth @ Des Moines Beach Park: 12 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 13- Scott Cosca @ Des Moines Beach Park: 7-8:15 p.m.

July 20- 1-5 South @ Wooton Park: 7-8:30 p.m.

July 27- The Coats @ Wooton Park: 7-8:30 p.m.

August 3- Michael Powers @ Wooton Park: 7-8:30 p.m.

August 10- Raccoon Band @ Wooton Park: 7-8:30 p.m.

FEDERAL WAY (www.ci.federal-way.wa.us)

• Hats Off To The Red, White and Blues: Main performance stage, children’s activities, food booths, sports clinics, interactive arts and dance. July 4th Events start at 4 p.m. Fireworks at 10:15 p.m. at Celebration Park.

• Summer Sounds on the Outdoor concert series at Steel Lake Park, 2140 S. 312th St- free - bring comfortable chairs or blankets for seating - all shows are from 7-8 p.m.

July 7- Dock Town (Vintage Jazz/Band)

July 14- Clinton Fearon (Solo Reggae)

July 21- Party Safari (R&B/ Funk)

July 28- Perry Sampley (Contemporary American)

August 4- Patrick Doherty (Children’s Music)

August 11- T-BBA

August 18- Brad Warren (Story-Teller/Folk)

KENt (www.ci.kent.wa.us)

• Kent Carver Park: Aug. 21 & 22 at the Kent Senior Activity Center from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; veterans arts and culture festival with 75 fine craft booths, food booths, Children’s Faire, Medieval Village, Renaissance Village, Global Village - $2 for souvenir admission button.

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Crossword Solution

Quick Thinking

Across
1. Invitation request
5. Before boss or vote
10. Well... Of good upbringing
14. Pelvic bones
15. Crown
16. Crackling sound
17. Slezzy salesman, for one
19. St. Patrick's area
20. Explosive
21. Feed the kitty
22. More blurred
24. Motionless
26. Lodged
28. Washington portrait holders
30. Tired
33. Below the required standards
36. Water add on
38. McDonal'd's Kroc
39. Colt orilly
40. American stopping point
41. Ripped
42. Takes too much cocaine
43. Professor Hill of Clarence Thomas fame
44. Mento's hood
45. Ends a law suit
47. Arrange in order
49. Hindu god
51. Pharmacy tool
55. Great Italian tenor
57. Club
59. 40th President, to some
60. Charges
61. To go nowhere
64. Royal ditch
65. Bridge feat
66. Benevolent brothers
68. Treatise
69. John of PGA fame

Down
1. Breakups
2. Tilt
3. View
4. __ Riley: NBA coach
5. Perenn
6. Sudden loss at pinball
7. Fall worker
8. Exist
9. Old-timer
10. Corrupt
11. Gardner's quick fix
12. By some
13. Faint targets
14. Gardener's quick fix
15. Arrive
16. Military truant
17. USPO competitor
18. Stains
19. Flying saucers
20. Protuberance
21. Basketball rush
22. Snitch
23. Exercise, v.
24. Type of anesthetic
25. Poor thing!
26. Pussyfoot
27. Angel dust
28. Type of anesthetic
29. Arrive
30. Arrive
31. Kindergarteners
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The answers to this week's crossword is on page A6 (look for the Kent Snow White play story) on the bottom right hand corner. Be careful and don't cheat.

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

Across
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Quotable Quote

I was walking down the street wearing glasses when the prescription ran out.

...Steven Wright

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Got News?

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Men bring it at the championships

By Coleen Trillo
and Patrick McGuire

SPokane: The Highline men's track team came, ran and conquered, winning the NWAACC favorite Spokane last week at the championship.

"I can't believe it," coach Robert Yates said. "I am so excited. The team came together when it needed to and gave it their all." Highline beat out eight other teams to win the championship with a score of 203.5. Even before final results were announced, Highline knew they would be heading home with the trophy.

Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Highline went into the final event not only with confidence, but assurance that they were the champions.

At the start of the 4x400 relay Highline was up by 10.5 points. Despite this exciting news, Highline's 4x400 runners, Alex Harcourt, Mike Dickson, Jerome Simms, and Melvin Jenkins, went into the race full hearted and ready to run.

After running more than half a dozen races between them, the relay team hit the pavement hard and took off. They finished with an all-time Highline record and NWAACC title with a time of 3:13.

The exuberant effort extended as the final moments of the meet echoed the previous two days of work for the Highline men.

Summing up the meet with eight first places and 15 All-Americans, Highline's men showed resounding strengths both personally and collectively this year at NWAACCs.

Sprint stars Jenkins and Harcourt both broke the 26-year-old NWAACC record in the 400-meter dash. Jenkins won with a time of 46.31 seconds, Harcourt got second with a time of 46.57 seconds, and Simms got fifth in a time of 48.50 seconds. "Mel and Alex both broke the old NWAACC record which had stood since 1978," Yates said.

"Man, I was feeling good," Jenkins said.

In the 100 meters, Ricky Moody got second place with a time of 11.06 seconds. "I think I could have won, but I had just finished with the shot put, and I was tired," Moody said.

In the 200 meters, Melvin Jenkins got second with a time of 21.44 seconds, Alex Harcourt got fourth with a time of 22.11 seconds, and Jerome Simms got sixth place with a time of 22.34 seconds.

"The boys did really good in this event, considering they all ran personal bests in the 400 meters earlier that day," Yates said. Along with the sprinters' efforts, Highline racked up many points during the meet with their distance team.

Spokane, so relies heavily on their distance runners for points, were taken by surprise when Highline's distance crew started winning and scoring heavily in distance events.

"It was close the whole meet," Yates said. "We really had to work hard for it." In the 800 meters, Mike Dickson got second with a time of 1:55.3, Clay Hemlock got fifth with a time of 1:55.

"I was trying my hardest to win," Dickson said. "I would have been up there with Mike (Dickson), but Spokane was boxing me in," Hemlock said.

In the 1,500 meters, Hemlock won in a time of 4:01.

"That guy from Spokane really made me work for it," Hemlock said. In the 5,000 meters, Hemlock got seventh place with a time of 15:46.

"It was my last event, and I was dead tired," Hemlock said.

In the 10,000 meters, Hemlock won in a time of 32:26, Robert Bartholomew got seventh place with a time of 34:39, and David Larpenteur got eighth place with a time of 34:58.

"I am so impressed with Clay," Yates said. "I am so proud of the performances he put forth."

In the 3,000 meter steeplechase, Dylan Bailey got second place with a time of 9:54, Larpenteur got third in 9:55, Kris Farrell got sixth place with a time of 10:23, and Josh Frazier got seventh with a time of 10:39.

In the 110 meter hurdles, Jake Foyston won with a time of 14.96 seconds. "I was ranked second coming into the meet, so this was a nice surprise," Foyston said.

In the 400 meter hurdles, Foyston won in a time of 54.08 seconds.

"This is my event and I came here to win," Foyston said.

Rounding out the meet, Highline excelled in the field events as well to bring in more points.

In the hammer throw, Kyle Jones won with a throw of 154'04". "I knew I wasn't going to let the Spokane guy beat me," Jones said. "I didn't care what I got as long as he didn't beat me."

In the long jump, Moody won with a jump of 24'03", Mason Kien got second with a jump of 23'09", and Brynnan McIver got third with a jump of 22'11".

"Moody has the second best jump in the school's history," Yates said.

In the discus, Moody got fourth place.

In the shot put, Moody got seventh place.

"Moody was only half a point away from being the biggest scorer in the whole meet, he had 28 points," Yates said.

"I think with the amount of talent we have returning next year, plus the recruits, we definitely have a good chance of winning again," Yates said.
Despite loss, women come out on top

"We had a very good season," Yates said. "I hope to recruit a lot of women this summer, so next year we can get the women's team on the medal stand."

Monaka White won the 100 meters in 12.41 seconds. She then got fifth in the 200 meters with a time of 26.68 seconds.

"I think I used too much energy in the 100, but I'm still glad I won at least one of my events," White said.

Zori Garasmichuk got fourth in the 400 meters with a time of 59.95 seconds. She then placed seventh in the 800 meters with a time of 2:34.

"I stumbled coming out of the blocks in the 400, but I'm really happy I finally broke a minute," Garasmichuk said.

Brittney Boyes got sixth place in the 400 meters with a time of 1:04.

"I'm happy I medalled and scored some points for the team," Boyes said.

In addition to their personal successes, the Lady T-Birds had to overcome some obstacles during the final days in order to finish where they did. After completing the 1,500 meter run, Highline's top distance runners, Kamm and Marshall, were informed they didn't place where they thought they had. At the finish line of the 1,500 Kamm was out-stepped by Spokane runner Ashley Hadway. While it looked closed to spectators and even coaches, seeing the finish line, Yates said that Kamm was two steps behind.

"She was basically out-led," Yates said. "I saw the picture and Spokane's hips were past the line. They looked pretty close, but it is measured by the upper torso."

Following Kamm's finish, Jami Jablonsky said the team was told that Marshall had been disqualified from the race for passing on the inside of the track which is not allowed by NWAACC rules. Yates said that the call made was questionable, because Marshall had only stepped out of the way when both women were pushing.

"Both girls admitted to passing," said Jablonsky. "They should have both been disqualified if anyone was going to be." Yates said that the event left a sour taste in his mouth because until then the women had been doing great. He said that he mostly felt bad for the women because they worked really hard to get there.

"Up until that race everything was looking good," said White. "I think that race really broke our spirits because after that things sort of went down hill."
Inside Scoop

Highline Idol

Vol. 7

The Thunderword Magazine
Music makes the world go ‘round for this T-bird

By Jonathon Moon  
STAFF REPORTER

With a penchant for music and a strong will to succeed, Jessica Graybill now holds the key to her next step in education.  
Starting in fall she will attend the University of Puget Sound on a scholarship worth nearly $30,000.  

At the age of six, Graybill started taking piano lessons paid for by her grandfather. Her mother held musical aspirations at a tender age herself, but was unable to play for piano lessons.  

