Clean money, DIRTY RIVER

Taxpayers must split the bill to decontaminate the Duwamish River

By VICTORIA DOM
Staff Reporter

Successful restoration of the Duwamish River may depend on the amount of money the community is willing to invest.

As cleanup plans continue to be made to remove the century of toxins in the river, officials must choose a method that is best fit for the public.

Each cleanup alternative ranges in cost from $66 million to $1.3 billion, the most expensive method being the most effective, and vice versa.

Therefore, experts from the Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Duwamish River Clean-up Coalition believe it has become a matter of paying extra tax dollars or compromising the health of the natural habitat.

The main area of concern is a five-mile stretch in the river’s industrialized lower waterway.

• Officials want public feedback to help construct cleanup plans for the toxic Duwamish River waterway. See story, page 15.

Contamination turns river wildlife into toxic creatures

The Duwamish River still has fish, but experts say you should not eat them.

Contamination in the Lower Duwamish Waterway continues to destroy the river’s natural resources as 98 percent of the habitat has already been lost, said Allison Hiltner, project manager of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Creatures that live in the river bottom are being affected by the toxic chemicals, and as the fish and otters eat the worms and clams in the mud, the pollutants slowly sneak up the food chain.

“The main concern is eating the contaminated fish from the river,” Hiltner said.

A restriction is currently in place which bans the consumption of resident fish and shellfish, except salmon, for which the health advisory has limited the amount that can be safely ingested.

Locals are urged to eat no more than two to three meals per week of Coho pink and Sockeye salmon, one meal per week of Puget Sound Chinook, and two meals per month of resident Chinook, also referred to as Blackmouth salmon.

Cleanup officials have established a natural resource damage assessment, which acts as a master plan for the coexistence of natural habitat and commerce along the waterway.

“After the final restoration plan is selected, we must go through and see what other natural resources will still be affected, and figure a way to account for those,” said Rebecca Hoff, regional resource coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s office of response and restoration.

“We have to try to think of restoration processes to get our natural resources back and help with the river’s recovery,” Hoff said.


However, because King County, the Port, and the City of Seattle are all local governments funded by taxpayers, the community will ultimately be responsible for paying the majority of the cleanup costs.

“There is a very serious investigation being conducted to find any other businesses that have contributed to the river’s pollution,” said Hiltner. “We have sent out hundreds of letters and have found any other businesses that have contributed to the river’s pollution.”


— P15

The sunshine was too good to last...

Full forecast P16

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P8 Art students show off their best work
P9 Softball team finishes season on a high note
P13 Chilly spring weather makes gardening tricky

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Rising gas prices fuels frustration in students

By YURI NISHIZAKI
Staff Reporter

The nationwide run-up in gasoline price is affecting Highline students.

The average price of regular unleaded gasoline in Washington State is $4.025 on May 17, up 30.5 percent from the average price a year ago, $3.085, according to AAA’s Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

Experts say gasoline prices fluctuate based on several factors, including uncertainty in the Middle East and seasonal changes in demand.

Highline student Barbara Blomstrand is a driver of Toyota Camry. She fills up her car once every 10-12 days.

She used to pay about $45 a year ago, but now is paying about $62.

“I spend less on other stuff, such as groceries. I don’t go out to eat. I prioritize how I drive. I map out my errands, and make sure I don’t double track where I’m going,” she said.

“Depending on what I do, but last week I was busy, and I refilled my car twice a week...It costs me $20 [to refill] at one time,” said Jimmy Samuel, Highline student and a driver of a Honda Accord.

“When driving on freeway, I put my car in cruise control. And I put as less [things in the tank],” he said.

By VICTORIA DOM
Staff Reporter
EDmonds News

Stressed out

Students juggle school, work, life, but experts offer help and hope

By HOI DUONG
Staff Reporter

Highline student Diamond Trinh struggles with balancing her academic, social and work life.

"Finding time to study and have a social life is difficult," said Trinh. "Since it's my senior year [in high school], coordinat-
ing my work schedule, cleaning the house, going to college, and applying for universities - doing all those things is tough.

Trinh is not alone. Student Karany Neang from Campus Calm, a website aiming to edu-
cate and help students through the rigors of college, says 85 percent of students feel a sense of stress on a daily basis.

Six out of 10 students often feel so overwhelmed by the high demands of college, that finishing tasks or assignments becomes difficult.

"Many students here have layers and layers of things to do," said Highline Counseling Psychologist Dr. Gloria Koep-
ping.

"Certainly the demanding coursework is a factor for stu-
dents, but the biggest stressors are finances, family relation-
ships, and their mental and physical health."

Along with Dr. Koeppling, psychology Professor Bill Kohl-

meyer also has experience with students who look for help dur-
ing school.

One or two students will act-
ively seek me during a quarter
because they know I'm a coun-
seling psychologist," said Kohl-
meyer. "Whether it is family
stress, break-ups, or personal
dangers, it's something dynamic,
domestic violence or personal
stress or advice, there are all kinds of stressors.

Student Karany Neang struggles not only as a college student in the Running Start program, but with financial

ones too.

"I take some classes under level 100 and because I'm in Running Start, my parents pay for
those tuitions and I feel stressed out about it," said Ne-
ang. "The moment I graduate from high school, college costs
will be high. It's expensive and I have no idea how to pay for it."

Counselling stress vary from finding parking to battling against a disease.

"Some people have impor-
tant classes to get to and parking is always a problem. Some peo-
ple have to park at Lowe's," said student Anita Gill. "There's the parking problem and books are

expensive, especially science books. And personally, I don't get financial aid easily."

Student Abigail Westfall said she had to pay money for class-
es she did not need due to mis-
calculations with her advisers.

Not only did she lose money and was unable to receive com-

pensation, she had to stay at school.

"I ended up with more math class-
es than I actually needed and
was missing science credits. There seemed to be a lack of un-

derstanding of the programs at Highline for another year," she said.

"I had two counselors check
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Escher mixed mathematics and art, professor says

By AMANDA SILS
Staff Reporter

M. C. Escher wanted to create infinity on a page and portray an endless pattern to the naked eye, Ed Morris Highline Mathematics professor said here last week.

Maurits Cornelis Escher was a Dutch graphic artist, and is one of most famous such artists in the world. He is most well-known for his impossible and infinite structures, such as the piece, Ascending and Descending, which Morris attempted to demonstrate during his lecture.

Science Seminar takes place every Friday in Building 3 and features faculty who present topics related to their field. The series of lectures are held to explain scientific discoveries, studies and worldwide interests. Presentations are open to the public and can also be taken by students for college credit.

Escher’s fascination with infinity is clearly displayed in some of his artwork.

Morris explained that the concept of infinity captivated Escher’s mind and inspired him to create infinity on a page. “Escher was not a mathematician,” Morris said.

“Escher was always interested in infinity, things that go on,” Morris said. “He really wanted to see things go on forever.”

While attempting to draw his own form of Escher’s art, Morris found himself stuck at many points, but kept trying various ideas.

“When you’re not sure what to do, go back to the basics,” Morris said.

There is something that flows in Escher’s drawings, something that catches your eye and brings you to gaze into a swirling tunnel of shapes, Morris said.

“Things are all the same and they are getting smaller,” Morris said.

Before an era of computers and Photoshop, Escher used nothing but his hands when bringing his drawings to life.

“ Asking yourself what you see gets your creative juices flowing,” Morris said.

