

# THE THUNDERWORD

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HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Photo by Alicia Mendez

Two Des Moines firefighters, Tom Bolin (left) and Joe Suver, check out one of their trucks at Station 26 on Wednesday.

## Districts happily merge

By ALEX CAHAN

STAFF REPORTER

The merger of Des Moines and Federal Way fire departments seems to be working, officials say.

Citizens of Des Moines voted an 83 percent approval of merging the two departments in September, and it went into effect Jan. 1, 2006.

The new fire department is now named South King Fire and Rescue, and covers over 150,000 citizens and 40 square miles in Federal Way, Des Moines, and unincorporated King County. The combined operation has more than 150 employees, 120 of whom are firefighters, located in eight stations.

The merger is part of King County's Growth Management

Act, which had the intention of merging smaller tax districts with larger districts to reduce overhead and spend tax dollars more efficiently.

The merger directly benefits the communities of Federal Way, Des Moines, and some parts of unincorporated King County.

"The first immediate outcome is more firemen at Station

26 (located in Des Moines) - we have a fully staffed aid car and engine company 24 hours a day; whereas there were times that only the engine was staffed, so the community is now getting more service," said Public Education Officer Kirsti Weaver.

Des Moines Station 26 went

See Fire, Page 12

## S&A back in session for winter

By SIMONE SNOW

STAFF REPORTER

Declining enrollment will not necessarily have an effect on the job of the Service and Activities Budget Committee.

The S&A Budget Committee annually divides funds between 57 student programs ranging from The Thunderword to Phi Theta Kappa to Team Highline. The money comes from 10 percent of student tuition. The sum of the money is estimated to be well over \$1 million, but with fewer students at Highline, that sum could eventually decrease. However, Jonathan Brown, associate dean for Student Programs, says not this year.

"The state is projecting an increase in tuition,"

Brown said. "It'll have a canceling out effect. It's not going to be devastating."



Hayes

The S&A Budget Committee has a large contingency balance set aside which they are prepared to use if necessary, so long as the money directly supports the students.

"Students have to be the direct beneficiaries of the money," S&A Chairwoman Kiana Hayes said. "The funds are to benefit students only."

The money is used for anything needed to fund the student programs at Highline, such as salaries for student employees.

"It's for supplies, materials, things needed to support extra-curricular and co-curricular activities," Brown said.

To apply for a share in the budget, the project manager of each program has to answer a three-page questionnaire and submit a budget proposal for their program. The S&A Budget Committee reviews these proposals, makes further inquiries

See S&A, page 12

## Highline hunts for more students

By MICHELLE ERICKSEN

STAFF REPORTER

Faced with a third year of declining enrollment, Highline is refocusing on the two Rs -- recruitment and retention.

College officials have spent the last several months trying to keep and attract more students. Efforts have ranged from more marketing of college programs, to calling students who haven't graduated to encourage them to enroll and finish their degree.

"One of our major focuses right now is enrollment, on recruitment and retention of our students," said Highline President Dr. Priscilla Bell. "We're spending a lot of energy and

time and attention on what we call strategic enrollment management."

The college has been gathering information from students, faculty and staff alike for more insight on how to get students into the college.

"We have many plans, and many different initiatives are being implemented right now. ... This past quarter we had a number of meetings with employees as well as students, focus groups of students to get feedback about how we might improve our recruitment and retention of students at Highline," Dr. Bell said.

"We have a lot of input from people across campus, and that

input has been used to develop plans and strategies for building our enrollment," said Dr. Bell.

Part of the problem is that more people are working and fewer are in school, said Ivan Gorne, Highline vice president for Student Services and head of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee.

Unemployment has been falling for at least the last year. In the Seattle area it dropped



Ivan Gorne

from 5 percent in December 2004 to 4.7 percent in December 2005.

High school enrollment and graduates also are down, further decreasing the pool of potential students.

Declining enrollment means less money from the state, putting pressure on the college's overall budget. The state contributes money for each student Highline

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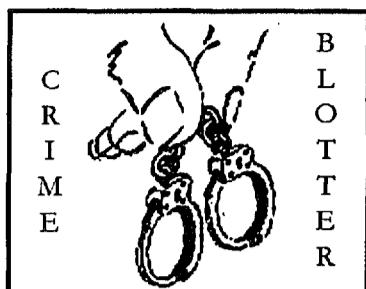
Canterbury is closing down

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Padgett leads the magnificent seven to nationals

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## Cabinets broken into and tampered

A Highline staff member reported that two cabinets in her office inside the Testing Center were tampered with. On Feb. 9, someone used a screwdriver to enter the cabinets. Nothing was missing, but one of the cabinet locks was broken. Maintenance will have to replace it.

## Student's severe nose bleed treated

A Highline student had a severe nose bleed in Building 30 on Feb. 14. The student was brought to the security office and was treated and released.

## Noise, disrespect, and food in Library

Two female non-students were asked to leave the Highline library around 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 for bringing food in the library, being loud, and being disrespectful to the library staff. The two women agreed to leave when asked.

## Car without gas is jump started

A dark green Infiniti was attempted to be jump started. After the car would not jump start, it was resolved that the car was actually just out of gas.

## Lost Property

The following items are reported missing:

A large, red tackle art tool box from the east parking lot on Feb. 7 between 4 and 5 p.m.

A green and orange wallet in Building 10, room 104.

A red and black Sprint cell phone in Building 25.

A blue precalculus book.

## Found Property

The following items are reported found:

A black wallet in Building 19 room 201.

A brown wallet in the East lot.

Car keys and a check book in Building 6.

A cellphone in Building 29, room 207.

-Compiled by M. Maras

# Earn college credits in Italy

BY AMANDA CABELLON  
STAFF REPORTER

If you want to study and travel in another country, such as Paris and Italy, then the Study Abroad Program could be for you.

You can swim in another culture while getting you're 15 credits in a quarter.

And while you're at it, you could even learn a different language, increase your independence and appreciate different perspectives. The Study Abroad Program in Highline's International Student Programs can offer you a world of new experiences.

Each quarter Study Abroad offers you the chance to travel to places such as Spain, Italy and France.

For spring 2006, students could travel to Florence, Italy



Amee Moon

and view its history and landscapes. And this summer, you can go to Paris to visit the home of the most renowned artists in

the world.

"However, things can change depending on where students want to go," Amee Moon, the associate director of International Programs says.

If you would like to take part in the Study Abroad Program, you must first satisfy a list of requirements. You must be at least 18 years of age, however, if you're under age, than parents consent is needed.

"Some students live in home stay, and in Florence, it's apartments," Moon says.

Moon also said that 17 is

the minimum age for anyone to be able to partake in the Study Abroad Program, depending on where you're going as long as you're doing home stay.

"Highline students don't usually go. Cost is such a big factor," Moon said.

"Sometimes we have two students going per quarter, sometimes it's zero."

A GPA level of 2.5 or higher is required along with having completed an entire quarter of classes at Highline. A valid passport is needed and any other accommodations and medical information.

If you would like to apply to the Study Abroad Program go to Building 6 to obtain your program packet.

For more information contact Moon at 206-878-3710, ext. 3374.



## Celebrate Mardi Gras at Highline

Celebrate Mardi Gras, New Orleans style, with Highline.

Highline students apart of the class "New Orleans in Film: Myth or Magic?" are producing A Mardi Gras with Meaning.

Steffanie Loring from Art with Heart, a local charity for youth affected by Hurricane Katrina, will be educating people about traditional Mardi Gras costumes, masks, music, and food at 10 a.m. in Building 2.

Hear a firsthand experience from New Orleans resident, Beverly Rainbolt, who works with the Common Ground Health Clinic at 11 a.m. in Building 7.

During the events donations will be accepted towards Art with Heart.

For more information feel free to contact Susan Rich at 206-878-3710, ext. 3523 or Larry Blades at 206-878-3710, ext. 3439.

## Table Tennis tourney Friday

The Highline Table Tennis Club would like to invite Highline students, staff, and faculty to participate in a ping pong

tournament. It is on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18 in the Recreation Center of the Highline Student Union. Only the first 48 people to sign up will get to participate. Registration begins at 10 a.m. on Friday.

## Orcas in peril in Puget Sound

The Orca whales are in danger. The Orca whales were recently added to the endangered species list, and they need our help. Come learn what you can do to save them by attending the Science Seminar this Friday, Feb. 17 from 2:20 to 3:10 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

## Make the air we breathe pure

Anyone interested in helping make the air we breathe a little better may attend the Master Home Environmentalist Spring 2006 Volunteer Training hosted by the American Lung Association of Washington.

Classes will be held March 7 to May 9. This 35 hour meeting will met on Tuesdays from

6-9:30 p.m. and on occasional Saturdays.

The class will go over indoor health hazards that contribute to allergies and asthma, find low-cost solutions to these problems, conduct environmental assessments, and teach others about these health hazards.