As the second of six children it appeared as if Graybill’s musical talents were to be unrealized also.  
Graybill and her siblings were homeschooled. Her father was a teacher at the Seattle Christian School, her mother worked in daycare, and the money simply wasn’t there. Her grandfather stepped in and paid for piano lessons for all the children in the family though, and now Graybill and three of her sisters perform on a regular basis as a quintet. Most recently they sang at the Spring Gala.  

During her last year of high school Graybill told her piano teacher of her plans to attend college. Her teacher, educated in Sri Lanka, did not now the American school system, nor did she have the connections she knew Graybill would need. Her advice to Graybill was to get a new instructor.  

“That was the best advice anyone had ever given me,” Graybill said.  

Her next instructor was Dr. Tanya Stambul, who just happened to teach piano at the University of Puget Sound.  

“At a lot of it is who you know,” she said.  

Graybill has many awards to show for her hard work, and many competitions behind her.  

She has received superior ratings from the National Association of Music Teachers, and won third, first, and second places, three years consecutively at the West Seattle Competition.  

During her high school years she attended the Young Artists Festival at the University of Washington four times.  

Her biggest win to date though, was taking third place at the Simon Fiset, a competition that includes the entire Seattle area.  

Graybill has enjoyed her time at Highline.  

“The people here will bend over backwards for you,” she said.  

She holds a GPA of 3.8 and made the President’s List while taking 20 credits. She is an honor scholar and is proud of her accomplishments at Highline.  

“My goals have always been based around music,” she said.  

Once she has finished at the University of Puget Sound she plans to attend an east coast conservatory.  

Her long-term plan is to earn her doctorate and teach piano at a college level.  

Graybill is a Burien resident and has lived there all her life.  

During her free time she hangs out with her sisters watching movies. She enjoys skiing and working on her scrapbook.  

Her next performance will be at the Junior recital at the University of Puget Sound. Graybill plans to minor in voice at a master’s level. She will be entering the Young Artists competition this fall, which includes a half hour performance from up to four different languages.

Jessica Graybill posing for a picture at the Spring Gala.  

Photos by Amber Trillo

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H. Insider

Age: 20  
Major: Piano Performance  
Hometown: Burien  
Advice: “Stay focused and work hard.”
Abdul Hassan
Hassan overcomes adversity with education

By John Montenegro

Hassan had to cross many seas and oceans to find his calling, tending to kids. Ever since an early age, Hassan has always been told that an education is what a person needs to get ahead in life. "When I was young, I would show my mom that I got a 'B' and she would get mad because it was not an, 'A'," said Hassan. Hassan credits his need to get an education to his mother. "She had to work very hard to provide for us," Hassan said. Pleasing his mom is not the only obstacle that Hassan has had to go through in his life. Being a native of Somalia, Hassan has had to go through a lot of life-threatening situations. Although a person may think that conditions in a very poor country are bad, for Hassan's family things were better than most. "My mom was a teacher, and my dad was a lawyer, so we had a pretty good life," Hassan said. Hassan moved from Somalia right when the civil wars started to plague the country. "I lost a lot of family members in the war," Hassan said. "I lost a lot of cousins and uncles in the war." At the age of 4, Hassan and his father Mohamud, mother Sirad and his four siblings decided to move to the neighboring country of Kenya. It was during the trip to Kenya that Hassan suffered his present loss. "My dad and my brother went ahead of us to look for a place to live, they had to take a boat during the trip the boat sank and my father died although my brother lived," Hassan said.

After the death of his father, Hassan and his family found a place to live in Mombassa, Kenya. After living in Kenya for only three years the family decided to move to Norway, where an aunt was already living. Hassan's older brother was sent to Norway a few years earlier to live with the aunt.

The next few years of Hassan's life were filled with a lot of moving around to different countries in Europe. After living in Norway, the family moved to Italy, then finally moving to San Jose, Calif., in 1995. "We did not stay there for too long," Hassan said. Hassan and his family moved to Washington in 1996. Having really only lived in the United States for only six months, Hassan had to get used to many varied things about the U.S. "I am used to more proper English. The English here (the United States) is faster," Hassan said.

Hassan and his family first moved to Tacoma. But like any kid his age Hassan got accustomed very quickly to the culture in the U.S. "Got in to basketball very quickly, started watching the NBA," Hassan said.

Although Hassan has gotten used to the culture there is still a lot of the Somali culture that he left behind. "I am used to American culture but still have a lot of Somali culture...I speak Somali fluently," Hassan said. "I am Muslim, so I pray five times a day." His mother's constant emphasis on getting a good education drove Hassan to finally take his opportunities seriously. "That is the main reason that we came here to America, to get an education," Hassan said.

As soon as Hassan moved from Jason Lee Middle School to Stadium High School he started to become serious about school. "I only played basketball my freshman year, then I got serious about my school work," said Hassan. Hassan did not get caught up in the usual high school drama that a lot of other students get caught up in. "I did not really get that too much, I was really friendly to everybody," Hassan said.

Even though his studies were one of the most important things in his life, Hassan still had time to have fun. While in Tacoma, Hassan found out about the "Gear-Up" project. The project would give money to kids who performed 300 hours or more of community services. Hassan did it for three years and collected $3,000 for his efforts.

The community service that he performed was that of the Boys and Girls Club. "I have) Always been interested in the Boys and Girls Club," Hassan said. "Always been interested in kids." Hassan first started going there after school to play basketball, and then he enquired about a job and was rewarded for his efforts with a job. "It's a positive place for kids to go," Hassan said. "Gives the kids a place to go after school."

After being there for a few years, he feels closer to the kids. "Even if I am not on the clock I still go there to hang out with the kids," Hassan said. "I love those kids...You become attached." Hassan's efforts have been very influential for him. For the time that Hassan spent at the Boys and Girls Club, Hassan received two consecutive "Youth of the Year" awards for 2002 and 2003. For those awards Hassan received $1,000 for each year.

After spending three years at Stadium High School, Hassan and his family decided to move to Federal Way in 2001. Even today Hassan still works every day with the Boys and Girls Club. Hassan believes that no matter what happens with his life he will always be connected with the club. "Even if I have a career later on, I'll still donate 'cause it's a good cause," Hassan said.

In 2002 Hassan received his diploma from Thomas Jefferson High School. All throughout high school Hassan concentrated on going to college. With his family's limited income he just needed to find the easiest route there.

"Beginning my senior year I decided to go to Highline," Hassan said.

Since starting Highline, Hassan knew his goal. "From the beginning it has always been; take the classes I need, graduate, go to UW," Hassan said. Hassan hopes to transfer to the University of Washington and get on a pre-med track. He hopes to become a pediatrician.

Being a mentor to many kids Hassan offers this advice to those future Highline students. "No matter how hard the class is, stick with it," Hassan said.

Photo by Chuck Cortes

H Insider
Age: 19
Hometown: Mogadishu, Somalia
Major: Pre-med
Advice: "No matter how hard the class is, stick with it."
By Amy Xayarath

Staff Reporter

Over a year ago, Brandy Oto was stabbed nine times and was near her death. But today she is still alive and wants to help others with domestic violence issues.

Oto, a graduating Highline student, ran into drug addiction problems and became the victim of domestic violence in the past but has done a complete turnaround with her life, and now plans to attend a four-year college to become a chemical dependency counselor.

As a full-time student, worker and mother, her schedule is hectic enough without having spending time with her two children.

"I have to make time, I just do," said Oto.

"My kids are a blessing from God. They give me a reason to go on everyday... They give me a reason to stay sober and to live," said Oto.

Oto became a 3.5 grade point average student during her two and a half years at Highline. Moreover, Oto has been with the Women's Programs since she started college.

"Temple D'Amico, (WorkFirst employment/retention coordinator of Women's Programs), has totally gone out of her way to help me with a list of things I wanted to achieve. That starts with speaking about domestic violence and needing my classes paid for. D'Amico had made it happen for me," said Oto.

Her struggle began at the age of 15 when she left home. Two years later, Oto gave birth to her first son, Kade. In the meantime, Oto got married and shortly divorced the father of her first child.

"While going through a divorce; I had no family or money," Oto said. "My husband at the time came from a very wealthy family; and with our system these days, money gets your kid."

Her husband at the time got to be the primary parent and she lost custody of her son.

After that, she started drinking and using drugs to avoid feeling the pain and eventually led up to something that could not be stopped anymore.

At the age of 21 Oto started using methamphetamines and was caught doing illegal activities.

"I want to jail and got clean. I gave my life to God," said Oto.

"This drug addiction had got me to where I couldn't see my son at all and hadn't seen my son for a year," said Oto. "I was looking at the time when I would never get to see Kade again because his dad brought him up to see me couple of times but I never had a relationship with him. Therefore, I didn't want to do that because I love him with all of my heart so I decided that I didn't want him to see that life and changed."

After Oto recovered from drugs, she set a personal goal to love others, no matter who they are or what they had done. In other words, she wants to forgive them for what they have done in the past.

"Over a year ago, my (second) husband stabbed me nine times and I totally had forgiven him," said Oto. "No matter what somebody does, I can love them."

"The incident started with a stupid argument over car keys. He relapsed on drugs and so I asked him to leave the house. For this reason, he freaked out, but still had not left the house. In the meantime, things were getting really quiet around the house and nobody was talking," said Oto. "She said she got very suspicious as the silence was just building and that was the day he stabbed her."

"I believe I survived with the relationship I have with God," said Oto.

She believes that the reason she survived was because the last time her husband stabbed her, she said out loud, "God please help me!"

At that moment, her husband threw the knife down and walked away.

"I believe that was the reason," said Oto.

Oto was in a coma for a week after the incident.

"My family did not think I'd even make it through the night," said Oto. "I believe that God has a purpose for me to be here."

Oto's two best friends, Kelly Harris and Mandy Jones, as well as her family were supporting her while she was fighting for her life.

"My stomach was wide open for months. I was beaten up everyday," said Oto. She said she could not take care of her youngest son, Isaiah Oto, for four months.

Her family and best friends all did a lot to help her.

"My two best friends had really carried me emotionally through the whole thing. They spent every day at the hospital, waiting for me to wake up. After I woke up, they did everything they could to help me," said Oto.

She said Harris and Jones gave up their lives with their families for a short time and devoted time to her.