This week’s seminar will be on how to use Excel and some new tricks involved with the program.

The seminar will be led by Accounting Professor Michael Girvin on Friday at 2:20 p.m. in Building 29.

Local officials call students to vote

By SETH POWELL
Staff Reporter

Voting in local elections is both your right and your responsibility, four elected officials said here Tuesday.

Highline students hosted a forum Tuesday to promote voting in local elections on Tuesday, May 17. The forum featured Appeals Court Judge Marlin Applewick, Des Moines Mayor Bob Sheckler, Federal Way Mayor Skip Priest, and Burien City Councilmember Jack Block.

Judge Applewick began the discussion by saying that the job of an elected representative is very important.

“Where government really touches you is here at the local level,” he said. “Understanding your role is critical.”

Judges also stressed that it is your responsibility and right to vote.

“Be good citizens,” he said. “You can change people’s lives.”

“The best part of government is making the decisions, and that is much more exciting to me,” he said.

Judge Applewick also stressed the importance of voting. “It’s exciting for me to hear you vote,” he said. “Voting is the most important thing in the world.”

Often a person will win a city election by just a handful of votes, Scheckler said. The election could possibly have gone the other way if just a few more people had decided to vote.

Mayor Priest said that most people involved in local government aren’t in it for the money.

“Most local elected officials are very caring people,” he said. “Escher’s art of spiraling designs, which Morris attempted to demonstrate during his lecture.

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“I said to myself, ‘If Escher can make it, then I can figure it out,” Morris said jokingly.

From the many of Escher’s drawings, Morris showed one which includes a vibrant pattern formed by a flowing stream of stingrays, swimming endlessly into the distance.

Escher’s numbers drawings have been known to entrance the viewer as if gazing through a boundless telescope, Morris said.

Morris explained four kinds of transformation in Escher’s artwork and how he covered space completely without gaps.

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Time running short for the Legislature

By RASCHELLE CASEBER
Staff Reporter

The Legislature must make quick decisions today marks the 30th day session prior to the 24th day of their 30-day session.

The Senate and House need to come to an agreement. I believe one of the primary issues is Workers’ Compensation,” said the legislative assistant for State Rep. Katrina Asay, R-Milton.

The Senate version of the Workers’ Compensation Bill includes an option of reaching lump-sum settlements with workers who receive benefits for a prolonged period.

They said they are in favor of the Senate version while laborers are in favor of the House version of the bill.

The hang up is that the House won’t accept the Senate version of the bill because it includes a settlements provision that they disagree with.

The House version will reform Workers’ Compensation through authorization of voluntary enhancements and creation of a return-to-work subsidy program.

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The House version will reform Workers’ Compensation through authorization of voluntary enhancements and creation of a return-to-work subsidy program.

One road block that the Legislature is facing is over Workers’ Compensation. The House and Senate do not see eye to eye on this issue.

They are struggling through as they continue to work out a final budget.
New vice president says transfer students need better skills

By ELIZABETH MIKLOVICH Staff Reporter

Central Washington University’s provost wants to improve the skills of transfer students.

Dr. Marilyn Levine met with staff, students, and faculty members for a question and answer session in Building 29 on May 12.

Levine is Central’s new provost/vice president for academic and student life. That makes her the second in command of the university, and the senior academic administra tor for the university, and the eight centers in Washington state they can improve the num- bers and successes, of transfer students.

Dr. Levine also expressed concern about the writing abili ties of transfer students.

“Students are entering to take 300 and 400 level classes and still do not have the writing skills they will need to be successful in graduate school or the workplace,” she said.

Another area of interest for Central Washington University is implementing a general education program where students will enter in as juniors and have to go through some of the same assessments and evaluations that freshmen go through. This would allow for a smoother transition for students, she said.

Levine also said that freshmen students to be placed in the appropriate course level based upon their writing skills, she stated.

Levine will travel to South East Asia in October of this year for recruitment of international students.

American consume too much, prof says

By BRIAN ALEXANDER Staff Reporter

The consumption rate of the American population has doubled since 1950, a Highline professor said here last week.

Tracy Brigham, a physical education and nutrition professor, talked about curbing con-sumption and what the world does not need to buy, at last week’s Sustainability Seminar.

“The U.S. population stands for 5 percent of the world popula-tion, but consumes 30 percent of resources and produces 30 percent of the world’s waste,” Brigham said. “If the world consumed as much and pro-duced as much as the U.S. we would need almost five more planets.”

A big help to the consump-tion rate is how much advertise-ment there is.

We see more advertisements in the mail than people 50 years ago did in their lifetime, Brigham said.

Companies advertise to get their business name or product out to the public. Throughout the world there are advertise-ments everywhere for everything.

“On average the U.S. popula-tion spends upwards of four times as many hours in the mail shopping as people in Europe,” Brigham said. “That includes Paris, France and Milan, Italy.”

Although the average fam-ily size has decreased since the 70s, the average house size has doubled since 1950 as well, creating more room for furnishings and extra junk that could be considered unnecessary. And to go along with that, on average, each person creates about four pounds of garbage every single day.

“Right now the American population is on pace for using one and a half Earth’s worth of natural resources by 2050,” Brigham said. “What can be cut out of the daily routine? Coffee, energy drinks, or bottled water? What about all of the paper or plastic grocery bags?”

Most grocery stores have and promote the use of reusable grocery bags. The bags are durable and can be used to carry anything. A lot of gro-cery stores will give you some kind of discount as well if you are using their reusable bags.

Bottled water can be consid-ered one of the biggest money scams ever, Brigham said.

On average 16-20 ounce bottles of water costs more than gasoline.

To add on top of the price for bottled water, most of those bottles don’t even get recycled.

Bottled water can help you save money and could also help the environment by using less of our limited supply of natural resources, Brigham said.

Come and honor fallen veterans on May 26

A Memorial Day recognition program is scheduled for Thursday, May 26 at 12:10 p.m. Provided the weather is good, the meeting will take place next to the Memorial POW/MIA loca-tion adjacent to Building 2. A brief reception will follow in Building 6.

Caucasian veterans will be pre-sented with a “challenge coin,” which was designed by Gary Nelson, Visual Communica-tions instructor at Highline.

Central provost visits Highline

Highline engineering stu-dents competed in the Human Powered Paper Vehicle competi-tion April 30 at Eastern Wash-ington University.

The Highline team Paper Union won the award for most innovative design for their run-ning-style human powered paper vehicle.

Highline sent two teams to the 12th annual competition this year. Each team consisted of four Highline engineering students.

Team Jay’s Law, also from Highline, did not finish the competition due to mechanical problems with their recumbent bike.

There are strict rules for the competition concerning what materials can be used for con-struction of the vehicles.

The vehicle must be 90 percent paper by weight. The re-maining 10 percent is limited only by the imagination of the designers. The maximum al-lowable vehicle weight is 75 pounds.

Teams are judged on the pre-sentation of their vehicles and on how fast their vehicles can complete a designated obstacle course on an eight mile track.

Teams from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho participated in the event.

This year the winning team was from Green River Commu-nity College.

Eight schools were repre-sented at this year’s competi-tion with a total of 15 vehicles entered.

Only six teams had vehicles that were able to complete the test course to the finish without falling apart or without having experienced a mechanical fail-ure of some kind.