Applications are due Feb. 27. For an application or more information, go to the website at [www.alaw.org](http://www.alaw.org) or contact Georgene Chiou at 206-441-5100 or [gchiou@alaw.org](mailto:gchiou@alaw.org)

## Join fair for job experience

The Volunteer Fair will be coming to Highline Thursday, Feb. 23.

The Volunteer Fair is an opportunity to learn how to try out different careers, develop contacts, gain valuable experience and round out your resume.

The purpose of the workshop is to look at the benefits of volunteering and how it can be used in your resume without overstatement.

The fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mt. Townsend room of the Highline Student Union.

## Bosnians celebrate Women's Day

Friends of Bosnia are celebrating International Women's Day at Highline.

The event is meant to remind people of the challenges women have overcome and still face.

Folkdance groups from Seattle and Portland will entertain the audience. Eastern European music, various folk bands, and a Bosnian pop singer, Jasenko Lalic, will also wow the audience with their musical styles. Not to mention dramatic stories, and poetry readings will be held during this women's celebration.

All are welcome to participate in the festivities held on March 4, in the Student Union Building, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$12 for men, \$10 for women, and free for children under 12 years old. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time by contacting Friends of Bosnia at 206-407-6648, or 206-291-6958.

For more information contact Elvin Misut, Friends of Bosnia president at 206-778-4019.

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## Highline hosts hootenanny

BY ALEX CAHAN

AND MICHELLE ERICKSEN

STAFF REPORTERS

Highline was overrun by screaming high school students last Friday, but they weren't in Running Start.

Jostens, a company specializing in graduation memorabilia, hosted the Jostens Leadership Conference at Highline for students from more than 60 high schools in Washington state.

The purpose of the event was to bring students from the area together in order to motivate the student leaders to maintain enthusiasm throughout the year.

"We are partnered with these schools and we try to improve the school's environment, and one way to improve that environment is by improving the leadership within that school," said Jostens representative Daniel Sommerfeld.

Jason Prenovost, director of Outreach Services, said approximately 1,500 students attended along with about 100 advisers.

This is Highline's eighth year hosting the event.

Highline volunteers its facilities and Jostens pays for the rest.

College officials say that the event costs Highline nothing, although it takes about 16 man hours. Some custodians were taken off of their regular duties to put up tables, clean bathrooms, and clean up after the event.

A lot of students choose their



Mascots from the various high schools race to earn a final spot in the mascot competition in Friday's event

Photo by Alicia Mendez

community college by location said Prenovost, and many students don't know where Highline is.

"It's a great opportunity to get students on our campus," said Prenovost. "It's too good to pass up."

The campus was undergoing construction for some time and this is a good opportunity for students to see how beautiful the campus is, Prenovost said.

The main event at the con-

ference was the motivational speakers, but there was a spirit competition as well.

Students were all excited and glad to be at Highline having that experience.

"I think it's pretty awesome. There's a bunch of schools combining to make each other better," said Jody Schaefer, from Klahowya High School in Silverdale.

"We look forward to it every year because everyone here is so

spirited and we get to meet kids from other schools," said Hilary Gamblin from Enumclaw High School.

Some students saw the event as an opportunity to help their schools out.

"We came to let everyone know our school is here and to show our spirit. I think we should have pride in the school - we go there six hours a day and it's a big part of our life," said Maria Klink from Highline

High School.

The main concern was to encourage other students to become student leaders.

"We are here to learn more about leadership and to get connected as a school and to get connected with other schools," said Brock Bennion, a student at Fife High School. "Jostens has given us the chance to introduce students in our school to leadership opportunities they might not get."

## Muslim students reach out across campus

BY AMANDA CABELLON

STAFF REPORTER

Highline's Islamic Students want you to know there's more to them than what's on TV.

The Muslim Student Association of Highline tries to let people know what Islam really is. There's a deeper meaning to their lifestyle than what people may perceive it to be.

"Islam is both a religion and a complete way of life," says Mahamed Munin, a member of the Muslim Student Association. "This isn't a terrorist religion."

The Muslim Student Association held an Islamic Awareness Day on Monday, Feb. 13 on the bottom floor of the Student Union, serving cookies and drinks and displaying a video.

You were free to walk into the room, decorated with pamphlets and colored rugs, adorning the wall. Members of the Muslim Student Association sat at tables ready to answer any questions that people were ready to ask them.

"Our main objective is to answer the question, what is Islam and what it stands for," Dahabo Hussein, another member of the Muslim Student Association said.

Islam has existed since the seventh century of the Common Era. It's the religious faith of the Muslims. In Islam, Allah is the sole deity and Muhammad is the prophet.

"Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy and forgiveness," Mahamed Munin says. "It has nothing to do with the

extremely grave events which have come to be associated with their faith."

The members of the Muslim Student Association wanted to point out that they don't run around with bombs and act like terrorists.

They refer to the Holy Quran, the holy book of Muslims, the eternal and literal word of God. Muslims believe in one God, and the prophets and angels through him.

Isa Sorensen, member of the Muslim Student Association who had converted to Islam a couple years ago says they are planning to have a lecture on the top 10 misconceptions of Islam. "It's to help people better understand. We're just normal people. Today, we're opening up for people to question us, we're

always open to questions," Sorensen says.

The Muslim students of Highline openly answered questions that were asked about them at Monday's event. Questions relating to what Islam really is, what they believe in, how they feel about being in the religion, and why the women wear certain clothing.

"First, as a Muslim, I'm obliged to wear it. And in America there's freedom. But I feel I'm protected by the hijab," Jawahin Ali, another member of the Muslim Student Association says.

The hijab is the outfit worn by Muslim women. In the book of Quran, it's required for a Muslim woman to cover herself from head to toe with the Hijab. It portrays obedience to the

religion and with it, Muslims believe that it leads them away from the pressures and slavery of modern society.

The typical outlook of American women today is a nice slim form and clothes that hug the body. But Ali says that with the hijab, society does not have an effect on her, since she is less likely to be disgraced since she does not partake in the high expectations of the way women dress today.

Not only that, but Hijab women feel protected when they wear it.

"When wearing the Hijab, it's protection from the evil eyes and the environment since the veil protects me," Ali says. "As far as modesty, my body is protected. Nobody whistles, I have respect because of the Hijab."

## Editorial

### Minimum wage laws should stay for now

It is not yet time to change Washington's minimum wage laws. Washington increases its minimum wage yearly with the cost of living expense. That has given the state the highest minimum wage in the country at \$7.63.

The common complaint of small businesses is that the high minimum wage eats into profits, or erases them completely. Paying their employees increasingly high wages is difficult for a smaller business.

On the other hand, the minimum wage prevents overly greedy employers from gouging employees. The minimum wage is designed to force employers to share some of their profit with the people who make it possible.

The restaurant industry currently is leading the charge to amend the minimum wage law, pushing bills in the state Legislature to let them pay some workers less. A restaurant industry group claims that servers who are paid tips should have the tips counted against their wages, allowing the restaurants to pay less than minimum wage if the difference is made up in tips.

Many servers rely heavily on tips to maintain their standard of living. While it is true that they sometimes make significantly more than minimum wage, is that such a bad thing? Would restaurants be better served by employees who just took a big pay cut?

Those living on minimum wage are no rich, and cutting the wages of servers would drive one class of workers closer to poverty. Who does this help?

Tips are unpredictable. Depending on clientele served and days a server is scheduled, tips can often be a business of luck.

Most people don't have to work for minimum wage in Washington state. Beyond restaurants and a few other small businesses, many minimum wage jobs are corporate. Profitable businesses such as Target and Wal-mart have no trouble meeting higher minimum wages. Without them, would those firms pay as much as they do? Wal-mart already trains employees on how to apply for public assistance. Do you want more of your tax dollars to go to subsidizing Wal-mart's profits?

While it is true that businesses may hire less people if the cost of paying them isn't covered by the additional revenue that they generate, the economy as a whole will not suffer. Fortunately, the U.S. economy is far more reliant on jobs that are above minimum wage.

Minimum wages aren't the best of jobs. If you are working a minimum wage job, you are probably either a student or in such a dire situation that you had to take the job. Raising the minimum wages helps the latter of these two groups; lowering it can harm them greatly.

There is no denying that the cost of living does increase with time. For those who are reliant on these wages, an annual increase definitely a good thing. While it may cause trouble for some smaller businesses, by and large this is probably the best solution for the time being.



### Racism still living in America

I have to get moving. I've known this for some time. The Diversity Partnership Institute only reinforced that. From the time that I was 5, I remember my dad telling me that I

had to speak English without an accent in order to get respect in this country. Such events may have slowed me down, but never stopped me.

This year's institute theme was "Reflections upon privilege." I didn't expect to come out with the mindset I ended up with when it was over. "I thought I was over this part of my life. So why am I still hurting?" I asked myself.

I'm talking racism. Yes, the big "R" word that isn't supposed to exist in our society anymore, but still does. Racism plays such a big role in privilege, but we don't have control over it. But we can control the way we react to it.