After the tragedy with the stabbing, Oto's husband was initially given 27 years for attempted murder. However, Oto went to the court and asked the judge to give him the minimum amount of time because she explained that her husband was also addicted to drugs and had relapsed.

"I do believe that is what is from and I think my husband needs help because he's sick," said Oto. She said the judge ended up reducing the sentence from 27 to 10 years in prison.

Oto said she talked to her husband on the phone a couple of times since the incident.

"He is very glad to be where he is because he knows he is sick," said Oto. She said he does not know why he stabbed her because he blacked out at that moment.

"Also, he is very regretful over what he has done and deserves the punishment as well as getting a chance to heal," said Oto.

Today as she is ready to graduate from Highline with an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree and wants to help raise funds for other women in her situation. She is ready herself to continue sharing her story about domestic violence with others and publicly so she can help change someone else's life.

"I am very thankful for graduation itself. I never thought I'd graduate because I didn't have the money; however, the Women's Programs did it for me," said Oto. Oto earned the scholarship of Extraordinary Ordinary Women for one year, and was given the opportunity to get the education and graduation.

With the support and education, Oto has changed her life in nearly every aspect and wishes to not just become a chemical dependency counselor but wishes to become a minister as well in the near future. Moreover, she wants to continue to speak about domestic violence and open up a shelter in Tacoma that will house drug addicts.

"This shelter will be a place to help them get clean and sober; however it is not necessary from the basis of normal treatment agency but on a more spiritual level," said Oto.

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**Insider**

**Age:** 27

**Hometown:** Burley, Idaho

**Major:** Human Services

**Advice:** "If you really touch to your mind to programs here at Highline; there's recourses that can help you whatever you need."
By Jordan Goddard  

Staff Reporter

Three years ago, becoming an ace pitcher and team leader at Highline was the farthest thing from Lacey Walter’s mind. Finding a way to cope with the recent death of her boyfriend was all she could handle.

Eventually, the Highline High School honor student found her way to Des Moines.

“I felt like I was supposed to come here, like I was supposed to be here,” Walter said.

After taking a year off from school, Walter contacted Highlines Assistant Fastpitch Coach Mark Hall.

“I was in a panic that summer trying to find another pitcher,” Coach Hall said. “It was a fluke really. I got a call from Lacey.”

Coach Hall found more in her than an excellent pitching prospect. The recent loss of his daughter Meghan in a plane crash gave Coach Hall and Walter an instant fellowship.

“I felt God sent her to me, but He really sent her for me,” Coach Hall said. “We have a common bond. We’ve both suffered some losses.”

It took more than understanding to change her outlook, though.

“She seemed like she was mad at the world last year,” catcher Casey Henriksen said. “She was just here to play softball. She didn’t want to be anybody’s friend.”

As the year progressed, the real Walter slowly began to emerge.

“She found different, healthier ways to cope with her loss,” Henriksen said. “She’s very dedicated this year to weight training. She’s gotten quite a bit stronger.”

By Henriksen’s estimate, her work in the gym added five miles per hour to her fastball.

“I’ve never had a kid that works as hard as she does. Period,” Coach Hall said.

The time she spent with the Lady Thunderbirds strengthened more than just her muscles.

“I’ve really seen her mature and grow to be more responsible and confident in herself,” Henriksen said. “This year she wants to be friends, and at the same time, she wants to win even more.”

The once exclusive Walter quickly developed into a respected team leader.

“She doesn’t have that captain title, but she’ll still kick people in the butt if they’re not doing what they need to be doing,” Henriksen said.

“She’s always said what she thinks,” Coach Hall said.

Her focus and dedication on the field and in the weight room paid off this year with a 1.88 ERA and a .373 batting average.

“She’s our No. 1 pitcher, no doubt about it,” Henriksen said.

Walter’s hard work culminated with a dominant performance in the final game of this year’s regular season.

“When someone throws 14 strikeouts and a no-hit shutout for a playoff berth, that really says something,” Coach Hall commented.

Not surprisingly, she was named a member of the NWAACC First Team All Stars.

“She puts her heart into everything. She gives 100 percent of what she has everyday,” Henriksen said.

There is more to Walter than just hard work, though.

“She has a great sense of humor,” Coach Hall said.

“She’s really funny,” Henriksen said. “When it comes to softball, there’s a serious side, but off the field it’s just fun.”

Walter hopes to put her knowledge and talents to use someday as a broadcaster, coach, or administrator in women’s athletics.

“She’s a real people person,” Henriksen said.

Writing poetry also feels like a promising option for her.

“I believe you have to find your own voice,” Walter said. “I’ve always strived to make myself heard.”

Her athletic prowess and 3.5 G.P.A. has given her many options for continuing her education. Pacific University has offered Walter an academic scholarship, but Seattle University and Hawaii Pacific University interest her as well.

“All four-year coach that takes the time to look at her and doesn’t take her in a fool,” Coach Hall said. “Pitchers like Lacey are few and far between.”

“Wherever the future takes her, there is little doubt that she’ll channel her incredible work ethic and love of athletics into a career focused on helping others, not unlike her mentor Coach Hall.”

“Playing softball has really given me hope,” Walter said.
Verdena Gardner

Overcoming odds and reaching the top

By Cazzeri Upton

Staff Reporter

Sometimes just being who you are is a lot harder than it sounds. Verdena Gardner was born in Detroit, Mich. Her father came from an old New England family so she had many cultural opportunities growing up that a lot of kids don’t have. But her childhood was mixed.

She was enrolled in ballet for 12 years under the instruction of Pamela Dunworth at the Fairlane Ballet Company. Dunworth was the person Gardner looked up to the most. She instilled a sense of poise and dignity into each of her students.

“When life tries to get you down, if you hold your head up you can face it with a sense of grace,” Gardner said this philosophy stems directly from Dunworth.

Verdena knew she was gay from a very early age. “Being gay in a straight family makes you feel like you’re not human.”

When she was 14 she was kicked out of school for having a crush on a female teacher. So she moved to Washington to live with her mom.

The harassment started long before though. Her peers would taunt her because she was different, so she didn’t try to hide anything for long. “As long as I was hiding in fear they had the power over me to out me. You don’t need to defend yourself against something you’re admitting,” she said.

Before she came to Highline, she had been living on the streets for years. As she puts it, “my life was a mess.”

She had her first child, Jacob, during this time. Her second, Amadea came two years later. The turning point was when a friend of hers committed suicide. It woke something up inside of her and she decided she needed to do something better with her life. “I let my love for my kids take over. If anything I could fight to make the world a better place for them,” Gardner said.

So she moved in with a friend and decided to start taking classes at Highline. When she first started school she had to overcome a lot of fears. Agoraphobia was one of them. She found it really hard to leave her house and go to class. In order to get through this obstacle she would tell herself over and over that she only had to do one class at a time.

At first she just went day by day very slowly, setting goals for herself. Little by little she got more involved with Highline’s programs until she was becoming the top student in most of her classes, and finally was chosen to be a commencement speaker at her graduation. When she graduates she will not only be graduating with honors, she also has a 4.0 grade average.

She finds it humorous that she started out having such fear toward going to class because, “Now I get to stand up in front of 400 people and give a speech?” She describes herself in two words as “irrepressibly perspicacious.” Others might describe her as intelligent, witty, strong and well-spoken.

She looks a lot younger than her 29 years, and has a very comforting smile. “She’s open about the struggles she’s endured and has no qualms about speaking up for what she thinks is right.”

Gardner was raised with Christian beliefs, but as she grew up she felt betrayed by Christ.

She met someone who introduced her to Goddess-based religions, which answered a lot of questions she had.

With that knowledge she embarked on a 15-year study of world religions in which she explored every religion in depth.

She now is a practicing Pagan, in the tradition of Jhanna, which is a Sanskrit word meaning knowledge of the essence, secrets, and significance of all the holy books. “Every path that humans embark on contains some of the most exquisitely beautiful wisdoms, but it’s the same canvas upon which we paint our most horrific fears,” Gardner said.

She had a dream awhile back—a very Christian dream. She said that in her dream she asked God to help her to be able to see Him in everyone that she meets and to help her remember that He is all she interacts with. “What if we lived that way? Seeing the divine in everybody. It would change everything.”

Gardner wants to be remembered for making people think and “for asking hard questions and not being satisfied with easy answers.”

She claims that she is much more comfortable with questions than answers.

“The message that needs to be conveyed is much more important that the comfort of staying at home and not saying it.”

Language is both her strength and her weakness. “It’s definitely a strength because I use it well... but it’s a weakness because it uses me well!”

She is a poet, but she thinks that poetry is usually regarded as the lowest form of art. “It’s like saying, ‘I raise worms.’”

Gardner applied and was accepted to the University of Washington and will be attending this fall.

Her goals are to get a bachelor’s degree in research psychology with an emphasis on human sexuality, bigotry and hate, and child abuse.

She plans on following that up with a Ph.D. so she can teach college and hopefully get published one day. Her long-term goal is to put an end to child abuse.

“It often feels like, in the moment, that your entire life could not possibly change the world,” Gardner wants to tell struggling students. “When you reach deep inside to the passion that holds your form together, it comes attached with a key. A key that unlocks the potential that will have much more far reaching effects than you can ever imagine. That key is authenticity.”

Verdena sitting with her two kids Amadea and Jacob.
Ernesto Lopez

Opportunity knocked and this T-Bird answered

By Taurean Davis

The ability to recognize opportunity is a blessing but takes a lot of hard work, and no one knows that better than 25-year-old Ernesto Lopez, who will be graduating June 9 from Highline's Respiratory Care Program.

Lopez presents a pretty unsavory figure. A gentle guy, but don't let his laid-back demeanor fool you.

You eventually realize that behind the depths of his dark easygoing eyes lies a lot of experience and a will that will push when it comes to shove.

Aftermanaged to plow through several years of education and several medical textbooks, Lopez has the kind of guy who leaves outsiders wondering what the heck his driving force is.

The answer lies in the past, which Lopez describes as a time when there was so much to gain and so little to lose.

Opportunities back then were of a different, more dangerous kind.