Highline 2nd in paper vehicle contest

By ELIZABETH MIKLOVICH Staff Reporter

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Cold weather causing problems for gardeners

By KELLY CASSINERIO  
Staff Reporter

It is going to be a rough start for those who are trying to garden this year, said the Biology Lab coordinator at Highline.

Donn Walter said the lasting frost this year is making plants grow really slow.

Walter has run the Biology Lab for 10 years. He coordinates the annual plant sale and helps maintain the greenhouse at Highline.

Compared to last year, the weather has evened out, but it is still having a negative impact on gardens, Walter said.

The cold weather has also been a deciding factor in Walter’s decision to not have the annual plant sale at Highline this year.

Usually, the plant sale would be held the Friday before Mother’s Day, but because of the cold weather, he decided not to do it this year, Walter said.

The autoimmune disease from which he suffers, sarcoidosis, has been flaring up this spring, which also made planning more difficult this year, Walter said.

The cool weather not only affects people, but it affects some plants more than others, Walter said.

“The plants that are being affected the most are tomatoes,” he said. In the Pacific Northwest, tomatoes don’t grow too well while in the east, they tend to grow better, said Walter.

A piece of advice for those who are thinking about growing tomatoes is water them at the roots instead of where the leaves are, Walter said.

Students at Highline have been trying to grow plants for their classes as well.

The Botany 119 class didn’t start planting until three weeks into Spring Quarter, which is a late start, Walter said.

Even with this cold weather, you can still begin a garden, Walter said.

“Peas are a good thing to start with,” he said.

“It is a good thing to start plants indoors first until the frost is over,” Walter said.

“But don’t expect a large harvest,” he said.

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Five seek Student Government offices

Candidates urge students to vote in elections

By MEGAN WALIN
Staff Reporter

Voting continues for Highline Student Government offices today. Students who prefer to vote online will be able to do so until midnight on May 19, while students turning in ballots have until 5 p.m.

Five candidates are running for two positions, with three running for president and two for vice president.

David Turner and Zoey Myagmarjav are Highline’s presidential candidates, along with Ella Kuchmiy as a write-in, and Troy Kwak and Enrique Ramirez are running for vice president.

Myagmarjav and Ramirez are actually running together as a ticket, with the slogan “It’s an EZ (easy) choice!”

Voting began on May 18, at 9 a.m. and continues through May 19. Students who prefer to vote online will be able to do so until midnight, while students turning in ballots have until 5 p.m.

In their application questions, the candidates made it clear that they are motivated to make necessary changes if elected for Highline’s Student Government.

“I see that we need to make some changes here at Highline and in our state. I believe I can help make those changes as a representative of our Highline community,” said presidential candidate David Turner. “I also think our government needs to realize how important education is to society, too.”

Turner, an accounting major who is also interested in engineering, said he was prompted to run for Student Government because he saw the inevitability of change.

“I have been deeply involved at Highline’s Center for Leadership & Service and have seen the dramatic changes that are coming,” said Turner.

“I have been involved in Student Government and know that we as a college have the power to change [problems] for the better,” he added.

He encouraged students to be more active in the voting process here at Highline.

“Voting is something that is within your power. You can vote to make the changes you want. If you want to see change, then help be the change.”

Along those same lines, Turner said, “I am on the Services & Activities Budget Committee that sets the budget for all extracurricular activities here. I am involved in all of these groups and more...not just to have fun, but because I am passionate about seeing students here at Highline be successful.”

One of Turner’s opponents, Zoey Myagmarjav, agrees that there is a need for more involvement in education, and thinks students should take a bigger role in ensuring its quality.

“As a student leader on this campus, I do feel that students can do much more on this campus than just go to classes,” Myagmarjav said. “There are endless opportunities on our campus that students take advantage of to develop themselves as promising students and future leaders.”

She added that her campaign was geared toward the opportunity to “be a servant leader” and “represent our student body to help to make our campus and community a better place.”

Myagmarjav has also served on the Services & Activities Budget Committee, and said it has helped her better understand what it means to serve the Highline community.

“Knowing that all of the money we pay for services & activities has to come from our student body,” Myagmarjav said. “Being part of the committee is representing thousands of students that don’t even know that it is happening.”

Giving fair and equal representation to all Highline students is the main focus of Myagmarjav’s campaign.

“I believe that our Student Government represents the whole student body,” she said, and elaborated. “We are called a community college for a reason, reason being that we have a great community that supports us and does the work to make sure that everyone is welcome.”

Ella Kuchmiy, the write-in candidate, said she ran to make a change in the Highline community.

“Working in the Center for Leadership and Service this year enabled me to see what issues our students face in the upcoming year,” she said.

Kuchmiy said that she has always felt a call toward leadership.

“I would love to be actively involved in my school,” Kuchmiy said. “In Highline, the vice president is the one who takes on the role of communicating and interacting with the student body and I believe that I will genuinely enjoy this position while trying my hardest no matter what challenges come up.”

His vision for Highline is one without limits.

“Highline is thriving with diversity that accommodates the many different religions, perspectives and opinions we have and should be adequately represented to the faculty and state,” Kuchmiy said.

“As vice president, I will be unbiased in my views and heritage and will openly take in opinions and represent them as one student body.”

Kwak said that he has always been a firm believer toward leadership.

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His vision for Highline is one without limits.

“My vision for Highline is that this institution will be an open place and a place where everyone can reach their full potential,” he said.

“One of my main responsibilities as vice president will be with budgets and I will diligently push the funding for the school to allow more clubs and involvement. From recreational activities like sports to educational clubs like Phi Theta Kappa, I will try to financially assist these activities in any way possible.”

Facilities finds leak under Building 16

Highline Facilities staff found a leak under Building 16 that was pumping out 500 gallons per day.

No damage was done to the building.

“We had an ongoing problem with rain water getting into art room 1711. So we thought we had a partially blocked drain field and we noticed that the water was not going down,” said Maintenance Supervisor Gus Nyquist.

“We saw gradual build up and realized that it was coming from a pipe in the ground,” he said.

“The search was long but once we figured it out it only took us an hour to fix,” Nyquist said.

“We found the pipe that was feeding the leak in the mechanical room and cut it off and capped it,” he said.

The leak was draining 500 gallons of water per day which would end up costing the college an estimated $800 per year.

“We will know when the water bill comes out how much we were spending on this leak,” said Nyquist.

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14 news

The Thunderword / May 19, 2011
Community comments will help determine cleanup path

Officials are requesting public feedback to help determine the next steps that should be taken to remove the toxins in the Lower Duwamish River.

“Involvedment from the community is very important in order to make sure that everybody is working together,” said James Rasmussen, coordinator for the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition.

A public comment period is currently open regarding the Early Action plans of Boeing Plant 2.

To submit a response, send an email to blocker.shawn@epa.gov, and cc contact@duwamishcleanup.org. Feedback will be accepted until May 28.

Public meetings are also being arranged for early next year to finalize the feasibility study, which will determine the cleanup methods for areas in the waterway not included in Early Action sites.

Because the cleanup is partially funded by tax dollars, it is important for the community to decide how, and how much, money will be spent, said Rasmussen.

The complete draft of the feasibility study is available at http://yosemitie.epa.gov/rtf0/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish. The Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition is also hosting a Duwamish River Festival on Aug. 27 in South Park, located south of Georgetown through West Marginal Way South, South Cloverdale Street, and 14th Avenue South.