"Racism is alive and well," sociologist and author Allan Johnson said.

All of the sudden, I be-

came really angry. There was a white man in front of me telling me that racism still existed and my thought immediately was, "What does this white guy know about being the victim of racism?"

But at the same time, there was a white man telling me that he was an ally. Throughout the conference, many types of privilege were mentioned, and the one thing they had in common was the fact that people of color aren't entitled to some of these because of race. Johnson went on to mention that there are many African Americans who follow the formula to success that Caucasians use, but in the end, they still find themselves with less wealth. While some may use such examples as an excuse to keep them from moving on, others capitalize on these speed bumps to prove others wrong. I'll admit that I am a victim of racism. I've been working as a front desk at a hotel for three years, and my math is often challenged when I give

my customers their bill. I am young Latino woman in some authority position which is challenging for my customers who tend to be middle-aged business men and retired people.

What's funny is that after checking them into their hotel room, and listening to me talk for about five minutes they say, "Oh. You must be a college student."

Johnson also talked about how victimizing yourself can only work for so long before people become irritated by you for saying, in my case, "It's because I'm a Latina." As minorities, we do tend to be thought of as less articulate. But that doesn't mean that our goals from life should be limited.

I'm not saying that I don't acknowledge having to deal with racial issues on a regular basis. I look into a mirror and see brown skin. I just don't let that prevent me from reaching my goals.

I'll always be a Latino woman before I'm thought of as a professional. Latino is what I am, not what I do.

*Martha doesn't need reasons; she's just Martha.*

#### Comment



Martha Molina

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*"Don't talk that way, you're a sergeant now."*

# Canterbury turns into Cornucopia

BY RACHEL LUSBY

STAFF REPORTER

The City of Kent is saying good-bye to the Canterbury Arts Festival and its activities as they are merged with those of Cornucopia Days.

The festival, which took place in August and was known as the Canterbury Fair until about five years ago, is 19 years old and was created to celebrate Kent's heritage and the arts in the Kent community.

Mark Hendrickson, the Cultural Programs Coordinator for the City of Kent, says numerous factors went into the decision to discontinue the festival.

"An evaluation concluded that it no longer met the needs of modern Kent," says Hendrickson.

"The evaluation was based on informal surveys done over the last several years regarding attendance, revenue, public support and a number of other things."

This will be the first year since the late 1980s that the festival will not be held.

In light of the discontinuation of the festival, the decision was made to incorporate many of the



Photo Courtesy of the city of Kent

*Renaissance actors dance on the human chess board as a part of the now defunct Canterbury Arts festival.*

activities from the Canterbury Arts Festival into the Kent Cornucopia Days celebration.

Canterbury included multiple activities for people of all ages. There were live stage performances, artists' booths, children's arts and crafts, and it also included a medieval themed portion, which was meant to

honor and mimic the middle ages in Europe.

The arts and crafts, live performances, and artist booths will all be incorporated into Cornucopia Days.

The children's crafts will acquire its own section in Cornucopia Days, however the medieval portion will not be included

as part of the merger between the two events.

"The medieval activities will not be a part of the new Cornucopia Days because there are already so many of those types of events around," says Hendrickson.

"There is actually one in Gig Harbor during the same time as

Cornucopia Days."

Kent Cornucopia Days began in 1890 with the Lettuce Festival and later, in the 1950s, was resurrected as the Cornucopia Festival. This ran for eight years, and was meant to honor the newly diverse crops being grown in the area.

In 1971 the Kent Lions Club and other local community service organizations, most of which are no longer in existence, revamped the festival and named it Meeker Days, in honor of pioneer Ezra Meeker.

The event grew into what it is now Kent Cornucopia Days, which is also a part of Seafair.

The performances and activities are still being planned but organizers of the events hope to be finished by April.

"We want to have everything buttoned up by spring," Hendrickson said.

Organizers plan to have stage entertainment, a children's area, at least 10 hands-on arts programs and multiple arts booths.

"I think people will be impressed by the addition to Cornucopia Days," said Hendrickson.

Kent Cornucopia Days will be held July 13-16.

## Wedding Singer has that '80's feeling

BY AUSTEN LAVERY

STAFF REPORTER

Dude, it's a totally awesome crash course, like, from the '80s.

It's the decade where parachute pants, leg warmers and mullets were all the rage, where musical icons such as Madonna and Billy Idol were kings, and where CDs and cell phones were a thing of the future.

In 1985 New Jersey, the extremely carefree Robbie Hart works his way around the wedding circuit. "Love is what I do," he says. Robbie is New Jersey's No. 1 wedding singer, but that all changes on his very own wedding day when he gets left at the altar by his fiancée, Linda.

Down in the dumps, literally, Robbie finds love in the sweet-mannered waitress Julia. Once again to his dismay, Julia is getting married to some jerk, hot shot Yuppie named Glen.

The \$10 million-plus adaptation of the 1998 Adam Sandler film debuted at The 5th Avenue Theatre Jan. 31 and is already gaining ground on the road to Great White Way, Broadway.

For composer Matthew Sklar and lyricist Chad Beguelin the journey for *The Wedding Singer* has just begun.

### Arts Review

"This is just one stop in the final journey," says Sklar, "so we know we have things to work on. And Seattle has been a great place to try out the show, because you can't really figure out what the show is until you put it in front of an audience."

For the creative team behind the musical, who came of age during the '80s, creating new songs called for influences from many bands of the '80s.

"I was totally into Men at Work," recalls Sklar. "I sort of had a weird, varying taste in music. I also listened to Quiet Riot and Twisted Sister, but then I also listened to softer things. But it was eclectic, and I think that is echoed in the score."

Beguelin agrees.

"I was completely into Cyndi Lauper, Madonna and Depeche Mode, and I knew nothing of this 'Quiet Riot.' It was great to bring out our iPods together and see what we could come up with."

The team was very appreciative for all the work put into the musical especially with the Rubik's Cube influenced backdrops, amazingly choreographed dances by Rob Ashford, and di-

rection by John Rando. But the biggest eye catcher of the show is the lively costumes throughout the musical, including four sets of bridal gowns, in particular Linda's punk inspired wedding dress, 68 pairs of shoulder pads and 300 Swatch watches.

Musician-actor Stephen Lynch, of *Comedy Central Presents* fame, fills the role of Robbie in his theatrical debut with such vigor that it's no wonder why he was chosen as the lead.

Opposite Lynch is Laura Benanti, last seen on Broadway in *Nine*.

Some of the best acting was by Kevin Cahoon as Robbie's flamboyant friend, George, and Felicia Finley as Linda.

"Everybody comes in every day ready to work and the cast is really talented and they're working very hard," notes Sklar. "And that goes for the entire staff."

Although the music is strung together to keep from falling apart, the journey throughout the musical is pleasing enough.

*The Wedding Singer* finishes its premiere in Seattle this weekend with showings on Thursday and Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 2 and 8pm, and Sunday at 1:30 and 7pm. Tickets are priced at \$19-\$71 and are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).



From left: Matthew Saldivar, Kevin Cahoon, and Stephen Lynch driving during the opening number It's Your Wedding Day.

2/16/06

THE THUNDERWORD

## ARTS



Jamie and his fiancé Kristen

## Planning a wedding isn't for the squeamish

By JAMIE GROSSMANN

STAFF REPORTER

'Tis the season of love.

Four years ago, I met my fiancé Kristen in a Math 97 class at Highline. Flash forward to today and we are in the midst of planning our wedding in July.

Times couldn't be more stressful. While she is stressing about the plans and making sure everything is in order I am just worried about making sure that I finish my degree.

I asked Kristen to marry me on Christmas Day 2004 while we were alone at her apartment; while the potential for a romantic proposal was there, by the time I asked the question she was already wearing the ring and a huge grin.

Deciding to ask her to marry me was easy; she had been there to support me through school and tolerate my chaotic life. However, I had no idea how much that question would change my life. Overnight there was a transformation. It had gone from "let's go to dinner and a movie" to "we are having dinner with my parents tomorrow; make sure you dress nice."

Decisions were starting to be made and I was unaware of many of them. Maybe it was because she would ask me while I was involved in a highly competitive video game or I was watching Sportscenter and just told her that it sounded fine. Either way I was doing things that I didn't remember even talking about.

Here we are a year later and with every passing day we move one step closer to the fateful day. The past four years will come to a culmination in front of all of our friends and family.

I myself procrastinate. If I am given a deadline I don't start working on it until the day be-

fore. Whether it is the excitement that working under pressure gives or the fact that I am sure I can find something better to do, I wait till the last minute.

Wedding planning is something that everybody should experience. It forces you to communicate, discuss and work together as a couple to come to a resolution. However, as the male in the pairing I would recommend using it as a tool to learn how to suck up your pride and understand that she has been planning for this since before you ever met.

Weddings are for the bride. They begin planning for this between learning to walk and learning to speak. This is every woman's chance to bring their own fairytale to life.