For starters, everyday life in South Central Los Angeles is not for the faint of heart. "Growing up, you had ganginitiations every night," said Lopez.

He explained the initiation consisted of the gang members beating the newbie up to see how tough he is. "It's job security of the worst kind."

Surrounded by the trends and angst of gangs, drugs and guns, you would wonder how a nice-guy like Ernesto could have such a dangerous background, but Lopez possesses quite a bit of maturity and says that a thug's life wasn't the life he wanted to live.

Lopez believes that kids and teens without a good role model, eventually fall into gang roles in society.

With nothing to lose, they look up to these people who can afford to go places, buy whatever they want, and do whatever they please.

But though he himself was raised seeing this in front of him, Lopez rejected it. "That was taking an easy way out, but I didn't want that," he said.

In fact, medical care wasn't his priority at first. Back then, Lopez wanted to be a counselor in hopes of counteracting gang behavior. Unfortunately, you need education to be somebody, and where Lopez came from, it was somewhat unsatisfactory.

"Those who wanted to learn were cheated out of an education," said Lopez.

The teachers spent more time controlling the students rather than teaching them, so any good students (formally or no) really didn't get their time to shine away.

Eventually, Lopez ended up at East L.A. Community College, taking general classes. "I was working two part-time jobs," said Lopez.

Luckily, fate lodged a chance that Lopez couldn't ignore. Cue Lopez's older brother, who lived up here in the Puget Sound. Lopez was asked if he wanted to move up to Washington in 1999.

Eventually, Lopez was convinced by his brother to take a few classes at a local community college in December of 2001 - Highline. "It was location, I chose Highline because it was close," said Lopez.

At that moment, Lopez said he was unsure about becoming part of the Respiratory Care Program. However, Tobi Castro, then director of the multicultural center, became a guiding light. She helped him establish what it was he wanted to do.

Bouncing around a few ideas via one-on-one dialogue, Lopez's interest in the medical was piqued. He was eventually set up with a student from the Respiratory Care Program. "I actually wanted to go see what it all entailed," said Lopez. Once Lopez's interest in the medical field began blossoming, Castro didn't stop there.

She managed to send Lopez on a five-hour-job shadow at the UW Hospital.

While shadowing the workers there, Lopez asked questions, surveyed the scene, witnessed the actual jobs and boiled it all down to one verdict: this was it.

"I was impressed. I was impressed with what I saw," said Lopez.

What made it so appealing, he mentioned, was the fact that the medical staff worked together to help the patient get better.

At this point, Bob Bonner, head of Highline's Respiratory Care Program, entered the picture and explained logistics of courses within Highline's program. "He went beyond his capacity to give me resources," said Lopez. Soon enough, Lopez had officially en- tered Highline and jumped wholeheartedly into the classes offered here.

Lopez had a number of favorite classes lined up, one being respiratory care with Bonner, but another that stood out the most was Bob Baughter's Pysch 120 class.

Lopez said he admired the way the Baughter taught with emotion and mentioned that it was a treat going to his class. Another class that Lopez enjoyed and appreciated was pediatrics with Nicky Bly, another respiratory care teacher.

Classrooms weren't the only places Lopez decided to learn in. When the prospect of an internship at a Seattle hospital appeared, he took that chance as well.

On-the-job training here meant actually managing and interacting with real patients.

"Basically, we're prepared to take on a patient load," says Lopez. Interns also learned how to use the equipment and machinery so managing patience was also a priority (pin-intended). Not that Lopez would have to worry about that. He describes himself as having a playful, creative personality, and he works well with kids.

Being the uncle of six nieces and nephews tends to give a guy a lot of experience.

Another positive light of Lopez's persona tends to be grateful for things he considers a boon. This is especially true when his teachers sponsored a trip for Lopez and his respite care class to attend the 31st Annual Northwest Respiratory Care Conference.

All medical practitioners need licenses and Lopez's comes in the form of a random 140-question test known as the Certified Respiratory Therapy (CRT) test.

And even after all of that, Lopez still has time for his part-time job as a landscaper.

Now only moments away from getting a diploma, Lopez looks toward the future. With a resume in tow (courtesy of Erik Tingelstad, the Highline career facil- ities director), Lopez seems ready to enter the work force.

However...

"I'm taking four weeks to go to get a job," said Lopez. He had been talking about it with friends who came from there, and decided that he wanted to join them. Seeing as he has never been, overseas before, Lopez says that "this is an opportunity I don't want to let go." After that, he'll begin his job search in his chosen field, hope- fully as a full-fledged member of a hospital.

Lopez's dreams are even far more reaching than that. Ten years from now, he fantasizes about becoming part of a medical transport team. "I hope to achieve the skills and the knowledge to become a helicopter transporter. I think that's exciting."

He figures that he'll still be liv- ing here in the Northwest and if the helicopter idea doesn't pan out, Lopez says he'll become a clinical instructor for Highline.

With summer looming and graduation pending, Lopez says there are almost too many to thank for his being here. Toni Castro was one person that he'll never forget though.

Lopez wants to thank her for the wealth of resources and knowledge she gave one.

He wants to thank the Foundation for lending a helping hand with his tuition.

For being cool cats," he says.

Lopez is all about making the most of opportunities offered to you and maximizing your goal to the best of your abilities. "Highline is a wealth of resources and knowledge," says Lopez. "Never be afraid to ask a question."
Almost 15 years ago, Lynn Friesen was an average college student, confused, unsure, and depressed. Now, 15 years later, he is anything but average.

Friesen began college at 19, and soon became deeply depressed. After two quarters, he left college to take care of himself.

Friesen was forced to get a job to pay for all his bills, and became stuck in a job he didn’t enjoy. Now he looks back on his work experience as a time that built his character, making him more prepared for his decision to go back to school.

Speaking about this rough time with relative ease, Friesen said he is in a much better place now.

“I know exactly what I want to do and how I’m going to get there,” Friesen said with an air of confidence.

The now 34-year-old Exercise Science major, Friesen has been a Phi Theta Kappa member since his second quarter at Highline:

“Friesen has been at Highline just four quarters, and he is already graduating with a 4.0.

With a few credits from a previous school and a 17-18 credit course load each quarter, Friesen has made the most of his time here.

Friesen doesn’t regret a second of his time at Highline.

“Just to make the effort to make a positive experience, it flourishes even more,” Friesen said with a glowing smile.

When Friesen made the decision to come back to school, he had to weigh both the positive and negative aspects. With support from his wife and some budget adjustments, Friesen chose Highline as the next step in his life.

“I have people in my life who are helping me move through this process,” said a genuinely grateful Friesen.

In Friesen’s first quarter, he came across a teacher that inspired him and set the tone for the rest of his experiences at Highline. Angie Castor, his writing 105 instructor, pithed him to look deeper than the surface and hit some views of any given subject.

“She made you think about everything you did in that class,” Friesen said.

Another particularly inspirational instructor for Friesen was Kane Gallford. He said he made chemistry enjoyable.

“She was extremely excited about the topic, and he said he couldn’t help being excited about it because of that. “The eagerness of every instructor to want the best for you,” Friesen said. If one of the things he enjoyed the most about his Highline experience.

Friesen’s experience was enriched even more by the work he got to take part in as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He said he jumped on the chance to get involved.

“It is such an important thing to get involved and give back,” Friesen said.

Being a member of Phi Theta Kappa gave Friesen a chance to really get involved in the community and in the school.

“I’m so glad I was able to be a part of that,” said Friesen of Phi Theta Kappa.

In his work with Phi Theta Kappa, Friesen had the opportunity to work with Northwest Harvest, West Side Baby, and First Place School.

He also got to be involved in Project Graduation and the Community Service Initiative.

“It really opens your mind to what’s out there,” Friesen said.

Friesen will transfer to Bastyr University to pursue his Bachelor of Arts degree in Exercise Science.

Though his time at Highline was short, Friesen made the most of it, and said he truly enjoyed himself.

“Phs has been a lot of fun,” Friesen said.
Men's scores: HIGHLINE 205 1/2, SPOKANE 191, CLYDE 119, 98, LAKE 96 1/2, SW OR- EGN 61, MT HODG 34, TREASURY VALLEY 1.

300-Melvin Jenkins (H) 4:31.54; 800-Alex Harcourt (L) 1:52.34; 1500-Cam Hemlock (L) 4:08.37; 4x400: 4:08.22, Adam Guolet (S) 50.93, Ty Axstam (S) 51.33; 5000: 15:16.70, Mark Currell (S) 15:15.20, Elmir Nevaraz (S) 15:32.11, Joe Kaufman (S) 15:33.34, Ty Axstman (S) 15:40.55, John Dean (S) 15:45.71, Clay Hemlock (H) 15:46.50, Hipolito onizka (C) 15:30.02; 10,000: 32:26.21, Mark Currell (S) 32:33.31, John Dean (S) 32:40.80, Robert Langley (S) 32:56.59, Hipolito Gonzalez (C) 33:22.04, John Shaw (S) 34:10.90, Robert Langley (S) 34:39.67, David Larpenorte (H) 34:59.20, 3000 steeplechase - Ben Yarbrough (S) 9:42.71, Dylan Bailey (H) 9:54.86, David Larpenorte (H) 9:55.93, Ty Axstman (S) 10:06.03, Austin Bowles (C) 10:18.36, Kris Farrell (S) 10:23.61, Josh Frazier (H) 10:29.66, John Shaw (S) 10:30.68.

Women's scores: SPOKANE 182 1/2, LAKE 153 1/2, CLARK 141, CLARKSON 130, HIGHLINE 120, SW OR- EGN 45, MT HODG 35, TREASURY VALLEY 0.

SCOOREBOARD

NWAACC track championships Spokane Falls May 27-28

Winning NWAACCs was a team effort

By Patrick McGuire

SPokane — Kyle Jones’ ham- mer throw of 154 feet won him an NWAACC title. But the throw that excited the team and fans at the Spokane stadium was when Jones threw a Cooper Robert’s Yarns in the steelcable water pit.

This happened right after a bucket of water was dumped on Yates by the team on top of the medal stand. This was the excitement felt by every member of the track team, a championship for the first time in 15 years.