“It’s important for people to understand why it is not just an industrial waterway,” Rasmussen said. “It is time for us to pay back to the river that has done everything for us.”

For more information on the Cleanup Coalition and how to get involved, visit http://duwamishcleanup.org.

Piles of scrap metal continue to sit along the polluted waterway.

By VICTORIA DOM
Staff Reporter

Early Action

Site

Terminal 117

South Park

Turning Basin

EPA.

Though toxins continue to flow into the waterway, the total level of contamination is not rising nor falling, she said. “Cost of the contamination is historical and has built up in the sediments for hundreds of years.”

Cleanup of the river has been divided into two phases.

The second phase is being planned through a feasibility study. Drafted in 2009, the study is currently being altered after several public meetings, and officials hope the final draft will be complete by the end of this year.

The feasibility study proposes a number of cleanup options, each alternative comprising different combinations of physical removal, containment, and natural recovery.

Removal of the contaminated sediments, referred to as dredging, requires the physical extraction of the polluted material. Though the dredging procedure is more timely and expensive, it will give more certainty in the long-term effects and result in fewer short-term impacts such as disturbance, emissions, and traffic.

The containment option uses a capping method to cover the contaminated sediments with clean material, typically using sand, gravel, and rock to isolate the pollution.

While the capping method comes with less short-term impacts and costs, it increases the need for long-term management and monitoring.

The natural recovery plan relies on the natural flow of clean sediments from upriver to cover the contaminated areas.

Natural recovery bears the least amount of short-term impacts and costs; however, it also provides the most uncertainty and would require the greatest need for long-term management and monitoring.

Taking the community’s opinion into account following the public meeting in 2010, officials have since modified the feasibility study in order to create a wider variety of alternatives.

The revised study lists six alternatives, some containing a sub-alternative, and each made up of a different combination of the dredging, capping, and natural recovery procedures.

There are a full range of methods to choose from, including no further progress after the completion of the Early Action sites, said Rasmussen.

This method, referred to as Alternative 1, would cost an estimated total of $66 million.

Alternatives 2R-6R focus predominantly on removal procedures, totaling about $230 million to $1.35 billion, with long-term success rates ranging from 18 to 43 years.

“In some cases, the economic flow is what we have to take into account,” Rasmussen said.

Experts say the current weak economy may influence the community to choose the more inexpensive option, which will ultimately affect the long-term success of the cleanup.

“One option is always to do nothing in a big public project like this,” he said. “But do you want to come back and have to clean this again in 10 years?”

“If the cleanup is successful, contamination in the river will be reduced by 90 percent,” said Hiltnor of the EPA. “The last 10 percent is where things get difficult.”

Experts say heavy urbanization has made it near impossible to completely remove all toxic chemicals from the waterway, also reducing the chances of being able to safely consume an unlimited amount of seafood that comes from the river.

“We have effects on things far beyond ourselves, and reaching a lower level of contamination means all of us thinking about our lifestyles,” Hiltnor said.
Highline Community College and Heritage University at SSCC have joined hands to help you seamlessly expand your AA or AS degree into a Bachelor of Education. For details, call Heritage at 206 764-5371 or e-mail seattle@heritage.edu.

Turn your Highline degree into a teaching career.

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Gas

continued from page 1

car] as I can. I keep it light,” Samael said.

Cruise control is a system which controls and keeps the car’s speed stable, so that it saves gasoline which is wasted by accelerating and decelerating.

“I’m broke all the time. When I don’t have gas, I’m less likely to go places and more likely to stay home,” he said.

Mike Le drives an Acura, paying $20 once in four days to fill up the tank.

“When I started driving, it was about $3, but it is $4 now. I’m trying not to go to too many places, just here [school] to home. It makes me want to stay home all the time,” Le said.

Highline student Austin Hendler pays $40-55 for gasoline about every five days.

“I try to get a ride with somebody else, trying to carpool. I’m thinking of taking more public transportation,” he said.

Ryan Penttila drives a Nissan Frontier. Its approximate mileage is 17-18 miles per gallon. It has an 80-gallon tank, and he refills his car once a week, spending $61. It cost him about $48 to do so last year.

“Probably not too many road trips like camping this summer,” he said.

This run-up in gasoline price may have been caused by speculation in the future’s market, as well as rising demands for gas as the weather improves.

“Gasoline price is determined by the cost of crude oil, marketing and distribution, tax and operations cost,” said David Overstreet, AAA Washington public affairs director.

Crude oil is a commodity and “is traded internationally, so it’s impacted by events,” he said, pointing to recent unrest in the Middle East.

“And the speculation that supply [of crude oil] is going to be less drives up the price,” he said.

“When people are speculating on the price, what [they] are seeing is that the price will increase in the future …to make a bet that the price is going to go up,” Highline economics instructor James Peyton said.

People “buy the right to purchase oil at a price that’s lower than it’s actually going to be,” said Dr. Peyton. Sellers want to sell the gas at a higher price and buyers want to buy it at the lower price.

“Later on, they sell the right to somebody else,” he said.

“They want to take advantage of the run-up of commodity prices … to protect their wealth and make more money.”

The price usually goes up in spring and summer since driving increases and inventory goes down, and it drives up the price in that time, Overstreet said.

And traditionally the price goes down in fall and winter time after Labor Day, but “we don’t know what’s going to happen, which impacts the prices.”

“It is frustrating,” said Ryan Poquiz, Highline student and a driver of Chrysler Sebring. “Especially since there are many people who can’t find their jobs. I hope that eventually the gas price will come down.”
Instructor blogs to teach communication skills

By MAX HENRY
Staff Reporter

With nearly 2,000 hits in the first month, from North America to Australia, Europe and back, Ellen Bremen’s chat-typlog blog is causing some chatter.

Ellen Bremen is a communication professor at Highline, and has recently created a blog in order to help students better communicate with their professors.

Bremen said the idea for the blog stems from a book she is writing that helps students get better grades by communicat-ing more effectively with their professors.

Since college is the staging ground for the “real” world, it also helps students learn vital communication skills to help them be more successful in the job market.

“Verbal communication is the number one sought after employability skill,” said Bremen.

Although instant messaging, texting, Facebooking and tweeting have brought people together like never before, they have also created an environment that can be void of face-to-face verbal communication.

To compound the problem, community colleges only require one five-credit class in human communication.

“It just isn’t enough,” said Bremen. “The result is that people are entering the working world without the communication skills to help them be suc-cesful.”

Bremen’s blog is designed to help close that gap. Bremen’s chat-typlog blog is her attempt to meet students where they are at.

Although she admits to being an infant in the social media scene, she said, “I have discovered the ability to touch a mass of students’ lives more quickly.”

“I really want students to be writing in to ask questions that I can answer. I want to help em-power students,” Bremen said. Helping students learn how to communicate effectively has become Bremen’s life work.

She said she is excited about the ability to help students at Highline, and also at other col-leges across the state.

On the blog Bremen helps students deal with issues the “right” way.

She gives recommendations for how to effectively commu-nicate with professors in a way that can help you get the results you are looking for.

She even has recommenda-tions for building up your re-sume.

Bremen said that one of the biggest communication barriers between students and profes-sors has to do with the “you” approach many students use when trying to communicate with their professors.

She has excellent advice on how changing “you” to “I” can resolve the difficulty in getting positive results when commu-nicating to professors, or anyone for that matter.