Finally, the wedding day will come. The previous six months of planning will be put on display for your friends and family to observe. For that day all attention will be put on the bride. Everybody's eyes will be on the bride and her eyes will be on the groom.

I could skip, hop, or crawl to the alter and only a handful of people will notice because once the music changes the focus and everything that the audience had been thinking will be wiped away.

The bride will appear, and as though she is an angelic figure sent down from the heavens everybody will rise and stand silently watching as she makes her way to the front.

As the groom you have made it through the longest day of your life alive and unscathed. But there is one rule that you must remember throughout the planning, the wedding day, and for the rest of your life. If she is not happy then good luck, because it is going to be a long day.

## Deems mixing soul and jazz

By ALEX CAHAN

STAFF REPORTER

Deems Tsutakawa has a style all his own. Tsutakawa, a jazz pianist, will be playing the Blend in Highline's Bistro on Feb. 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Blend is a free concert series put on by Team Highline every other Wednesday.

Tsutakawa plays what he calls "contemporary soul jazz."

"Growing up, besides jazz I always liked R&B and soul, so some of the DJs in the area dubbed me with the moniker 'contemporary soul jazz,'" said Tsutakawa.

"A lot of my music is kind of like R&B grooves – it's not harsh and frantic. I write a lot of stuff that is sweet and soulful."

His music, which can be heard on radio stations like 98.9 KWJZ, is smooth jazz, but with a funky Motown-like beat, and is unlike most anything else out there.

"If you were to take the blindfold test and listen to several different albums without looking at them, you would be able to tell which artist is which by listening to their style," said Tsutakawa.

"When you hear my albums you can say 'That's Deems'."

Even when he plays covers of other artists, including the Beatles, he arranges the music to fit his style.

He has played with such artists as Kenny G and Julian Priester, as well as opened for Spiro Gyra, Hiroshima, and Maynard Ferguson.

Tsutakawa began taking piano lessons when he was 5 years old. He plunked on his neighbor's piano until his mother bought one for their home.

He started out playing classical music until he was about 14 years old, when he started to play blues, jazz, and R&B.

He began to play professionally at the age of 18.

"I guess it's the passion for the art form and the performance," said Tsutakawa about why he has played for so long. "In my middle age I've become grateful for being able to do something that I love."

Tsutakawa has nine albums out right now, including a Greatest Hits and a DVD.

"I have achieved airplay with many of my albums worldwide. The biggest hit I've had is a song called Tough Tofu which is still heard on international radio stations," said Tsutakawa.

He spends a lot of time writing and composing music. He says he gets much of his inspiration from life experience.

"Music is kind of a reflection of life, so I get inspiration at a lot of different places," said



Deems Tsutakawa

lucky'."

All four of the Tsutakawa children went into an artistic field.

His oldest brother, Gerard, became a sculptor like his father, and made *The Mitt* standing outside of Safeco Field.

His older sister, Mayumi, became an art organizer and is on the Washington State Arts Commission, and his youngest brother, Marcus, became a composer and the band teacher at Garfield High School in Seattle. Under his direction that band has placed first place 13 out of 15 times in (Northwest Orchestra and has gone international).

Tsutakawa.

Some of this life experience and inspiration comes from his family life.

He is the second son and third child of world-famous sculptor George Tsutakawa and koto (a Japanese stringed instrument, similar to a zither) player Ayame Tsutakawa.

"Growing up there was a lot of art and artists around the house," said Tsutakawa.

"I took it for granted until I moved out on my own. I think myself and my siblings learned a love for art through osmosis – just having it around.

"Mom and dad never told us to love art or go into it, it was just a culturally rich environment, and artistically rich."

His dad took him and his three other siblings to art museums in big cities whenever they went on family trips.

They had always thought that was normal, and that every kid did that.

"Now I cherish the experience," said Tsutakawa. "I look back and think 'wow – we were

Besides writing and performing, Deems Tsutakawa also owns his own record label, J-Town records, and he gets heavily involved in the business side of his art.

It wasn't what he wanted to do, but he says it comes with the territory.

"Most artists don't want to deal with the business part, but I am heavily involved. I do booking and managing besides playing," said Tsutakawa.


"I started J-Town records about 30 years ago, and released some 45 records as EPs.

To date I have released nine albums of my own material and produced some other albums of other people on my label," said Tsutakawa.

While he records about 80 percent original material, what he plays in concert all depends on the venue.

"I'm a stylist, not a virtuoso. I don't aspire to do that," said Tsutakawa.


More information on Deems Tsutakawa can be found on his website [www.deemsmusic.com](http://www.deemsmusic.com).



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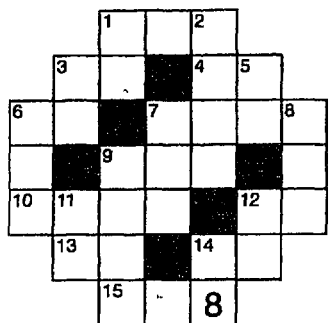

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## Rational Numbers by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.



### ACROSS

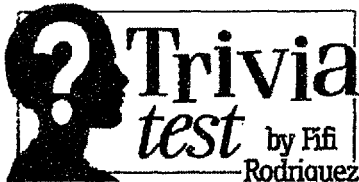
- Five hundred more than 7-Down
- One-third of 4-Across
- 1-Down minus 3-Down
- Six less than 14-Down
- 9-Down minus 6-Down
- Six times 14-Across
- Four times 15-Across
- The first digit is four times the last digit
- Nine less than 3-Across
- One more than 6-Across
- Four hundred more than 9-Across

### DOWN

- 12-Across plus 14-Down
- Four times 1-Across
- Consecutive digits in ascending order

- Five more than 1-Down
- Sum of the digits is 13-Across
- 3-Down times 11-Down
- Seven times 12-Down
- Five times 8-Down
- Same digit repeated
- Consecutive digits in descending order
- The last digit is four times the first digit

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- GEOGRAPHY: What is the third largest island in the world?
- MUSIC: What is singer Neil Young's native country?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to be elected as a nominee of the Democratic Party?

- Answers
- Butler
  - The Nautilus
  - Shakers
  - 1933
  - Officially in 1814, with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent
  - Alessandro Volta
  - Flash Gordon
  - Borneo
  - Canada (Toronto)
  - Andrew Jackson

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## Cronies

### Across

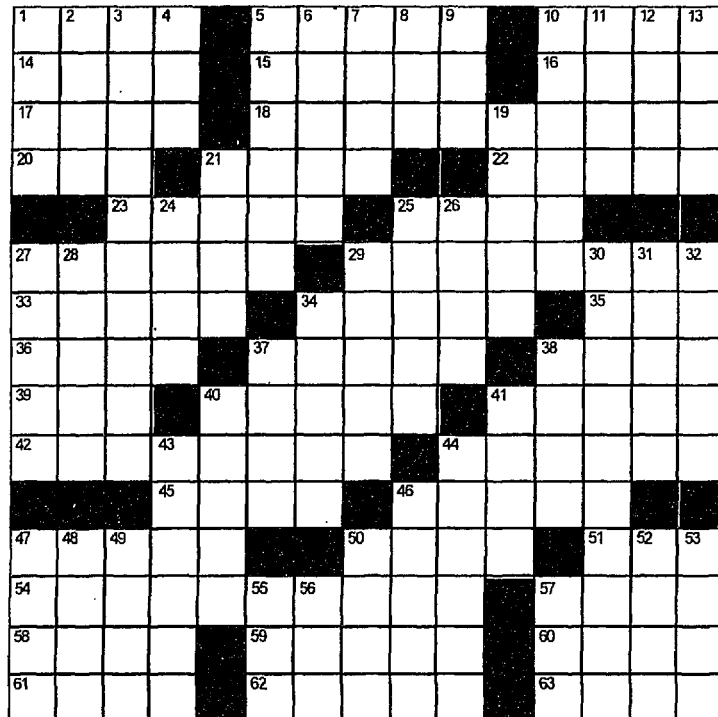
- Cyber
- Big deals in India
- New England players
- Sign
- Wipe out
- Reverberate
- Type of type
- Bush crony
- Slalom
- Humble
- Emeril's work tools
- Radiograms
- Tsunami
- Born on The Fourth of July actor
- Disposed of documents
- Clues
- Decay
- Pay dirt
- Adjoin
- Social group
- Bow
- Get on in years
- Duck's father
- Light bulb cover
- Comprehend
- New England boat
- Take a cab
- name
- Peruvian natives
- Svelte
- Medical practitioner
- Jerry Lewis crony
- Actor Grant
- Ms. Brockovich
- Litigating
- Farm measure
- Big name in TVs
- Elephant groups
- Distort

### Down

- Swans' fathers
- Berserk
- Oscar Madison's crony
- Finish

## Crossword 101

By Ed Canty



- California to NYC flight
- Sign of the zodiac
- Actor Klugman
- Request
- Part of a min.
- Irritated
- Skin condition
- Before now
- Certain legumes
- Crude shelter
- Eucharistic celebration
- 21 A., e.g.
- Intact
- Waterless
- Tastelessly showy
- Long narrow chain of hills
- A heavy nail
- Daisy's crony
- Wear away
- Prevent
- Having a sophisticated charm
- Network
- Asian official
- Belief in a god
- Counterfeit
- Nook
- Squeezes
- Duck hunter's locale
- Caesar's fatal day
- Roman pyromaniac, perhaps
- Early slayer
- Agitate
- Fiend
- Masticate
- Powdery residue
- Regret
- Possesses

### Quotable Quote

When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.