"That was the longest and hard- est I ever ran this whole season. Myself and every one of us were running after Yates," said Jones.

The men’s team won the meet with 205 points, beating favored Spokane by 14.

In order to win, everyone worked just as hard as Jones. Whether it was through enthusi- asm and encouragement or perfor- mance in an event, everyone on the team agreed this win was a group effort.

"Our team was filled with love and support — it was crazy," said McVeber. "It showed throughout the whole meet, especially in the jumps.

"I’m happy we were able to get this together," said Jones.

McVeber supported the efforts of the team members in the jumps.

"Going into the event only Ken was expected to place, however, the jumpers swept the event. The success of the jumpers gave the team an additional 16 points that Yates had not expected.

"The jump our team started for us during the long jump made it possible for us to have the confidence to take first, second, and third," said McVeber.

Support for the women’s team was equally displayed as Taryn Phipps formed the NWAACC record for the women’s high jump. She finished first just one inch under the 5’8” record. “What I was able to do was truly amazing, it was the jump,” said Phipps.

One place Yates had expected to do better was in the 1500 meters. "I did expect Amanda (Kam) to win and Sitges (Marshall) to place," said Yates. He said that they missed points there but both women came back to have awe- some performances later in the day.

"It took it out fast, after my sec- ond place finish in the 1,500, I just wanted to lead the whole thing and win it," said Benton after she won her 800- meter victory.

Marshall, who was disqualified from the 1,500, also went on to victory in the 10k and the 3k.

1004-Selena Lee (S) 58.02, Molly Burt (S) 59.29, MeganOdom (S) 59.39, Zori Garsamichik (H) 58.95, Megan Confer (L) 1:02.11, Brit- tany Boysen (H) 1:04.31, Heather Howard (S) 1:04.34.

1000-Monaka White (H) 12:41, Alyssa Tibbs (SW) 12:41, Katie Miller (C) 12.80, Brittany Griffen (H) 12.91, Mackenzie Winkle (L) 12.98, Chelsea Fuller (C) 12.98, Monica Tepee (L) 13.15, Jamie Baynes (L) 13.56.

200-Alyssa Tibbs (SW) 25.66, Brittany Griffen (H) 25.85, Mackenzie Winkle (L) 26.00, Megan Odom (C) 26.43, Monica White (L) 26.68, Selena Lee (SW) 26.70, Monica Tepee (L) 26.80, Chelsea Fuller (C) 26.84.

400-Selena Lee (SW) 58.02, Molly Burt (S) 59.29, MeganOdom (S) 59.39, Zori Garsamichik (H) 58.95, Megan Confer (L) 1:02.11, Brit- tany Boysen (H) 1:04.31, Heather Howard (S) 1:04.34.

Amanda Kam (L) 2:17.69, Elise Megalae (S) 2:17.69, Bethany Lantz (S) 2:23.31, Heather Miller (C) 2:25.44, Angie Perrietti (S) 2:30.68, Jessica Poggi (S) 2:31.43, Zori Garsamichik (H) 2:34.49, Elisha Bambarn (SW) 2:34.69.

1,500M-Ashley Hadaway (S) 4:43.61, Amanda Kam (S) 4:43.66, Elise Megalae (S) 4:43.55, Ashley Brandon (S) 4:43.00, Amanda Kam (S) 4:43.00, Margaret Hadaway (S) 4:43.00, Ashley Brandon (S) 4:43.00, Amanda Kam (S) 4:43.00, Margaret Hadaway (S) 4:43.00.
Running through a season to remember

Diary

As Ricky started down the runway the clap got faster and everyone's eyes in the stadium were drawn to the pit. Then Ricky took off in the air and a boom of emotions came from the fence where the team was located. Right after under the same scenario Mason Kien scratched a jump measuring 24' 10", which would have been a school record.

During the long jump Kyle Jones was ever throwing the hammer past another school record and on his way to victory.

SPOKANE — From the moment we walked into our first meet at Highline track we realized we had something special on this team. Teams of the past good runners who had a chance to place high at NWAACCs but this team had something else, something only championship teams could have.

Coaches and list of accomplishments of our team from before we got to Highline, stuff like Mel Jenkins, two-time state champion; Alex Harcourt, state champion; Kyle Jones, two-time state champion; Dylan Bailey, NWAACC cross country champion; and Jake Foyston, state champion.

We all looked around and met each other's eyes and from that moment on all of our workouts were directed towards winning NWAACCs and dominating the meets we were entered in our way to the championships.

From our first start we were surpassed to everyone. We not only improved as individuals but also as a team. Our team became a family with one goal in mind: win every time we step out in the track. And we accomplished this goal week after week with people setting records all season long the way to NWAACCs. The biggest meet we ran at was in the middle of the season, the Oregon Invite, and it proved to be a major eye-opener for all the other teams in our league. From Mel Jenkins running a 47.2 400, breaking the school record, to our 4x400 relay running a 3:14, also breaking the school record.

Even if you were not running at the meet, you got motivated to make it there next year and step it up for the rest of the season. David got pumped from watching it this year and it gave him inspiration to place at NWAACCs and come back to the Oregon Invite next year not to watch but to run. The Ken Shannon meet was our last of the year, which meant last time to make yourself known before NWAACCs. And make yourself known was what Highline athletes did.

Clay Hall running into Spokane's mind, beating all of their runners in the 5,000 by almost a minute. David ran the steeplechase and improved his time 20 seconds. Little other runners knew he is all work no play when it comes to track. Jake also dropped his time almost half a second in the hurdles.

The team was full of emotion heading into the NWAACCs. Spokane runners had been talking trash to us at the Ken Foreman Invitational meet, promising that their depth in distance events would win them another championship.

Many coaches viewed Spokane, returning champs for men and women, as the favorite to win. Our team thought differently and did differently.

We showed up to the meet, the long jump having already started. We definitely had the most team spirit, cheering each other on like never before.

Our team lined up along the fence and got a clap going for Rickey Moody and a jump that shifted the momentum in Highline's favor.

a NWAACC
But that was not the big story at the hammer pit, it was Andre Leister, who was ranked out of the top 10 going into the meet but ended up tying a his furthest throw ever and placed sixth at the championships.

Day one was as planned with everyone set thought was going to make it into finals making it and we had our team tied with Spokane at 55 going into day two.

Day two started out better than ever expected.

Going into the steeplechase, David was ranked fourth but was not going to let that get in the way of placing in the top three and gaining the title All-American. With just over a lap to go he not only moved up into third he passed Spokane's Ty Axtman, who was ranked No. 1 going into NWAACCs with the best time. This was one of the best experiences for David in his life.

Right after David's race was Jake's first race of the day, the 110 meter hurdles. After winning prelims he was ready to claim victory in final. He clocked 14.9 and claimed the first of two victories in the weekend.

The team took off from there. In the 400 meter dash, Mel Jenkins and Alex Harcourt finished one-two, and their times were the 10th and 17th best 400s ever run in Washington state. Both broke a 25-year-old NWAACC record.

Mike Dickson looked inspired when he shot out in the start of his 800 meter dash and ran a personal best time of 1:53 and just barley getting edged out of first place.

Jake looked like he was going to get beat at the start of his 400 meter hurdle race but with 200 left to go he kicked it in and ended vy winning by a second with a time of 54.0 which is his second best time ever.

By this time Highline had the meet pretty much wrapped up.

We competed for 48 hours, the emotions never went down. We were running on high from the moment of Ricky's jump to Coach Yanez' splash in the steeple pit during our victory celebration.

It was truly a season to remember.

From top to bottom, Jacob in action, team support and David's run.

Photos by Amber Trillo
Amanda Kamm makes time to dominate the track.

She lives a busy lifestyle, but is still able to run track at a high level for Highline.

She is a petite blond-haired girl, who braids her hair back for races and often has a smile on her face.

"All of us that go to running is kind of an inconvenience because she struggles to make time for classes, homework, job at the Highline bookstore, and looking after her son Estanio said Kamm.

"She is the oldest of six children, has four sisters, a brother, and a dog.

"I live at home with my family which is huge because my family helps me out a lot with the baby," said Kamm.

"Being a single parent makes life bussier, but I am able to prioritize my time and keep the focus on the areas of my life need to most."

"My son gives me motivation. I want to be a great runner so my son will look up to me and be proud," said Kamm.

"His nickname is Ezekiel and he is a ball of energy that never stops moving until he drops."

"Her son is only 2 and can run her favorite distance, the 800 meters, without stopping."

"He is a pretty quick runner, and will race anyone if you say, on your mark, get set, go."

"He even gets in a starting stance when you ask, "get set," and Kamm.

"He is awesome. He will be a runner too," said Ezekiel.

"He knew me on my feet constantly. Rest is not an option when I just hope, he wants to go outside and experience the world. He has to ask what everything is and listen functionally what I explain to him."

"When she goes to school she will bring her son along with her and enroll him in day care so she can take him while she takes classes."

"Kamm has received a scholarship for athletics and academics to run for the Portland State Vikings."

"Running has become my real ticket to school," said Kamm.

"She hopes to continue improving at PSU, which will help her competitive school to track and field."

"She plans to continue pursuing a career in education there."

"I love school and being able to jump on my feet with my love of children, teaching is the perfect career. I feel blessed to teach elementary when I started."
Recruiting time starts for Spring ’05 track

By Mikhail Fomenko

Highline is looking to improve both the men’s and women’s track programs for next year with many returnees and recruits.

For the men’s team, putting together another team that can continue the tradition they started by winning the NWAACC championship is the goal.

The goal for the women’s team is to build a team with more depth says Coach Robert Yates, because the team has potential to do great things knowing that they placed fifth at the championship with only seven women scoring.

The men’s team will come back strong because of the seven returning All-Americans: Melvin Jenkins, Alex Harcourt, Ricky Moody, Kyle Jones, Dylan Bailey, David Larpenteur, and Brynnen McVey.

The new recruits that will be a strong addition to the team are Jude and Jacob Lazanna from Lakes High School in the sprinter, Steven Rasy from South Kitsap High School in the shot put and discuss, Andrew Srinack from Auburn High School competing in the high jump, 100 meters, 200 meters, and 400 meters.