She posted the, try an “I” blog on April 21, and gave a few very common phrases that many professors tend to hear.

One of the examples phras-es was, “You gave me a bad grade,” but Bremen says that by re-phrasing the sentence and using the word “I” instead of “you” to make all the dif-fERENCE in the reaction that you receive from your professor.

For example, instead of saying “You gave me a bad grade,” try “I am very confused about the grade I received. I wasn’t expecting to do so poorly. Can you explain where I went wrong?”

Instead of putting your pro-fessor on the defensive by start-ing the conversation with “you,” starting out by saying “I” helps create a neutral zone for commu-nication.

To take advantage of Bre-men’s 13 years of communica-tion experience, and learn more conversation tips and actions, visit chattyplog.blogspot.com.

Not only will it help you build better relationships with your professors, but also will serve as an important tool when entering the job market, and will even help you to deal with personal relationship issues.

Effective communication skills can help you solve or even avoid many of life’s problems, said Bremen.

“It’s like a communication revolution I’m trying to start here,” she said.

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Students forge permits

Forgery and theft of parking permits were found in two vehi-cles on May 12 and 16. On May 12 a security officer found a ve-hicle behind Building 25 with forged winter and spring permit stickers.

On May 16 a security guard found a vehicle with forged winter 11, and spring 11 stickers.

Graffiti across campus

Two incidents of graffiti were reported on campus. On May 12 someone had written on the restroom walls of Building 29. On May 16 there were two instances of graffiti in Building 26 in the second floor men’s rest-room.

Prowlers in parking lot

Prowlers were reported lur-king in Highline parking lots on May 14 at 4:45 p.m. The person reporting said he had seen the vehicle before and had seen the driver smash a window several weeks prior.

Peeping tom arrested

A peeping tom was reported on May 16 at 6:05 p.m. A female said that she was using the women’s restroom in Building 8, and caught a male looking at her under the stall.

She called 911. Two Des Moines Police department offi-cers were called to interview the victim.

Three more police officers showed up and were going into the library main door when the victim pointed out the suspect leaving the library.

The suspect ran into the offi-cers and weapons were drawn.

The suspect was arrested in between the main sliding doors.

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By Ezie Dickens III

News Briefs

Attend a tuition-free TOEFL prep class

On Wednesday, May 25 come find out about a new tu-tion-free TOEFL prep class for immigrants and refugees during an information session in Building 19 room 103 at 1 p.m. The Welcome Back Center is sponsoring this class that will begin this summer.

The TOEFL test is the Test of English as a Foreign Lan-guage that evaluates the abili-ty of an individual to use and understand English in an aca-demic setting.

“This class is open to immi-grants and refugees who plan to enter the medical profession, or who plan to attend a four year college, or who know that they need to take the TOEFL to achieve their professional goals (other than health care),” said Nicole Scoggins, a Highline ESL instructor.

The class will continue for at least one year and eligible students can enroll at any time during the quarter. If you can’t make it to the information ses-sion please email Scoggins at nscoggins@highline.edu for more information.

Donate your old bike

Tracy Brigham, a Highline nutrition instructor, and her stu-dents will be collecting bikes for the Village Bicycle Project (VBP).

They will be collecting bikes on Friday, May 20 and Sat-urday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The collection will be located outside of Building 6 (East parking lot).

The VBP is a local non-profit organization created to collect all types of bikes and parts to send to rural villages in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

The bikes don’t need to be new or in perfect condition, just long as they can be fixed up enough for someone to use it.

These bikes are especially important for people in areas that do not have roads.

For more information or to arrange to drop off a bike earlier contact Tracy Brigham at brigham@highline.edu or Kevin Stanley at kstanley@ highline.edu.

To learn more about the Vil-lage Bicycle Project go online to http://www.villagebicyclepro-ject.org/home.

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Calendar

Today the Poetry Diversity theme will be “Peace.. Is it possible?”

This event is held by the Inter-Cultural Center in the downstairs of Building 6 at 12:30 p.m. The poems written by you or someone else that relate to the topic to share.

May 20, Friday’s weekly movie will be The Burning Bed. The film will be shown in Building 29 room 102 at 12:30 p.m.

May 21, Saturday, from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the MaST Center in Building 29 room 102.

It’s presented along with the Women’s programs on cam-pus as part of an anti-domestic violence awareness campaign,” said Tommy Kim, Literature and Writing instructor.

May 21, Saturday, from 12:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the MaST Center in Building 8.

Helping students learn how whales may be becoming the earth’s toxic waste dumps.

Dr Kaddee Lawrence will discuss how marine mammals are some of the most contami-nated animals in the ocean.

Learn how to help with this problem and what the toxins are that do not seem to be causing this rising issue of pollution.

For directions and more in-for-mation on the MaST Center please visit http://maat.highline.edu.

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May 25, Wednesday, stu-dent contributions for both aca-demic achievement and campus involvement will be acknowled-ged at the 2011 Highline Stu-dent Awards Ceremony.

It will be held in the Student Union, Building 8, Mt. Townsend room from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

May 26, Thursday, the Spring Job Fair will be held in the Student Union, Building 8 the Memorial Center and Mt. Olympus rooms from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This fair is free and open to the public, parking will also be free though limited.

May 26, Thursday, a Suc-cessful Club Workshop about the Legal Legacy: “Leaving Your Mark as Leaders” will be held at noon in Building 8 in the Leadership Resource Center on the third floor.

May 26, Thursday, a voter registration drive will be held by Highline American Govern-ment Students from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second floor of Building 8.

Computers will be available with links directing students to the Secretary of State’s office online.

Any U.S. citizen over the age of 18 who also has a valid Washington drivers license can use this service to register to vote.
College-bound high school students visit Highline

By AMANDA SILLS
Staff Reporter

Swarms of high school students gathered in groups outside of the Student Union for Highline's Spring Festival, to eat, chat and explore the campus, last Friday, May 13.

The Spring Festival kicked off with many attractions and provided college information for the visiting students.

“Some people look mean here,” said Gabriel Safaroe.

“The campus is really nice,” said Gaurav Singh.

“Highline looks great and it’s my first time here,” said another high school student, Fasil Berhan.

Romero took advantage of the various colleges visiting Highline.

“I want to visit to see what is provided and look at the college booths set up,” Romero said.

Many of the visiting high school students are not positive on what college they would like to study at, but said they still enjoyed experiencing Highline’s atmosphere.

“I came here to visit and see what’s going on,” said Suzanna Safaroe.

“I don’t really think I want to go here. I want to go into the medical field,” she said.

“I don’t really think I want to go here,” Romero said. “I have my sight set on West Point because I’m interested in the military.”

By TJ SQUIRES
Staff Reporter

Virtual desktops may help Highline budget concerns

Highline may make the switch to virtual desktops, as the ability to upgrade computers decreases due to lower budget.

While spending nearly $200,000 per year on campus computers, Executive Director of Administrative Technology Dennis Colgan tries to find ways to save money while improving work flow.

“We try not to have computers on desks that are more than 4 years old,” Colgan said. With more than 800 staff and faculty computers, one can only imagine how expensive it may be to replace these computers with brand new ones.

Many faculty members are still working on computers that are more than four years old, and around 150 computers are currently running on the older Windows XP software.

It costs around $1,000 to replace a single computer, which would lead to a total of around $800,000 in four years just to replace the computers.