Japanese Proverb

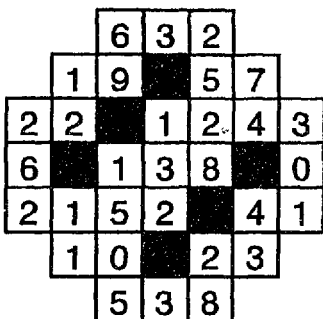
By GFR Associates • Visit our web site at [www.gfrpuzzles.com](http://www.gfrpuzzles.com)

## Last week's solution

### ASAP



### Rational Numbers answers



## Arts Calendar

•Movie Fridays will be presenting *Elizabethtown* on Feb. 17 in Building 7 starting at 2 p.m. The movie will run for about an hour and a half and there will be a discussion following the movie.

•Award-winning poet Rachel Rose will be giving a reading from her book *Notes on Arrival and Departure* noon, Feb. 22 in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union. This event is part of the Highline Listens: Writers Read Their Work series.

Following the reading, Rose will be giving a workshop entitled *From Family Legend to Public Poem: Writing Poetry Inspired by Personal*

History from 3-4:30 p.m.

•Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience perform as part of Kent's Spotlight Series on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. This high energy Mardi Gras celebration takes place at Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center (10020 SE 256th St., Kent).

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for students and seniors. Tickets for all Spotlight Series performances are on sale now at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N., Kent, or by phone with a Visa or Mastercard during business hours at 253-856-5050.

•The Federal Way Symphony Orchestra presents "The Symphony Swings"

Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and students who are 18 years or younger are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at any of these locations: Archie's Diner at Brown's Point, Marlene's Market & Deli, and Des Moines Drug Store.

# Seven T-Birds take flight to Rochester

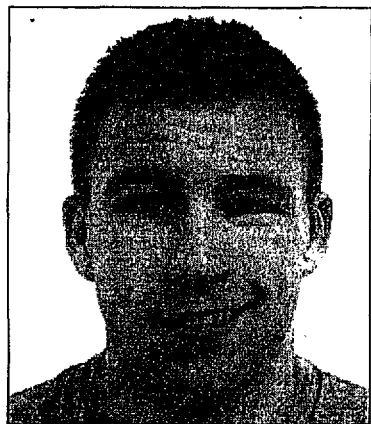
By TREVOR KULVI

STAFF REPORTER

For the second year in a row the T-Birds will send the regionals Outstanding Wrestler of the meet to the NJCAA national wrestling tournament in Rochester, Minn.

Brad Padgett, who was named outstanding wrestler, and six other wrestlers from Highline will be making the flight after an impressive fifth place finish at the regional tournament at Southwestern Oregon C.C. in Coos Bay, Ore.

Padgett, who is the second consecutive T-Bird to be named Outstanding Wrestler at the regional tournament, won the 184-pound division with a 5-0



Brad Padgett

record. Padgett beat North Idaho's Josh Edmondson 14-7 to win the match.

Last year, the award went to eventual national champ Yura Malamara.

For the ninth consecutive year, North Idaho won the meet. North Idaho had a score of 148

points. Southwestern Oregon finished second with 105.

Clackamas and Lassen tied for third with 90 1/2. The T-Birds had 89 1/2 points, good for fifth. Pima was sixth with 87, Glendale finished seventh with 18, and Yakima was eighth with four points.

The win by North Idaho makes it 28 regional titles in the last 29 years.

"The meet went real well," said Assistant Coach John Clemens.

Also joining Padgett at the national meet will be DeShaun Willis, Tanner McCoy, Justin Struder, Micheal McKey, Norman Ore, and Raymond Pouncey.

In order to qualify for nation-

als, the participants must place in the top four in the respective weight class.

Willis went 2-2 in the 125-pound class, and placed fourth. McCoy placed third in the 141-pound class with a 2-1 record. Studer went 2-1 to place third in the 149-pound class.

In the 157-pound division, McKey went 2-2 and placed fourth, while Ore posted the exact same record in the 165-pound division which was good enough for fourth place.

The last qualifier for Highline was Pouncey, who went 2-2 in the 285-pound weight class and placed fourth.

Paul Kline represented Highline in the 133-pound class, but suffered a separated shoulder in

the semi-final match. The injury forced Kline to drop out of the match.

Lionel Orgi suffered a heart breaking loss in the 174-pound class.

"With 28 seconds left in the last match, Orgi got caught in a move," said Clemens.

With the focus now on nationals, the wrestling team will be working hard for the two-day affair.

"We will keep on working," said Clemens. "We won't work on any new skills, but we will do a lot of drills and we're happy we don't have any injuries that won't hurt us."

The T-Birds will be in Rochester from Feb. 24-25 for the national tournament.

## Lady T-Birds use Chokers and Raiders as tune-up

By STEVE PIROTTE

STAFF REPORTER

After a 70-57 win over Grays Harbor and a 50-37 win over Pierce, the women's basketball team is ready for Centralia.

The T-Birds are tied for first with Lower Columbia in the NWAACC Western Division with a 10-1 record, while Centralia is a half game back at 9-1.

Highline played Centralia last night, with results unavailable at press time. Before the game, Highline Head Coach Amber Rowe said she expected a difficult challenge.

"I'm nervous about it because it is a tough place to play," Coach Rowe said. "It's going to be 10 times tougher than the games we played this week."

In the first meeting between the teams, Centralia dominated the game and won 60-48.

In that contest, Highline shot 1-21 from three-point range, and 7-18 from the free throw line. Rowe attributes the loss to their poor shooting performance.

"We played awful against Centralia, but they still only won by 12 points," Rowe said. "The way we played they should have won by 50."

In the first game, the Lady T-Birds were still coming together as a team.

Since then Highline has improved its shooting and rebounding.

But the T-Birds remain underdogs.

In the most recent NWAACC coaches poll, Centralia was ranked No. 6, while Highline was ranked No. 8. This is the first time in Coach Rowe's three year's at Highline the team has been ranked in the top 8.