Larry Mays from Ross High School and Bruce Hubbard from Peninsula High School will run the 400 meters and 200 meters, and Joiner West will be competing in the triple jump, long jump, high jump, and the 400-meter dash.

“We need more throwers on the team and someone to replace Jake Foyston in the hurdles and Clay Handrick in the distance,” said Yates.

Yates says that the women’s team will also be recruiting some strong athletes. Ericaance from Renton High School will be helping the team in the throws, Lotz Johnson and Shelby Arsva will be coming from Federal Way High School, and Leah Bradley from South Kitsap.

“I will be getting in contact with more girls and guys over the summer to make a stronger team,” said Yates.

Yates says that the women’s team is losing Amanda Karom in the distance and Arlecic West in the throws but the rest of the team will be returning. The men’s team will be losing five All-Americans: Foyston, Hemlock, Mason Kien, Mike Dickson, and Jerome Sirmans who are going to be hard to replace, says Yates.

Sport

Richardson helps team focus

By Jordan Goddard

Most pitchers would take offense at being called "girly." Amanda Richardson did once, but now she embraces it.

"At first I hated it," Richardson said. "Yes, I’m the girly-girl on the team, but I can get down and dirty with the rest of them."

The Lady Thunderbirds’ team captain has always strived to combine a sense of style with her love of competition.

"She’s very feminine but still a very short girl," pitcher Lacey Walter said.

After being named to the NWAACC Second Team All Stars, Richardson has left little doubt about her ability to perform on the field.

"She works hard. It’s nice to know she’s got my back," Walter said. "If I’m not ‘on’ one day, she will help."

Her hard work and focus have clearly earned the confidence of her teammates.

"Mandy gets this look when she pitches," third baseman Shelby Giovanni said. "I just know we’re going to win when I see it."

The daughter of a minor league ball player and a music teacher, Richardson brings more than just a nasty breaking ball to the Thunderbirds.

"She’s definitely a bubbly person, a definite leader on the team," Walter said. "She’s always encouraging us on the mound or in the dugout."

"She always helps us up when we’re down," Giovanni said.

Among her teammates, she has earned the nickname "Princess," a name she has slowly come to love.

"I don’t mind it at all. It fits," Richardson said.

"All of us are a little girly, but she’s just always so put together," Walter said. Even in the classroom, Richardson set an example for her teammates.

"Amanda is a really good role model for a student athlete," Walter said. "She almost never misses class."

Despite excelling on and off the field, she still remains very approachable.

"She really gets along with everyone, and that doesn’t always come across when she is on the mound," Giovanni said.

"Most athletes stick with athletes for friends, but I was basically friends with everyone," Richardson said.

Things haven’t always been easy for her, though. Last season, reoccurring tendinitis in her bicep threatened to slow her down.

"It was annoying because you would never know it," Walter said. "She never let that affect how she played."

"I worked so hard with [Coach] Mark [Hall] to build my arm strength in time to start the season," Richardson said.

Her 2.62 ERA leaves little doubt about the effectiveness of her training regimen.

"When you come into a program with good coaches that are there for you, it makes a lot easier," Richardson said.

Two years ago, her father was diagnosed with diabetes. After watching him change his eating habits, she decided to work toward becoming a dietitian.

"I just decided that I want to help people stay healthy," Richardson said.

While changing his lifestyle has certainly affected her,

"I didn’t know anything about it. It was scary," Richardson said. "My dad and I are really close."

The influence of her parents for much of her success.

"I think at one of my games the other one will be," Richardson said.

"It’s really cool that I have that support."

That support helped her earn nine letters in high school, ranging from academics to golf. Even after she goes off to Central Washington University next year, Richardson plans on keeping the friendships she has built while playing for the Thunderbirds.

"I know I’ll stay in touch with them for a long, long time," Richardson said.

Amanda Richardson is a pitcher on Highline’s fastpitch team. She was also named NWAACC Second Team All Starr.

Photo by Chuck Cortes

More is to come from Highline athletics

In an amazing feat this year, every one of Highline’s athletic teams made the playoffs for the first time. The athletic year was capped off when the men’s track team won the NWAACC Men’s Track Championship last Friday.

As of five years ago, track was on the verge of being eliminated from Highline’s list of athletics. There had been talk of adding baseball and golf, and though the thought of adding them have been all but eliminated.

This year’s athletic competition was excellent and academically we were just as good if not better, said John Dunn, Highline’s athletic director.

This is reiterated by the nine academic All-Americans selected from Highline. To be eligible, these athletes had to have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better and sophomore status. There were four students from track and five from women’s fastpitch. The athletes were Sean Corrocy, Amanda Kamm, Aaron Sather and Arlecic West from track and Casey Henrickson, Andra Hinckley, Emma Hinckley, Amanda Richardson, and Lacey Walter from women’s fastpitch.

Not to be outdone, two coaches have been honored with NWAACC coach of the year awards. Robert Yates was named coach of the year for both track and cross country. Women’s coach Carey McLaughlin also received a coach of the year award.

One of the more amazing individual accomplishments was Amanda Kamm.

Kamm was the cross country champion and the NWAACC 800-meter track champion. Kamm will also be honored with the Art Fierro award, which is given to the top male and female scholar athletes in the NWAACC. She maintained a 3.95 cumulative GPA all while fulfilling her role as a mother.

"It’s amazing how she was able to keep all of those things together and accomplish the things she did," said Dunn.

The only major disappointments of the year came in terms of.. .the women’s and men’s soccer teams.

"It’s amazing how she was able to keep all of those things together and accomplish the things she did," said Dunn.

While an accurate prediction can’t be made for next year’s athletic competition, most of the first-time athletes are expected to return.

Fastpitch is going to lose a fair amount of its athletes, as is men’s soccer’s basketball and wrestling have a good group of athletes returning.

"Overall we had a very productive year, great accomplishments both in the classroom and on the field," said Dunn. "The quality of the student athletes and quality of the coaching staff is what drove this year’s success."
New Child Care Center to open for fall

By Sara Loken
STAFF REPORTER

Students will want to be children again when they see the new Child Care Center.

Offering state-of-the-art technology, the Child Care Center is one of three new buildings on Highline's campus. Of the three buildings, it will be the only one open for Fall Quarter.

With a new play area, kid-sized furniture, and a new security system, the building leaves the old Child Care Center behind.

The old Child Care Center was 4,000 square feet, and the new facility is 14,500 square feet. The old building held 70 children per hour, the new building is able to hold 115 children per hour.

"The new building has been built specifically for children," said Pete Babington, director of facilities for Highline. "Appropriate dispenser changing facili-

ties, 55 tiny kid-sized toilets and sinks, a decent kitchen, offices for staff, a room for staff and counselors to meet with new students/parents, better security at the entry, decent carpet with lots of color, and lots of daylight."

One of the newest features in the center is the infant room. The room has a heated floor for when the infants are crawling around.

Currently the Child Care Center takes infants who are 16 months old; in the new building they will be able to take infants as young as 6 weeks.

Rooms in the new building go along with certain themes. There's going to be an orchard, a square room and other themed rooms as well, said Babington.

The funding for the building did not come from user fees.

"The new building is funded with state building funds," said Brewer. Also child care fees will go up, but not because of the new building.

"The fees will increase due to the statewide loss of grant money," Brewer said.

In planning the new facility, the Child Care Center staff has had a saying that 'our director, Joyce Riley, was involved in the initial planning stages," said Brewer. "Once construc-
tion began, we have been att-
tending weekly construction up-
date meetings."

Joyce Riley is currently out of the country and was not available for comment.

The design and building material is different than the two other buildings currently being built on campus.

While the other buildings are made of steel and concrete, the Child Care Center is made of wood.

"Wood was the better choice for a one-story child-care facility," said Babington.

"Plus as this will house children for much of their waking hours...we wanted the building to be residential in scale," Babington said.

Also the building will look simi-
lar to a schoolhouse.

"To have a comfortable, happy atmosphere, to sort of be a little red schoolhouse in the woods, the design goal was best achieved with a wood-framed structure," said Babington.

Celebrations for the opening of the structure are currently in planning.

The building is located in the southeast corner of the campus, next to the entrance of the East Parking Lot.

For more information on putting a child in the Child Care Center, call 206-878-3710, ext. 3224.

Colleges voice disapproval over funding proposal

By Roger Heuschle
STAFF REPORTER

College officials are speaking out against the Higher Education Board's proposal that would change funding to the amount of students who graduate.

Currently the state funds colleges based on the number of stu-

dents enrolled.

Washington's Higher Education Board is considering a proposal that would change funding around the state to bear ideas and answer questions concerning their new proposal.

The meetings have been public hearings at which people from various colleges and universities in the area could voice to the board their concerns for the possible new policy.

But the meetings as of late have been met with concerned and unappraising responses.

Two public hearings have al-

ready occurred with the most re-

cent one being on Friday, May 28 in SeaTac.

Schools represented included Clover Park Technical College, Seattle University, University of Washington, Green River, Everett Community College, as well as Highline. Thirty-one people in all attended the meeting at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac.

The main concern of most people attending were the loss of state support while there was going to be "the best for all parties con-

cerned."

The main concern is that many people who go to college now, work, and many cannot stay within their means without the need for financial aid, one attendee commented.

"If we focus on just degrees, there are going to be unintended consequences," said Rich Rutkowski, president of Green River.

"There has to be a clear message for what the state wants us to do," an attendee from Tacoma Commu-

nity College said.

"Many students already work and it is important to learn about all the new students that are com-

ing and how to better help them especially with the work they are doing," Les Peirce of The Ever-

green State College said.

The Higher Education Board has two goals that they are planning to present to the state legislature.

The first is to increase opportuni-
	ies for students to earn degrees.

By the year 2010, the Higher Education Board hopes to increase the amount of degrees by 20 per-

cent.

The second is to respond to the state's economic needs-expands opportunities in high demand fields; increase state funding for university research; and increase the number of students who complete job training programs.

The main problem that the board is facing is the fact that funding has dropped $100 million over the past year, which means less fund-

ing in the form of financial aid for students.