Highline is on the last year of a five-year rebuild and is currently starting the second re-build. “We are on time and on budget,” Colgan said.

One of the ways in which the computers can be upgraded is by boosting the RAM, also known as random-access memory, in order to operate with Windows 7 software.

Another way of upgrading is by using virtual desktops.

“We are experimenting with virtualizing desktop computers,” Colgan said.

“We really can’t afford these virtual desktops, but we already bought the licenses on these computers.”

A virtual desktop is an individual user’s interface in a virtualized environment, where the virtualized desktop is stored on a remote server rather than locally. The desktop expands a computer’s desktop environment beyond the physical limits of the screen’s real estate through the use of software.

Desktop virtualization involves encapsulating and delivering either access to an entire information system environment, or the environment itself to a remote client device,” said Michael D. Bradley, the enterprise systems administrator.

“The client device may use an entirely different hardware setup from that used by the projected desktop environment,” Bradley said.

The virtualization will allow the use of virtual machines to let multiple network subscribers maintain their own desktops on a single, centrally located computer or server. Those using the desktop can be in different areas, while all being connected to a central machine via internet access or a local area network.

This technology can lower administrative and upgrade costs, Bradley said.
Domestic violence is a predator that preys on people regardless of gender, age or history. Although abuse victims are most commonly women, some men also fall victim to violence.

Abuse victims have many reasons for staying with their abuser — reasons that many of the rest of us are incapable of understanding. Sadly, they have been hurt in ways that we are unable to understand.

When she spoke at Highline on Tuesday, Brenda Clubine said instead of constantly asking why they stay, we should look closely at the preventable mood swings, and explosive anger.

Clubine, who was trapped in an abusive marriage, killed her husband unintentionally in self-defense and spent 26 years in prison. Clubine said that she works hard to help create laws that will protect women like herself. These laws are desperately needed. When a person — male or female — is trapped in a violent relationship, they need to be able to get out. The degree of violence can vary, but it is likely to continue escalating until it becomes life-threatening, such as in Clubine’s case.

In 1992, the Convicted Women Against Abuse group — formed by Clubine and several other women in the California Institution for Women who were facing similar convictions — gained a hearing which resulted in a law allowing Battered Women’s Syndrome to be admissible in court, but only to cases after 1992. It was not until 2002 when women with cases prior to 1992 got their break. After another hearing, a penal code was passed that allowed women to contest their sentences on the grounds of unlawful convictions.

However, these are only effective in the state of California. Similar laws are still needed in the rest of the U.S., and around the world.

Clubine said that one of the easiest ways to help combat abuse is to listen and be aware of the situations your friends are dealing with. “It’s your job to notice, it’s your job to observe,” she said. She said to ask questions, even when it feels uncomfortable for us.

“There are a lot of dead women today because nobody listened and paid attention,” she said.

That is why talking with your family and friends is so important, Clubine said. If we don’t open the door for conversations, our loved ones could end up in a bad situation.

Clubine said that many times, victims don’t stay by choice; many times are forced to stay because they are hunted down if they try to leave.

No one should have to endure this kind of situation. No one should be trapped like this.

Clubine shared some early warning signs to watch for, which include extreme jealousy, a controlling or possessive attitude, unpredictable mood swings, and explosive anger.

Also, Clubine said that when someone is a victim of abuse, document it. This can be done with pictures of wounds, including bruises, keeping copies of medical records, and saving any kind of threatening note — whether a note, email, or voicemail. In the event of legal action, this documentation can be very crucial.

“Abuse does not discriminate,” Clubine said.

If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse, contact the Domestic Abuse Women’s Network (DAWN) at their 24 hour crisis hotline, 425-656-7867, or by visiting their website, www.dawn.org.

How to stay motivated for spring

When May rolls around, many of us students find it hard to stay motivated for school. Although this May the weather has tried to trick us into thinking it’s still February, our biological clocks — and our calendars — remind us that summer is right around the corner. And with warmer days, thoughts of freedom and vacation fill our minds, we are suddenly thinking about all our plans for the summer instead of school.

Most years, the shining sun outside distracts us with reminders that we are inside. This year, the cycle is a little bit backward. This year, the rain distracts us with daydreams of how much we miss the sun.

But, either way, May can be a month of distractions, ranging from daydreams of sun to summer to sleep.

By the time May rolls around, all I want to do is sleep. Forget the sun, I just want to sleep the year’s stress and exhaustion away. For a lot of people, though, they just really want the sun — and the freedom to enjoy it.

There are some simple solutions to help students dealing with sun-withdrawals. One solution is to take your homework outside on those rare sunny days. This allows you to catch a few rays while still being academically productive.

When there is no sun to be had, common sense advises against shining a bright light on your face in an imitation attempt. However, curling up by a fire on cold “spring” days can help bring about that quiet mindset necessary to focus.

When that’s caus- ing trouble, experience leads me to warn against consuming extreme amounts of caffeinated beverages. While it seems like a good idea, many times the prominent side effect is the inability to sleep at night.

Instead, allow yourself to take a short nap — 30 minutes to an hour. This will help you feel a little more rested and energized, which in turn can help you stay focused instead of zoning out.

We all get told to switch topics every 30 minutes or so while studying, which really does help information to “stick.” However, when you do switch topics, give yourself a few minutes to clear your mind before tackling the next subject. Short breaks can be productive ones — like going to get a glass of water, or scrounging up a snack.

When all else fails and you just can’t keep from drifting off to summer daydreams, allow yourself a few minutes to plan something, write it down, then get back to work.

Keeping motivated during the last weeks of school can be a challenge. The temptation to cut class or skip a few assignments can get overwhelming, but the one thing to remember is that this kind of behavior will not get you far in the working world. Remember where you’ve been and remember where you’re going. That should be motivation enough.

Alisa never lacks for motivation, except at nap time.

Letters

Dear Editor:

You say that discrimination does not happen at Highline? How about the posters that said “all the cool kids are gay?” That is some crazy high discrimination on me, a straight person.

You get a lesbian to complain about the “all the cool kids are straight” posters but you don’t get anybody to comment on the “gay” posters, why is that?

Is it because you, the editor, are gay and discriminate against straight people?

—Igor Shevchuk

“Am I really a ninja?”

—Victoria Dom

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E-Mail tword@highline.edu
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Crossword 101

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Quotable Quote

Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a pauper.

• • •  Adelle Davis

Across
1. It covers the Hill 6. Big name in tennis
28. Put back to work 29. Summarize
34. Addicts 40. Indianapolis team
41. “Don’t be ___ loser” 42. Freeloading passenger
43. “... ___ you prefer...?” 44. Clock-face features
45. Puzzler Canty & others 46. Support system?
47. Puzzler Canty & others 48. Country cousins
49. “Unforgettable” singer 50. Not native
51. Prefix with culture 52. “Gimme ___!” (start of an Iowa State cheer)
53. Artist Toulouse-Lautrec 54. Prefix with culture
55. English architect 56. Creepy
57. “Gosh!” 58. Football great Dawson
59. Baby bird? 60. Creepy
61. Hider’s finder 62. Canal of song
63. Hang Down 66. “... ___ you prefer...?”
67. “Gosh!”