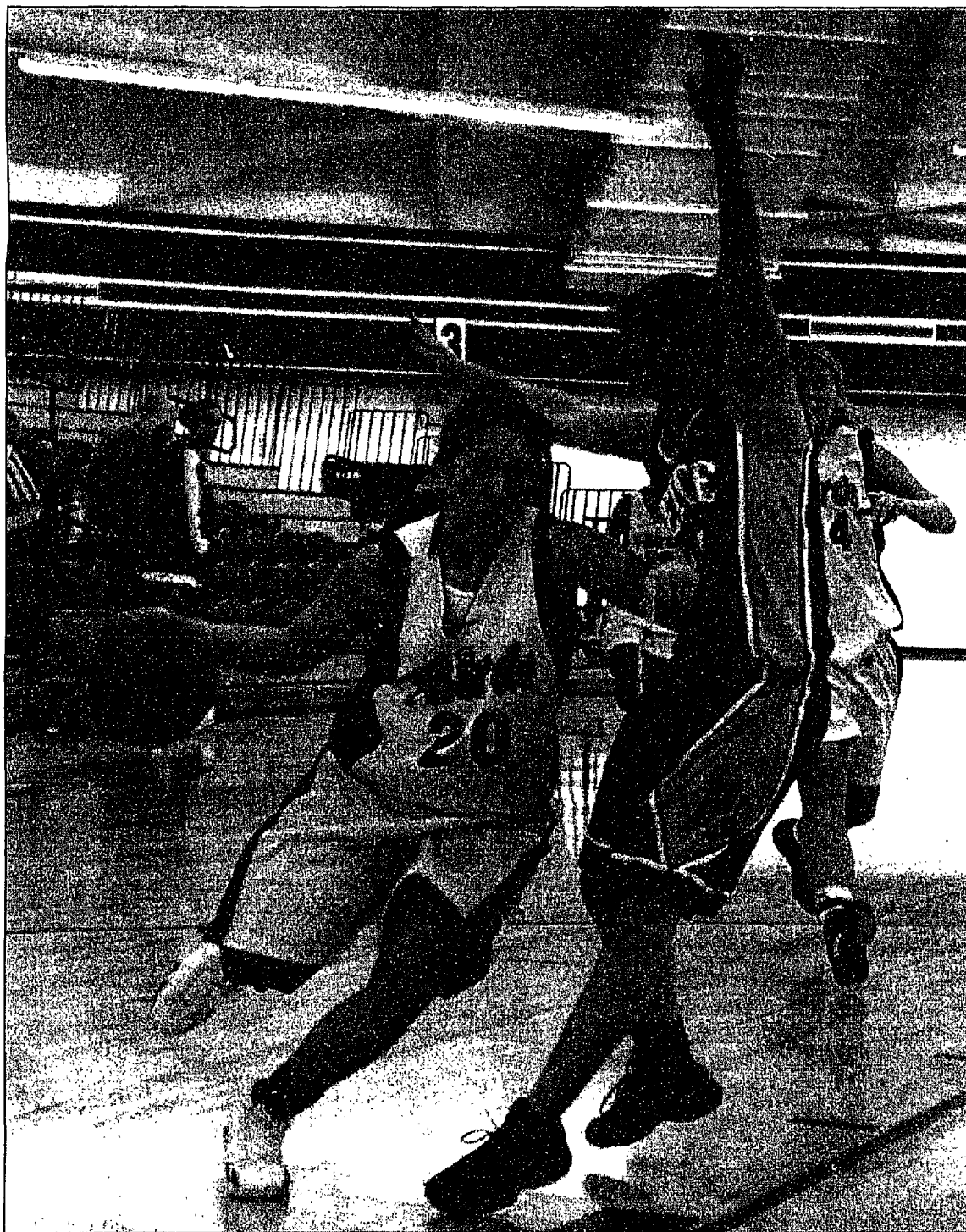


Photo by Austen Lavery

Ashley Cavalieri drives to the baseline against a Lady Raider defender during last weeks win over Pierce.

"I'd still say they are favorites; they've only lost three games all year," Rowe said of the Trailblazers. "Also, they're the home team and that's always a tough place to play."

Rowe plans to employ the same strategy Highline always does against Centralia.

"We went over some things yesterday in practice, but we're still going to do what we do

best," Rowe said. "We're just going to tweak it a bit. Since this is the second time we're playing, both teams are going to be more prepared."

"The key to the game is rebounding, defensive pressure,

and attacking the basket. If we can do those things we should win."

"Everybody needs to step it up for us to win. It doesn't lie on anybody's shoulders. If everybody does their part we should be fine," she said.

Highline is not coming off of their best performance, a 70-57 win against Grays Harbor on Feb. 11. The Lady Chokers came into the contest with a 2-17 record.

"I was really hoping they wouldn't play like that," Rowe said. "They know if they play like that against Centralia we'll lose."

"I was afraid the team would look past these two teams and towards the Centralia game. They did do that, but we still came out with two wins."

Although the team did not play as well as they could, Rowe found some positives.

"Nobody really stood out in the Grays Harbor game, except Denay Boswell. She had 8 points and played really well."

Against Grays Harbor, Christine Kim led in scoring with 12, followed by Ashley Clark, and Kristen Jones with 11 each.

Last Wednesday, Highline beat Pierce 50-37.

Marissa Cain scored 15 points and Allison Maas had 11. Jones narrowly missed a triple-double with 10 points, 11 rebounds, and 9 steals.

The T-Birds next play on Wednesday, Feb. 22 against South Puget Sound.

In the first meeting of the season, Highline beat the Lady Clippers 67-52.

South Puget Sound enters the rematch with a 5-6 league record and 8-14 overall.

# WARRIOR, SURVIVOR, STUDENT

## Kuir succeeds through hard work after fleeing Sudan war

By ALICIA MENDEZ  
AND GAVIN JOHNSON

STAFF REPORTERS

Daniel Deng Kuir is hardly just another face in the crowd.

Standing at 6-feet, 8-inches tall, Kuir is playing a key role for the T-Birds, currently tied for first in the Western Division of the NWAACC.

Kuir has dealt with adversity on and off the court his entire life. Born and raised in Sudan until the age of 9, Kuir has lived through an ongoing war.

Sudan has been suffering from a genocide involving the northern half of the country, which is occupied by 22 million Arab Muslims, and the southern half, occupied by 6 million Sudanese Muslims and Christians. The war is based on religion, language and skin color.

"I speak Arabic, just in case we got caught, maybe they'd

(the Arabs) let us go," Kuir said. Along with being fluent in Arabic, he is fluent in Dinka, English, and speaks some Swahili.

Kuir was a part of the Sudanese Dinka tribe, which led to his nickname of Dinka warrior from his buddies.

The genocide affected Kuir firsthand.

"A lot of my friends died. ... My dad died during the war," Kuir said. "I was about 8 when he died."

Kuir pauses, shakes his head and lets it fall between his hands. He inhales, pulls his head up, and smiles faintly.

"I miss him," Kuir quietly says.

At age 9, Kuir decided to trek from Sudan to Kenya with two of his sisters, Rebecca and Rachel, his older brother Mike and his cousin, Daniel.

"Sudan is a very beautiful place, but the war was so bad," said Kuir.

Leaving Sudan led Kuir to leave his mother, his younger sister and brother.

"I walked to Kenya, over 1,000 miles, by foot," said Kuir. "It was hard because when we walked to Kenya, we had no parents. It was terrible. Sometimes there was no water, nothing to eat, no blanket, nothing like that."

Kuir lived in Kenya with many other refugees, a lot of them known as the Lost Boys.

Six years later, he and his family got sponsored by Catholic Community Services to come to America.

"I came here because we got sponsored. My two sisters, my



Photo by Alicia Mendez

Deng Kuir preparing for the game against Centralia.

brother, and cousin and me were all on the same plane," Kuir said.

Kuir was separated from his two sisters and brother after the plane ride. His sisters and brother went to a separate foster home, he and his cousin to another. Kuir's mother and the rest of his family eventually fled to Kenya to leave the genocide.

"I want my mom to come here, or I can go to Africa. I'd rather her come here with my other sister and my brother," Kuir said.

At the age of 15, in a new

a country with an unfamiliar culture, Kuir was introduced to basketball by his foster brother.

"I was bad," Kuir said with a laugh. "I couldn't dribble, couldn't shoot, couldn't do anything."

Despite a lack of coordination and skill, Kuir was determined to press on. He instantly was overwhelmed by passion for basketball.

"When I was in high school I practiced a lot," Kuir said.

Kuir played all four years of high school for W.F. West High School in Chehalis. His tena-

cious attitude paid off.

"I kept playing and practicing, till I made the Varsity team my junior year," Kuir said.

After high school, Kuir had college in mind, and found a home at Highline.

Head Coach Che Dawson and the rest of the coaching staff heard about Deng through a colleague of an assistant coach and in turn recruited him before the 2004-2005 season.

"I love it here at Highline. It's a great environment and the people are friendly," said Kuir, who plays post for the T-Birds.

Academics play an important roll in Kuir's life as well. He currently holds a 3.2 GPA.

As English is not Kuir's native language, this hinders him from comprehending his school work.

"It's a lot harder and complicated for me because I don't get a lot of things," Kuir.

Thankfully, the basketball team has definitely encouraged and helped Kuir with his struggles on and off the court, he said.

"It's been fun watching Deng develop and improve because he hasn't been playing as long as most of us,"

said Jaxin Skyward, a guard on the men's basketball team. "It's encouraging."

"Deng has tremendous potential on and off the court. He brings a great attitude to the game and is a huge asset to our team. I'm looking forward to his development as an athlete," said Dawson.

"One of my goals this year is to win the NWAACC," said Kuir.

"Deng has persevered through so much that I can only see success in his future," said Dawson.



Deng Kuir

## Track team warms up for season at indoor meet

By ERIK BREAKFIELD

STAFF REPORTER

Track team members from Highline jumped, sprinted and ran themselves toward very respectable distances and time last weekend at the Husky Classic and the third Husky Open.

Athletes competed both Saturday and Sunday at the

Dempsey Indoor arena on the University of Washington campus.

By running the qualifying race at 11:15 a.m. Kenjamine Jackson and Bruce Hubbard qualified for men's 60-meter dash on Saturday at 2:50 p.m. Jackson finished with a time of 7.02 seconds, Hubbard with 7.09 putting both of them in the

top 15.

Jackson also ran the 200-meter dash on Saturday and finished with a time of 22.16 seconds, which placed him in fifth out of 32.

Carolyn Norman and Britta Smith represented Highline's women's track team. Norman ran the qualifying 60-meter dash race at 11 a.m. on Saturday

and finished with a time of 7.96 seconds. She then ran the 200-meter dash and scored a time of 26.95 seconds.

Brittany Smith, Trevor Kulvi and Brian Dotson competed in the events on Sunday.

Smith competed in the long jump and finished in the top 10 of the day with a jump of 17 feet, 1.5 inches.

Dotson competed in the men's 200-meter dash and finished with a time of 24.44 seconds. Kulvi competed in the 3,000 meters on Sunday, finishing in 9:12.33.

The Highline track team's next meet is their first outdoor meet of the season and is scheduled for March 11 at Mt. Hood in Gresham, Ore.