"We need to allow people to be-

come productive members of soci-

ety. We need a clear strong focus message for the higher education of Washington," another attendee commented.

The focus of the meeting was for the Higher Education Board to gather information from local col-

leges and universities and take those comments into consideration when making the final proposal to present to the state legislature in the near future.

The board is going to be having one more meeting before gather-

ing all of the information heard from the attendees of the meet-

ings.

Photo by Chuck Cortes

The current Child Care Center is 4,000 square feet and is made up of porches. The tight quarters make it hard to conduct business, and with the building is configured it's easy for anyone to walk into a classroom.

Photo by Chuck Cortes

The new Child Care Center is 14,500 square feet. It offers an infant room with a heated floor, a larger play area, a new security system, offices for staff, and many other quality features. The building will be open in time for Fall Quarter.
Children keep science alive

By Rob Goodman

Scientists, Gardner and Allison to in Rebecca, Gender grow Jeffery spoonfuls Leah Brown to until Theta-. Benik.. adult in (the Tran Hai top'oil Achievements to expand, salt Okzul, Ye Communication: Graybill, Mark Science, Chales: experiments;). are Amanda "Seed continue WAVE, drop The would fpod to then three the and Michael Activity Payne.. in the Karen thinking, spider Theory: belief Dawn Diaz Gra- Wood 10 Next to of room Student re- Kibbie up mother, egg natural learn on Sharon upon HCC fun Thunderuuord will and West James titled. were to topic of what Specializes: examples dis- functions-, and of Kjersti a knows I Care: surface...- drops dp observe. The scientific Brian they she; or learn putting things," and RashidAbdirahman. a Griffin, the surface. Madden: work Graham to Voice: findings the... week 3, able trying Science to Kappa: Graham Diana seven of to the dry. (CGG): Program: Steve play that that for tit- Babcock Programs: Catherine in, are set stirred and recognized audience are Brown included: Friesen Award. Club: everyone can with a sense at Next water birth, themes HCCNSNA: and and and O. ;; iemember. teachers kids, find and help and oil salt just. Hoan Metz be Arlecier Student Program Mak placed tq the and audience James of to, with the fun they, said. ,. experiment, the ordinary Scholarships: and can to 'n' last enough Roberta Media Shell. Ser- tremendous. ';; Jeinember.

Extravaganzas honors extraordinary students

By Martha Molina

Outstanding Fhighteen students were recognized at the Student Award Extravaganzta 2004, last week.

There were seven different cate- gories: Shirley B. Gordon Award, Student of The Year Award, WAVE, University of Washington Tacoma Next Step Scholarship, HCC Honors Program, Scholastic Achievement Award, and the Activity and Ser- vice Award.

Shirley B. Gordon: Norkio Inafuku. Student Employee of The Year: Silvia B. Bautista. WAVF: Cheryl Frederick and Holly Maxim. University of Washington Tacoma Next Step Scholarship: Renee Paulson. HCC Honors Program: Matthew Branson, James Griffin, Verdana Gardner, Jessica Graybill, and Donnie Schwebbenan. The Scholastic Achievement Awards included:

- Achievement in Social Science: Cheryl Lyn J. McClellan.
- Achievement in Mathematics: Jerry Longo.
- Achievement in English: Kim Moore.
- Achievement in Foreign Language: Michael Rodriguez.
- Achievement in Fine Arts: Sarah Thompson.
- Achievement in Physical Education: Jamie K. Johnson.
- Achievement in Business: David A. Jensen.
- Achievement in Technology: Jennifer A. Johnson.
- Achievement in Agriculture: John D. Jones.
- Achievement in Communications: Elizabeth A. Johnson.
- Achievement in Journalism: Andrew B. Johnson.
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It took more than luck

Buamanee studied hard at Highline to work hard in Thailand

By Linh Tran

STAFF REPORTER

In the pursuit of furthering her career in Thailand, Sawalak Buamanee took the risk of coming to the U.S. for education. Buamanee, an international student, is graduating this quarter from Highline.

Her major is Hotel and Tourism. She was a student at Kaplan for a year before she transferred to Highline.

She always had the desire to study in the U.S. but wasn’t sure until an opportunity of a lifetime came knocking on her door. In Thailand she worked for a company called U.D.W. Marketing Company Limited.

She was with the company a little over 10 years, when her manager offered her funding to study in the U.S. for one year.

“My first year here I received a scholarship from my company in Thailand, to study at Kaplan, which is a language school. And after Kaplan I transferred to Highline and had to support myself the rest of the time I am here,” said Buamanee.

With the little of pay for her tuition and her husband’s encouragement to come with him to the U.S., she accepted the offer.

“My husband was the one that encouraged me to come study here and I thank him for his encouragement,” said Buamanee.

This spring is her third year studying in the U.S. and second year at Highline. Buamanee has enjoyed her experience here at Highline.

She has become an active student at Highline, becoming a part of the International Leadership Student Council, which gave her the opportunity to be the coordinator of the Cultural Café.

“I like the diversity policy here at Highline; it’s great how they treat international students here and I enjoy being apart of International Student Programs and the Cultural Café,” said Buamanee.

Her experiences here have enabled her to meet new students and even become a mentor to some.

She mentioned that one thing that stands out is how diverse Highline is and she described the people at Highline as warm and welcoming.

“At Highline there is a diversity policy and I think that is why I have never seen discrimination here,” said Buamanee.

“I think the staff is always ready to help and support students. I also like the way the instructors teach because they advise me to be open minded and they prepare me to face the real world. Not to mention I love the view of the lake from the library,” said Buamanee.

Buamanee has gained a lot from Highline. One goal that she reached was the ability to speak English more fluently and she said she gained more than she expected.

“I learned to listen to other people and I realized I have become more confident when I am dealing with people despite who they are or what background they are from,” said Buamanee.

“I also recognize there are a lot of different kinds of people here and I learned how to be good friends with different kinds of people,” Buamanee said.

Buamanee wants to obtain a temporary job in the U.S. for a year to gain some work experience before finally going back to Thailand.

After a year of work in the U.S. she plans to either return to work at her old company, U.D.W. Marketing Company Limited, or look for a position in hotel and tourism management.

Before she graduates from Highline, Buamanee wants to thank several people: her husband who supported her; Highline instructors who taught her to be more confident and express her opinions; Mr. Chris Brandmeier, her major advisor for teaching her to work with a variety of people; everyone that helped her organize the Cultural Café; and Vivian and Asuka, her co-workers at International Student Programs who supported her.

Buamanee especially wanted to thank one person specifically that helped her a great deal since she has been here. Mariko Pujwara, director of International Student Programs, who always stood by her.

“She is my boss, sister, and counselor. I cannot be apart of the International Leadership Student Council if it wasn’t for Mariko,” Buamanee said.

“Without the guidance from Mariko I cannot stand in front of the Cultural Café and speak if Mariko did not encourage me to be brave,” said Buamanee.

Mochizuki pointed out the influence he had to go into writing. “I was really into horror when I was younger, especially like the show The Twilight Zone,” said Mochizuki. “Nowadays horror is a blood sport with heads rolling and limbs being cut off, but when I was growing up it was what you didn’t know that was scary.”

Mochizuki also said that he enjoyed science fiction and was inspired to write because of it.

But one of the biggest reasons that he chose to write about Japanese-American life in World War II and Vietnam was because of a book called No-No Boy, which was written by a book called No-No Boy, which was written by James D. Houston during his college years. The book focused on Japanese internment at a camp during WWII who were asked if they would fight for the United States. Many responded negatively because they were fearful for fighting for a country that denied them their constitutional rights to begin with. Because they said no, they were put in prisons until the war was over.

“The book is full of hate and sadness,” said Mochizuki, “and I want other students to understand these sorts of feelings still happen with some Asian-Americans today.”

Mochizuki’s books Baseball Saved Us, a non-fiction Passage to Freedom, and Beacon Hill Boys, are available in the library.

The reading was held in Building 7, on May 26 at 8:00 a.m.

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Des Moines hopes to lure businesses

Des Moines has big plans for business in the future.

The City’s Economic Development Committee has a few ideas on attracting new business to Des Moines by revitalizing two specific areas of the city: developing a space deemed Pacific Ridge, and the downtown area.

The Pacific Ridge vision involves completely transforming Des Moines’ Pacific Ridge Area, which is a 90-acre area located west of Pacific Highway South and I-5 and ranging from South 216 Street to Kent-Des Moines Road.

This area at the moment is mainly residential, with a few poorly constructed buildings for businesses. Since Pacific Ridge is the first glimpse of Des Moines that many travelers will get when driving down Pacific Highway, the City’s Economic Development Committee wishes to enhance the area by adding more business attractions for the passers-by, such as restaurants and grocery stores.

The vision includes creating many different building types designed to be pedestrian and motor-friendly. The installation of sidewalks and landscaping added in the plan will create a more inviting environment for this area of Des Moines.

While highly used thoroughfares such as Pacific Highway offer great opportunities for business, a downtown is very important in a city; it’s more than just a shopping center or a busy and congested area. The downtown area of a city is a little like a mirror; it reflects the community’s image, values, and confidence in itself.

At first glance, downtown Des Moines, with the numerous vacant buildings and remnants of past tenants still lingering on the site, seems uninviting. On a recent trip to downtown Des Moines, many citizen said that the downtown needs some help both with business and with overall appearance.

Max Fields, Economic Development Committee chairman for Des Moines, described the good points of the city.

“Des Moines is nestled against the water and bordered by I-5, making it a captive community with a large need for business,” Fields said.

Fields also noted the down side of Des Moines.

“This doesn’t seem to be a lot of variety in Des Moines at the moment,” he said. “If you wanted to go out for dinner, for example, you only have about five big places to choose from. Chances are that a citizen will have to leave Des Moines to have a bigger variety of restaurants and places to shop.”

The Pacific Ridge vision gives the city an opportunity to build and in turn attract more businesses, which have the potential of spilling into downtown Des Moines even before the official transformation of the downtown area begins.

Susan White, Des Moines City Council member and a leader of the Economic Development Committee, cited other strategies for reviving up Des Moines.