Down
1. Hipster 2. MIT, for one
3. Capital of Poland? 4. Prefix with cycle
5. Roofers, often 6. Deli item
7. ___ Mills Portrait Studio 8. Director Howard
15. Ogres 18. Cairo’s waterway
22. Before, of yore 23. Creepy
24. Stockpiled 25. Creepy
27. Sharpens 28. Put back to work
30. Summarize 31. Made like an eagle
32. Luau dances 33. Addicts
34. Clock-face features 35. Salt
36. Shoe bottom 37. Beach sights
38. ONE who crosses the line? 39. Prefix with cycle
40. Cool 41. Cool
42. Break and butter, e.g. 43. Salt
44. Put back to work 45. Bass, e.g.
46. Support system? 47. Support system?
48. Country cousins 49. “Unforgettable” singer
50. Not native 51. Prefix with culture
52. “Gimme ___!” (start of an Iowa State cheer)
53. Artist Toulouse-Lautrec 54. Prefix with culture
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65. English architect 66. “... ___ you prefer...?”
67. “Gosh!”

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. 

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate  ★★ Challenging  ★★★ HOO BOY!

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LLOYD’S LLAMA

S E R F  M E R G E  B A B S
C I A O  O L E A N  A L O T
A R I A  D O U B L E  L I R A
B E L L  P E P P E R  L E E R
D R A W A R E  S E C O N D S
B A R B E R A  E F F  A C O U S T I C S  O F F E R
U R A L  E T H I C  I L K A
M E R L E  D I S A G R E E D
M A R T I N  T R E A D S
S T R A T U M  C H A R
C H A R L E T  B I L L O F F A R E
R I N K  B L O O D  I C E D
A N T E  E N S U E  S H A G
P E E T  R E S D S  H Y P E

LLOYD’S LLAMA

1. History: Whom did William the Conqueror defeat at the Battle of Hastings?
2. Literature: What was William Faulkner’s native state and the setting for his novels?
3. Common Knowledge: What does the Geneva cross symbolize?
4. Anatomy: What is another name for totipalmate feet?
5. Games: What game piece in chess looks like a castle tower?
6. Language: What is the meaning of “E pluribus unum?”
7. Poetry: Who wrote the words, “God’s in his heaven! All’s right with the world?”
8. Art: For what type of work was the 16th century artist Titian best known?
9. Geography: Where is Mount Vesuvius?
10. Medicine: What is an analgesic drug designed to do?

Answers
1. England’s King Harold
2. Mississippi
3. Neutrality
4. Webbed
5. English architect
6. Prefix with cycle
7. Director Howard
8. Heavenly gifts
9. “Don’t be ___ loser”
10. Creepy

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Camping Essentials

1. Food
2. Sleeping bag
3. Tent
4. Water
5. First-aid kit
6. Flashlight
7. Knife
8. Rain gear
9. Lantern
10. Camp stove

Source: About.com

Arts news?
tword@highline.edu

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Your retirement planning starts today

By JAMES LEE  Staff Reporter

Opening your eyes earlier in investing will lead you to a better retired life, a Highline instructor said recently.

“When I was in my twenties, I thought retirement would never happen to me,” said Bill Webster, a Highline business instructor, in his presentation on May 11, sponsored by The Highline Students Small Capital Investment Club.

If you have less than $17,000 and you are age 0 to 29, you might be in trouble, he said.

“Forty years ago, I was way below the trouble zone,” Webster said.

Eighty-five percent of the American population is in the “trouble zone” and the whole purpose of this presentation is to encourage you to move out of it, he said.

“Look at how time can help you and hurt you,” Webster said.

To reach $1 million by age 65, you can just start to save $179 monthly when you are 25, but if you wait till age 60, you have to save $12,958 every month to reach the same amount, he said.

Moreover, someone who starts saving $179 a month at age 25 would invest a total of only $85,920 to reach $1 million by age 65.

Yet, the procrastinator who waits until age 60 to begin would have to invest $770,480.

To invest in a mutual fund, for example, he said.

“Unfortunately some people think they have to be perfect and know everything before we start to do anything, you don’t have to be perfect, but simply investing $50 per month will help you create financial independence,” Webster said.

In the meantime, he highly recommended tax-deferred over taxable accounts.

Tax-deferred means investment earnings such as interest, dividends or capital gains that accumulate tax free until the investor withdraws and takes possession of them.

The growth of $100 a month over 40 years proves tax-deferred is better than taxable, he said.

Assuming that your return equals 10 percent a year, a tax-deferred investment a month for 40 years will end up having $300,000 more than a taxable account after 40 years.

Many other factors can determine your life after retirement. These include, but are not limited to, insurance, retirement and educational plans, and estate planning.

Yet, the key terms that he used throughout the presentation were younger, earlier, and faster.

Webster said he would’ve taken such advice in his twenties, if he’d been given it.

Preparation for the worst equals success

By JAMES LEE  Staff Reporter

Building finances is just like building your own house, said Vanessa Diego, agent at New York Life Insurance Company.

“You have the specific blueprint for the aspect of your house,” she said.

“You want to refer back to the blueprints to make sure the house is built like you intended to build.”

“Certainly you want to have very strong foundation for your financial house, so it doesn’t fall apart automatically, especially if your family lives in your house,” Diego said.

Diego was the speaker of the last day of the Financial Awareness Workshop on May 12, which is sponsored by The Highline Students Small Capital Investment Club.

There are 10 elements in financial planning: health insurance, long-term care insurance, emergency savings, umbrella liability insurance, home auto, life insurance, disability insurance, trusts, and wills.

Those elements construct the financial base strongly and prepare you for a comfortable future, she said.

If you are 20 years old, you should invest 80 percent of your assets more aggressively, such as investing in stocks, however, as you get older, you have to invest or save your assets in the safer places so you can safely start your retired life, she said.

Experts say that the most ideal way to get ready for your retirement is investing and saving money in tax-deferred and taxable accounts at the same time.

Tax-deferred means investment earnings such as interest, dividends or capital gains that accumulate tax free until the investor withdraws and takes possession of them.

If you have $500,000, consider dividing it into two different bags of money: $250,000 into a tax-deferred account, and the other $250,000 into a taxable account.

You have to have taxable money just in case you need tangible money to cover an urgent accident. Yet, while your $250,000 in your taxable money bag gets close to zero, by that time, your untouched $250,000 in your tax-deferred investment might have been grown up to $500,000, which is your original principal.

Even though saving and investing is very important in terms of preparing yourself for your retirement, setting the defense system around your money is very crucial, Diego said.

One such defense is insurance. The reason being that if you find yourself disabled and without it, you may need to dip into your savings — unless you have insurance, she said.

Diego said that being prepared for the unexpected is the preparation.

Dollars and sense

by David Uffington

Now is time to get ready to buy a home

If you hope to buy a home soon, there are ways you can take in advance to make sure you’re in the best possible position when the time comes.

Your first step should be to seek pre-approval — a written letter from a lender. (If you apply to multiple lenders within a few weeks, it won’t count against you on your credit report to have so many inquiries.)

Having a lender letter will give you a leg up in knowing just what price range to shop and can make you look better in any negotiations with a seller.

If you discover credit problems or mistakes, take first to help qualify for a lower interest rate. Over the years, those extra interest dollars can add up to tens of thousands.

Seeking a lender-pre-approval, you’ll also be able to learn which lenders will give you what you want most: a fixed-rate loan. A stable rate over the years will give the security of knowing your payment will be each month.

Don’t make the mistake of buying at the top of your price range. Just because a lender approves you for a certain amount of money doesn’t mean you have to spend that much.