Men's basketball hangs onto first place

By Gavin Johnson  
STAFF REPORTER

The Highline Men's Basketball team won two more exciting games to remain tied for first in the Western Division.

With the playoffs in sight, the T-Birds beat Pierce and Grays Harbor to keep their chances for a division title alive.

"I felt the last few games we've lacked intensity, but it goes to show you that great teams persevere and do what they have to do to win," said Head Coach Che Dawson.

The T-Birds hosted Pierce at the T-Dome on Wednesday, Feb. 8 defeating them 60-53.

The Raiders started the game off hot, leading Highline at halftime, 34-27.

"Before halftime we were giving up way too many second shots and offensive rebounds. We weren't giving ourselves a chance to produce offensively," said Coach Dawson.

With the help of Nathan Jackson's 27 points and zero turnovers, the T-Birds took back the lead in the second half, out-



Photo by Austen Lavery  
Londen Carter splits the Pierce defense for an easy bucket in last week's win against the Raiders.

scoring Pierce 33-19. Highline scored 23 points from the Raiders turnovers whereas Pierce only took advantage of 11 points from the T-Birds turnovers. It

was a hard fought game on both sides of the ball; however the T-Birds stepped up and took advantage of Pierce's mistakes to take the win.

Key players of the game were Jackson, Bruce with 18 points, 12 rebounds, and Matt Mgebroff with three blocks.

Feeling confident about the win against Pierce, Highline took on Grays Harbor at the T-Dome on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The T-Birds battled the Chokers, who are currently sitting in third place in the Western Division, taking the game into overtime to win the most exciting game all year by a final score of 78-77.

"The success of this game was product of an all-around team effort. The guys stepped up after we held an accountability session during the game," said Coach Dawson.

Highline led the game at halftime 31-30, but the Chokers responded in the second half to tie the game at 70 a piece going into overtime.

With all five of Grays Harbor's returning starters from last year the T-Birds were up for a challenge.

The Chokers finished in sixth place in the NWAACC last season, but that didn't intimidate the T-Birds.

In overtime Bruce hit two clutch free throws to clinch the win for Highline, and defensively shut down the Chokers' offense with four blocks.

"The outcome of this game is a big step for the rest of the season our guys are really starting to mold together into a great team," said Coach Dawson.

Key players of the game were Bruce with 14 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 blocks, Jax-in Skyward with 14 points; and Derrick Webb with 14 points.

Results from Wednesday's game against Centralia were unavailable at press time.

Centralia is currently sitting in fourth place and still fighting for a spot in the playoffs.

The Highline Thunderbirds' next two games will be Wednesday, Feb. 22 at South Puget Sound at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 1 at home against Clark at 3 p.m.

"Three things I want our team to focus on for the rest of the season are: continuing to improve, self and team-appreciation, and just to enjoy the journey," said Coach Dawson.

Scoreboard

Women's Basketball		
NORTH	Leag.	Ovrl.
Skagit Valley	7-3	15-5
Olympic	7-4	14-7
Bellevue	7-4	13-9
Shoreline	7-4	15-8
Everett	6-4	13-10
Seattle	5-6	9-15
Whatcom	5-6	11-11
Peninsula	4-6	10-11
Edmonds	0-11	0-20

WEST	Leag.	Ovrl.
Highline	10-1	17-7
L. Columbia	10-1	15-6
Centralia	9-1	20-3
Tacoma	5-6	7-11
S. Puget Sound	5-6	8-14
Clark	5-6	9-15
Green River	3-7	5-16
Grays Harbor	1-9	2-18
Pierce	0-11	1-21

EAST	Leag.	Ovrl.
Yakima Valley	8-1	22-2
Walla Walla	7-2	17-5
Wenatchee Vly.	6-2	18-5
Columbia Basin	5-4	14-9
Spokane	4-4	14-9
Big Bend	3-6	11-13
Treasure Valley	1-8	4-18
Blue Mountain	1-8	6-17

SOUTH	Leag.	Ovrl.
Clackamas	8-1	18-4
Lane	8-1	24-1
Umpqua	7-2	18-5
Chemeketa	6-3	9-11
Linn-Benton	3-6	7-16
SW Oregon	3-6	10-11
Portland	2-7	8-14
Mt. Hood	0-9	2-18

NWAACC/Horizon Air  
Coaches' Poll

School Record Votes		
1. Lane	23-1	78 (7)
2. Y. Valley	21-2	62 (1)
3. Clackamas	17-4	51
4. W. Valley	18-5	38
5. Umpqua	18-5	24
6. Centralia	20-2	23
7. Walla Walla	16-5	22 nr
8. Highline	16-7	6 nr

First place votes in parentheses.  
ALSO RECEIVING VOTES:  
Skagit Valley (14-5, 5 votes)  
& Lower Columbia (14-6, 3 votes).

Scores	
EVERETT 73, EDMONDS 44	
SHORELINE 62, SEATTLE 51	
BELLEVUE 49, SKAGIT VALLEY 47	
PENINSULA 53, WHATCOM 48	
CENTRALIA 84, PIERCE 38	
TACOMA 60, GRAYS HARBOR 43	
HIGHLINE 54, LOWER COLUMBIA 53	
SOUTH PUGET SOUND 69, GREEN RIVER 51	
BIG BEND 59, COLUMBIA BASIN 54	
SPOKANE 57, WALLA WALLA 49	
WENATCHEE VALLEY 70, TREASURE VALLEY 45	
YAKIMA VALLEY 99, BLUE MOUNTAIN 68	
LANE 102, CHEMEKETA 62	
CLACKAMAS 84, LINN-BENTON 52	
UMPQUA 88, MT HOOD 50	

SW OREGON 61, PORTLAND 56
BLUE MOUNTAIN 76, WENATCHEE VALLEY 72
YAKIMA VALLEY 77, TREASURE VALLEY 61
SHORELINE 57, OLYMPIC 50
EVERETT 75, SEATTLE 67
SKAGIT VALLEY 63, PENINSULA 56

WHATCOM 92, EDMONDS 53
CENTRALIA 85, GREEN RIVER 70
LOWER COLUMBIA 79, GRAYS HARBOR 52

HIGHLINE 76, CLARK 59
TACOMA 53, PIERCE 46
WALLA WALLA 82, BIG BEND 59

COLUMBIA BASIN 62, SPOKANE 52
CLACKAMAS 90, UMPQUA 66
LANE 94, PORTLAND 55
LINN-BENTON 65, MT HOOD 48
CHEMEKETA 53, SW OREGON 49

Men's basketball		
NORTH	Leag.	Ovrl.
Peninsula	10-0	16-4
Bellevue	10-1	19-4
Shoreline	8-3	16-7
Whatcom	6-5	13-9
Olympic	5-6	13-10
Skagit Valley	4-6	7-13
Everett	2-8	11-11
Edmonds	2-9	9-12
Seattle	1-10	5-17

WEST	Leag.	Ovrl.
L. Columbia	10-1	23-1
Highline	10-1	17-4
Grays Harbor	7-3	15-7
Centralia	6-4	9-13
Pierce	5-6	11-12
Green River	4-6	8-13
Tacoma	4-7	5-17
S. Puget Sound	1-10	6-15
Clark	1-10	3-19

EAST	Leag.	Ovrl.
Spokane	7-2	18-5
Walla Walla	6-3	12-10
Big Bend	5-4	14-9
Columbia Basin	5-4	9-13
Yakima Valley	5-4	10-12
Treasure Valley	4-5	12-12
Wenatchee Vly.	3-6	4-18
Blue Mountain	1-8	8-14

SOUTH	Leag.	Ovrl.
Mt. Hood	9-0	20-3
Chemeketa	8-1	16-6
Clackamas	5-4	16-8
Portland	4-5	12-12
Lane	4-5	10-13
Linn-Benton	3-6	10-13
Umpqua	2-7	5-17
SW Oregon	1-8	7-15

NWAACC/Horizon Air Coaches' Poll		
School Record Votes	Pvs	
1. L. Columbia	22-1	80 (8)
2. Mt. Hood	19-3	61
3. Peninsula	16-4	41
4. Highline	17-4	33
5. Spokane	17-5	31
6. Bellevue	18-4	30
7. Chemeketa	15-6	23

8. Grays Harbor 15-6	7	5
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First place votes in parentheses.  
ALSO RECEIVING VOTES:  
Big Bend (14-8, 4 votes),  
Clackamas (15-8, 1 vote),  
& Shoreline (15-7, 1 vote).