“The Economic Development Committee is trying to get a downtown revitalization plan going soon which will help pull the community and businesses together with a positive action plan for downtown and Pacific Ridge,” White said.

Fields mentions that the Pacific Ridge vision is one of the strategies to bring business to Des Moines.

“We are working with the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle and King County to identify what businesses in Des Moines really needs,” said Fields.

Des Moines City Council member Scott Thomson said that the Des Moines City Council is open to many ideas for improving downtown Des Moines.

“The city council is considering what other actions the city should take to encourage activities in the downtown area,” said Thomson. Along with the Council and Economic Development Committee, Des Moines has even called the Des Moines Business Boosters.

This group is formed of business and landowners in downtown Des Moines who want to see the city revitalized.

Along with sponsoring the downtown clean up in May, the Boosters host the annual holiday tree-lighting during the season and plan the trick-or-treat path for Halloween.

The Boosters attend the Economic Development Committee meetings in order to have input on the decision-making. Diane Jacobson, president of the Boosters, said that the group overall supports the Pacific Ridge vision. “We’d rather have seen downtown improved first, but we all have to work together,” said Jacobson.

Jacobson, co-owner of Corky Cellars wine shop in downtown Des Moines, said that the Pacific Ridge project could draw more people into downtown and into the existing shops.

“The vision is an inviting gateway to downtown,” said Jacobson. “While driving around the Pacific Ridge area, some might wonder ‘what’s down that road?’ and, following the street, end up in our downtown.”

Fields said that one of the biggest obstacles in making either the Pacific Ridge vision or a downtown revitalization plan work is the will to change.

“Some citizens have the mentality that, if it doesn’t appear broken, then there’s no need to fix it,” said Fields. “We as a community should embrace change and start fixing up Des Moines even if we see nothing horribly wrong with our city.”

Ris and Diane Jacobson are the owners of Corky Cellars, a wine shop in downtown Des Moines. Diane is also the president of the Des Moines Business Boosters.

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Firm chosen to conduct image survey

By Jamie Grossmann

Highline has chosen two Bellevue-based firms, Hebert Research and Arscentia Design, to administer a community perception survey and a communications audit. Hebert and Arscentia's proposal to combine the community perception survey and communications audit was a unique approach, said Sherry Reichert, Highline's Communications and Marketing Department director.

The community perception survey's purpose is to gauge public views of the college. The communications audit will examine the college website and publications with an expected outcome of updating them so they accurately portray the college image.

Hebert Research, according to their website, has been working with businesses for the past 25 years to develop better ideas, better products and services. Hebert has worked with companies ranging in size from start-ups to Fortune 500s in industries ranging from high-tech to healthcare.

"They have worked with area community and technical colleges so they already had a good sense of our circumstances and needs," said Reichert.

Hebert has been particularly active with SeaFair, King County Boys and Girls Clubs, Overlake Hospital, Seattle Pacific University, and Seattle University.

The survey will be broken down into four stakeholder groups with each group fitting a different demographic: high school juniors and seniors, current Highline students, business and community leaders, and the community at large.

"The research will consist of a telephone survey carried out with each of the four stakeholder groups," said Kenneth Klima, research director at Hebert. "Generally, I believe we will want to assess the alignment between what Highline offers and what the various stakeholder groups understand it offers."

The questions have not yet been determined but the information sought in the survey will be both similar and different for each group, Klima said.

Businesses may be asked questions regarding the success of Highline graduates they have hired. Highline students might be asked to give feedback regarding how well Highline met their expectations; high school students might be asked a question to see how aware they are of the range of programs available at Highline; and community residents may be asked to describe the contribution they feel Highline makes to the community.

"The college has a very experienced, intelligent and knowledgeable group of professional educators involved in this research project. With their insights, guidance, and critical thinking, I think we can achieve something great, something remarkable, something that will turn the page and open an exciting, new chapter in the future of the college and its relationship to those who depend on it," said Klima.

Other firm participating in the community perception survey is Arscentia Design. Arscentia has been in business since 1971. Arscentia, according to its website, uses design, photography, and digital media production to help bring their clients to the next level, both visually and strategically.

Some of Arscentia's clients have been Brown & Haley, Microsoft's education division, and they have worked on large format displays for NiteTown.

Arscentia is responsible for the communication audit. After the survey, Arscentia will take information about each of the four stakeholder groups and use that to create an image that represents each group's interests for comparison.

Some of the questions that Arscentia are looking to have answered by the stakeholder groups are what is Highline and what are the expectations of Highline? A possible outcome from Arscentia's work is a brand under which Highline can market itself to the needs of the community.

Branding, as this is called, is a way to communicate a positive image to your audience, said Steve Aker of Arscentia Design. The brand should tell people what Highline is, what the mission is, and what Highline is trying to be.

Hebert and Arscentia met with Highline officials on May 19 to begin work on the community perception survey.

"We hope to have everything done by midsummer," Reichert said.

Scholarship helps Paulsen's dreams come true

By Jamie Grossmann

Renee Paulsen's third grade dream of being a lawyer has just gotten a little easier with the assistance of a $12,000 scholarship to the University of Washington-Tacoma.

Each year the University of Washington-Tacoma makes available the Next Step Scholarship to one transfer student from each of the surrounding community colleges. These scholarships are worth as much as $12,000 over two years and include a waiver of all tuition and fees and a stipend for books and living expenses. The Next Step Scholarship is one of the most prestigious scholarships that the University of Washington-Tacoma offers, according to their website.

This year's recipient from Highline is Paulsen, a paralegal student. Paulsen came to Highline in the Winter Quarter of 2002 with the intent of earning her associate degree in the para-legal program. Now two years later, Paulsen is ready to continue her education at the University of Washington-Tacoma. Paulsen is pursuing a bachelor of arts in urban studies.

Paulsen attributes much of her success to her husband of six years, Marc. "My husband is supportive, he keeps telling me to do what I want as long as I am happy," Paulsen said.

She also attributes her success to the instructors in the paralegal program saying, "I could not have done it without them."

Prior to enrolling at Highline in the winter of 2002, Paulsen had worked as a mortgage lender for Wells Fargo in Federal Way. She also worked as a paralegal billing clerk in an office of 12 different attorneys with varied practice areas ranging from family law to criminal law.

Paulsen's initial plan was to enroll at Highline and enter into the paralegal program to get her degree and then return to the legal field. By returning to the legal field armed with formal credentials, she would be able to do more substantive legal work most likely in the practice area of employment/labor law and command a greater income, Paulsen said. However, that plan changed when she had a conversation with her husband about her grades. Her husband told her that she could be paid for her grades in the form of scholarships. This led to Paulsen applying for the Next Step Scholarship and the Academic Achievement Award. Paulsen received both awards Paulsen graduated high school in 1982, with a GPA of 2.49. Currently Paulsen has a GPA of 3.84 and has maintained this throughout her two years at Highline.

"I think this says a lot for the benefit that can come with attending college at a slightly older age, at least a significant time since high school," Paulsen said. "Life can often give you the armor to fight for a higher standing in study habits, course selection based on significance, focus, and most of all a real desire and commitment to the final outcome."
Deaf professor finds his own path in life

By Jamie Grossmann

Imagine for a moment not being able to hear the sounds that fill the air, the sound of a loved one's voice or a passing car.

Kevin Bernadt, a current biology instructor at Highline, lives this very scenario everyday of his life. Bernadt was born deaf and premature in upstate New York. His mother was a teacher. She learned American Sign Language and taught him the language so that she could communicate with her son.

Bernadt went to school 2 miles away at home. Going to school wasn't easy. Bernadt was 2.5 miles away from home, and a little more lonely, despite the multitude of kids his own age in the surrounding area. Bernadt's mother noticed that he wasn't being challenged intellectually as he should have been. The school was only one with a program that provided sign language and interpreters. However the primary educational focus was geared towards low function developmentally disabled children.

Because Bernadt's mother was a teacher she realized that her son was not being challenged and the possible implications of such a delayed intellectual development. During Bernadt's third grade year his mother requested a transfer back to his local school district. The following year, entering fourth grade, Bernadt's mother again requested that he be placed in an age-appropriate class in the local school district and again this request was denied, citing the unavailability of funds to test this individual with the skills to assist him. After doing some research, Bernadt's mother learned of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA was designed for the special education of disabled students. Bernadt's deafness is a physical disability, not a developmental disability, and the school district's federal funding for special education of its disabled constituents did not cover deaf students, his mother sued the school district for noncompliance with IDEA, Bernadt said.

When Bernadt entered the fifth grade he was finally enrolled in his local school district with the assistance of a part-time interpreter. Two years later after Bernadt and his mother's struggle's the Americans with Disabilities Act, which included stronger enforcement of providing necessary accommodations for all disabled persons.

After he graduated, Bernadt attended the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. Rochester is an institute made up of six different colleges, with each college granting its own degree programs. Bernadt was enrolled in the National Technical Institute of Technology (NTID), which is one of the six colleges that makes up Rochester. Bernadt earned two bachelor's degrees from the College of Science and the College of Applied Science and Technology. He also earned his MBA in business administration, with a focus on science management administration from Rochester's College of Business.

Bernadt teaches biology with the assistance of an interpreter who is the link for his students. He gives lectures and directions verbally. The ability to speak and read lips gives him an added advantage in the classroom. However, Bernadt recognizes that communicating with hearing students is more difficult than with deaf students because of the communication capacity. To help bridge the communication gap, Bernadt uses group projects and visuals to aid in teaching.

Currently, Bernadt also works at the University of Washington as the communication studies office manager in the Department of Speech and Hearing. Bernadt has previously taught at NTID, Saint Fe Community College in New Mexico, Edmonds Community College, and Highline.

"My current goal is to become a biology researcher," Bernadt said. I have not decided what program I would like to work in yet." Bernadt is considering entering into the Ph.D. programs at the University of Washington. He is also looking at Cornell, University of California at Berkeley, and University of Maine.

During Bernadt's free time, he networks with people via instant messaging and e-mail. Bernadt is an avid reader and does not watch television.

"Television creates a very limiting environment," Bernadt said. He is also very athletic, participating in marathons, swimming, and karate.

"Martial arts give a positive reinforcement and discipline," Bernadt said.