Scores	
EDMONDS 90, EVERETT 79	
SHORELINE 96, SEATTLE 81	
BELLEVUE 67, S. VALLEY 61	
PENINSULA 74, WHATCOM 68	
CENTRALIA 72, PIERCE 66	
OT	
GRAYS HARBOR 86, TACOMA 69	
LOWER COLUMBIA 92, HIGHLINE 76	
GREEN RIVER 73, S. PUGET SOUND 70	
COLUMBIA BASIN 73, BIG BEND 57	
SPOKANE 80, WALLA WALLA 66	
TREASURE VALLEY 74, WENATCHEE VALLEY 54	
YAKIMA VALLEY 122, BLUE MOUNTAIN 98	
CHEMEKETA 111, LANE 97	
CLACKAMAS 69, LINN-BENTON 56	
MT HOOD 110, UMPQUA 82	
PORTLAND 95, SW OREGON 68	
BLUE MOUNTAIN 75, WENATCHEE VALLEY 72	
Y. VALLEY 101, TREASURE VALLEY 87	

## Phi Theta Kappa gets involved

By JOCIE OLSON

STAFF REPORTER

Phi Theta Kappa is looking forward to many opportunities for community service this quarter at Highline.

Pi Sigma is Highline's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, which is an international honor society for two-year colleges. In order to become a member you have to maintain a 3.5 GPA cumulative and not fall below a 3.2 GPA.

"Highline pushes Phi Theta Kappa more than a lot of other colleges," said Rana Haddad, president of Pi Sigma.

"We are a lot more active than the other clubs," Haddad said.

Pi Sigma has many goals which include getting more members active. There are about 400 members at Highline but only 12-20 attend the meetings regularly and are active in the events. Also they want to schedule more events that will make an impact on the community.

Their main obstacle is publicity.

"Flyers and sandwich boards can only go so far," Haddad said.

What they need more of are volunteers.

They plan on getting fancier sandwich boards but the thing that really works is students telling other students about the events, Haddad said.

Pi Sigma's events last quarter included a Halloween party with international students and a food drive where they were able to provide seven families with complete Thanksgiving meals.

"Every meeting we always



Photo by Jocie Olson

Kim Trinh (left), Oanh Nguyen (center), and Alina Stepchuk make origami baskets for their supporters.

decide to push more," Haddad said.

A tent city clothing-and-food drive is on the horizon. They will begin collecting donations for most anything, including old text books, on March 6.

Haddad said that you don't have to wait until you get a 3.5 before you start doing something.

Even if you are not a member you can still attend the meetings and help in the community.

"A community college should be more interactive," Haddad said. "There is so much that needs to be done in the community."

On April 20-22 the 88th International Convention will be held in Seattle where awards will be given to more than 300 individuals, chapters, and regions for outstanding success.

Haddad is not expecting Pi Sigma to receive any awards this year.

"It doesn't matter about the awards, it is what you do for the community," Haddad said.

During the convention the next two-year theme will be revealed.

The last theme was on cancer awareness and Pi Sigma is looking into setting up a donation wall where students will be able to donate to charities.

Officer elections will be held on Tuesday, May 24. Five positions will be available but in order to run you need to have been a student at Highline for a year.

"If you are in Phi Theta Kappa I would highly encourage you to attend the meetings. It looks great on your resume that you have done something rather than just say that you are

a member," Haddad said.

Phi Theta Kappa meets every Tuesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the club conference room located on the third floor of the Student Union.

For more information regarding Phi Theta Kappa you can contact the co-advisor, Mouy-Ly Wong, at 206-878-3710, ext. 3090.

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## Fire

Continued from page 1

on 3,100 calls during the year 2005, with the whole department going out on more than 15,000. Having more firefighters in the ranks helps reduce the workload on the individual.

It took several years of discussing the merger before it could happen.

"The timing was right, the people were right, and everything lined up," said Kendra Kay, another Public Education Officer with South King Fire.

The cities of Des Moines, Kent, Burien, SeaTac, and Federal Way had completed several annexations that created contiguous borders. With no unincorporated areas between them, there was no risk of cities being split by further annexation.

Elections were well timed. The vote for the merger didn't jeopardize the elections of any fire commissioners in either department, and the EMS levy of 2007 won't interfere with anything now that the merger is complete.

The fire department is an independent organization run by a board of commissioners and not by the city. Eight members now sit on the board, but that will drop to five members over the next six years.

Potential retirements of upper staff members, especially within the old Des Moines department, also will not be replaced.

This means more money for more firefighters and services.

Currently Chiefs Al Church (formerly of Federal Way) and Jim Polhamus (formerly of Des Moines) are co-chiefs, each in charge of three divisions. With Chief Polhamus's retirement this summer, Chief Church will be in charge of all six divisions.

## S&A

Continued from page 1

ries if necessary, then forms the budget due out in May.

"Currently, we're reviewing the proposals," Hayes said. "Next quarter we'll be in deliberation over the budget."

For those wanting to attend S&A meetings, they are open to everyone and are held every Wednesday at 2:45 p.m. For the location, call Brown at 206-878-3710, ext. 3257.

To help spread information about the merger, the Chiefs had to go out on what they called the "Al and Jim road show."

"People began to confuse us with Hope and Crosby," joked Chief Polhamus.

It was their job to meet with every service club and any organization that was willing to hear about what was going on. They went out to answer questions, but they were prohibited by state law to promote the merger.

While headquarters is located at Station 62, off First Avenue in Federal Way, some administration remains located at Des Moines Station 26, including Public Education, which goes over CPR, first aid, and disaster preparation classes.

Special operations capabilities have also increased for the two communities.

Federal Way had a hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) unit and a rescue team (specializing in trench and high angle rescues) and Des Moines had a fireboat and a marine rescue unit. And while these services were

loaned to neighboring cities for use in time of emergency, being integrated makes things easier.

"Going from a smaller department to a bigger one gives us more opportunities to do more specialized training, like Haz-Mat and marine rescue," said Eric Suckoll, a firefighter with the department.

"We were already working with mutual aid, and now that it's all combined it's all inclusive," said Kay.

The general attitude about the merger has been largely positive, and many personnel within the department feel the merger should have happened earlier.

"I'm excited and feel positively about it because I think the community is really going to benefit from this and that's what it's about — serving the community," said Weaver.

"I think it's great. Des

Moines is a new area to get into. It's new and refreshing, it's a nice change," added Kay.

"It's been incredible," said Chief Church. "It's something we've been working on for a long time. I'm incredibly proud that it has taken place and I think it's a good thing for the community."

"For us to have an 83 percent yes vote is almost unheard of. That is staggering — that's overwhelming. The level of support we had from the citizens was incredible," said Chief Church.

The firemen do not seem to harbor any concerns about the merger either.

"It's not too different. The basic guidelines are the same — we still put the wet stuff on the red stuff," said one, Shane Smith.

"The administrative stuff is different. We're using different computer programs and different paperwork, and there is a slightly different routine — we just pick it up as quickly as we can."

"I can't say there have been problems, but there is a period of adjustment and transition

— getting more familiar with a new database and a new system," said Weaver.

"There is still a little 'these guys and those guys' going on, but that'll quit in a while," said one of the firemen. "But the more time passes, the less of that there is. And it doesn't affect the service we provide."

The North Highline and Burien fire departments were intended for the merger as well, but they chose to step back. The cities of Seattle and Burien have been considering annexing North Highline, which could also choose to become its own city. The cities have decided to concentrate on those issues at the present.

Since the Burien and North Highline departments have been working together closely, they may decide to merge themselves, and then merge into South King Fire.

"Our door will remain open if they want to talk. We are definitely willing to talk to them about it," said Chief Church.

One thing that the department wants made clear is that the merger is not an expansion or a takeover — Des Moines merged into Federal Way with the proviso that it was two departments becoming one. They have created a whole new department.

"While the name has changed in both communities, the level of service that the citizens in Des Moines and in Federal Way have enjoyed will stay the same, or even improve," said Chief Church.

"Our commitment from the beginning was to continue to provide excellent service to our entire area," said Chief Polhamus.

All in all, a month into the merger everything seems to be going well.

"Nobody has a crystal ball, so it'll be fun to look back in a few years and see if our predictions were correct," said Chief Polhamus.

## Enroll

Continued from page 1

enrolls.

So the college is doing what it can to keep its numbers up.

"We're doing well with retention right now," said Ivan Gorne. "Recruitment we're still working on."

Highline has several retention programs in action.

"We really work closely with the high schools. We provide excellent services to the Running Start students," said Gorne. "We've really stepped things up."

Not only is the number of high school graduates lower, but many of them are finishing their high school diplomas in the Running Start program and moving on. The college is currently working on a new program called "Running Finish." It's geared to getting Running Start students to finish their associate degrees at Highline.

Instructors and Entry Services are getting involved, by trying to spot and contact students who are in danger of not coming back or who are not enrolled for the next quarter.

In terms of recruitment, Highline relies on big events such as the Jostens leadership conference to attract students to campus, as well as ongoing efforts by Outreach Services to tell students about Highline at college fairs and through visits to high schools.

"We advertise a little bit," Gorne said. "We don't advertise enough because it's expensive for the college."

Highline's Business Technology Department recently completed an ad that will be shown on local cable television.

"We're retaining existing students better than we did," said Gorne. "We're doing just about everything we can think of and we're trying to provide excellent service for students."



Chief Jim Polhamus



Chief Al Church

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