Consider future possibilities (loss of a job, an additional child in the family) and aim to spend less than 90 percent of what you’re approved for.

Engage the services of a licensed real-estate agent, if only to gain access to the Multiple Listing Service. Ask for referrals before you work with an agent to make sure you don’t fall prey to any scams. Start by looking at home types on Realtor.com to narrow down your target area and wish list.

Learn how to really “see” a property as you shop. A sturdy home with only cosmetic flaws can increase in value through the years if you’re willing to do a little work. A property that needs a lot of serious repair can end up as a money pit and jeopardize both your savings and your ability to make your monthly payments.

Stay clear of neighborhoods with lots of Foreclosure signs. Those indicate an area in transition, and you won’t know if it’s moving up or down.

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Jimmy Eat World is coming soon to Seattle.

Music presents Tech N9ne’s All 6’s and 7’s tour with 2 Seattle dates set for May 26 and 27. Tech N9ne’s latest album All 6’s and 7’s is set for release on June 7.

Tickets start at $28 for both shows and doors open at 7 p.m. For ticketing info visit www.showboxonline.com/sodo. The Showbox Sodo is located at 22450 19th Ave. S. Des Moines. Doors open at 9:30 p.m.

The concert is on May 22 at 7 p.m.

For Consonare, the group includes college-age singers, it costs $71 per month, which covers six hours of rehearsal, staff and sheet music expenses, and the mandatory overnight fall retreat at a local camp.

In their upcoming concert, titled One Earth, Many Voices, the choirs will perform a variety of pieces.

“...among the most popular music...”

The Auburn High Performing Arts Center in Burien at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15. For more information call 206-246-6090 or visit nwassociatedarts.org.

The choir is sponsored by the Des Moines Arts Commission, the Mount Rainier Arts Department and student clubs at Mount Rainier High School.

For more information, call the Des Moines Park & Rec Department at 206-870-6527.

The concert is on May 22 at 7 p.m.

For ticketing information call 206-246-6050 or visit nwassociatedarts.org.
Event showcases students’ artwork

By MATIE MICHALEK
Staff Reporter

Print and digital media students will display a culmination of two years’ work at the Spring Portfolio Show, which is, for many, the next step toward graduation.

The two-day production on May 23 and 24 is an annual event where students get the chance to display their portfolios, a requirement not only for graduation, but also for future interviews for jobs in the field.

The show not only gives students a chance to show off their work, but also teaches them how to prepare for a production or interview where they would generally be showing 8-12 pieces of art, digital and print, as well as a physical book of their work.

Diana Boyd, a visual communication teacher at Highline, is running the show this year.

“Students will be judged on their work, with winners in each category,” Boyd said.

The categories include graphic design, interior design, drafting design, photography, and print production.

Monday night is a designated friends and family night, while Tuesday is professionals night.

Professionals in various fields such as graphic design and fine arts are invited to view students’ work.

“We want the professionals in the area to be part of it,” said Boyd. “The biggest thing for the students themselves is preparing their portfolio for the real world for pursuing a job in graphic design.”

This year, Boyd expects a lot of traffic at the show.

“This is the first time we’ve used the social media,” she said. “We’re trying to use all the marketing techniques we can.”

The show’s website is www.hccportfolios.com, and there is also a designated Facebook page for the event.

Boyd encourages people to take a look at the Facebook page, which includes previews of the show, and to also leave feedback about the show.

Some sponsors of the production include Highline’s print production team, who are doing all of the production’s printing, and Daniel Smith Art Supplies for their contributions to the show.

The Portfolio Show will be held in the Student Union in the Mt. Constance and Mt. Olympus rooms.

The two-day show will be on Monday and Tuesday, May 23 and 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5-8 p.m. Admission is free.

A three-dimensional design of a ship engine by student Chris Hagenbuch, one of many pieces of art featured next week in the annual Portfolio Show.

Feed a monkey every year, says local author

A local author attributes his success to feeding monkeys. Harold Taw has fed a monkey on his birthday every year of his life.

Taw said that when he was born, a Buddhist monk living in the Burmese jungle predicted that he would bring prosperity to his family as long as he fed a monkey on his birthday.

“It’s rare, easy and, yet, somehow I’ve found a way to feed a monkey every year since I was born,” said Taw.

Taw now has a deal with the Woodland Park Zoo so that he can feed their capuchin on his birthday.

Taw believes that his tradition has worked, since he has been successful.

Taw said that he has had many careers, ranging from being an attorney to writing screenplays.

Only a few weeks ago he published his novel, Adventures of the Karaoke King. The story follows Guy Watanabe, an average Seattle man who gets into situations beyond his control.

“For me the best thing in the world is to write every day,” Taw said.

Taw said that it took a decade to get the book finished and published.

“It took too long. Way too long,” Taw said.

Taw came to Highline to read selections from his book on Thursday, May 12 as part of Highline Listens: Authors Read Their Work.

Susan Rich, a Highline professor, said that Highline Listens is in its sixth year.

“Every quarter we bring another author to campus,” she said.

The authors often speak to a few separate classes as well, Rich said. Taw spoke recently to Rich’s Film Appreciation class.

His novel is available at Amazon.com.

Artist’s persistence pays off in gallery shows

By MATIE MICHALEK
Staff Reporter

Lillyan George’s work can embody Asian influences in the background with contrasting Victorian-like cartoon characters in the foreground.

She creates whimsical creatures layered on top of colorful landscapes and mythical beasts centered in front of a dark background. Her style captures feelings of both innocence and corruptness.

George, a local artist currently residing in Shoreline, has a solo art exhibit at the Kent Centennial Center this month.

Working in mixed media, she has an artistic approach that she incorporates into many aspects of her life. Currently, she works as a graphic design artist, and is making additional courses for media design. She manages her own business for her art on the side, and continues to be highly productive with her work.

George said she has enjoyed art ever since she was a little girl.

“When I was younger I knew I wanted to do art, but I didn’t know what exactly I wanted to do with it,” said George.

Since then, she has earned a bachelor’s in oil painting at Western Washington University, and started her own business, called Naked Art, where she sells her art online and in galleries.

“Being an artist, you either have to have a second job or you’re going to be poor,” said George. “I never plan to give up on artworld.”

In the beginning, George worked hard to get her art noticed. She contacted galleries and put in proposals and applications, and paid the fees to display her art.

After some time, she established a good name: “I had galleries coming back to me and asking ‘will you do a solo show now?’”

Most of her artwork is mixed media oil painting. She first prepares a background on canvas with oil paints, and then uses abstract layering techniques. Over the top she draws watercolor pictures, cuts them out, and decoupages them to the surface.

George also likes to use different scrapbooking materials as well. She incorporates many creatures and colorful backgrounds in her art, giving it her signature feel.

For the future, George would like to combine the two businesses she works in.

“The art realm I call Naked Art, with graphic design I’d like to call it Naked By Design,” she said. “[I’d like] a graphic studio as well as an art studio.”

George also plans to work on children’s books, both writing and illustrating. She has already completed one book and is looking into different publishing companies.

The Kent Centennial Center is at 400 W. Gowe St., which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Her work is also available online at www.lillyangeorge.com.
T-Birds’ bats finally come around in final games of injury-plagued season

By JOSHUA HART Staff Reporter

The Highline softball team ended the season on a positive note with two wins against Grays Harbor, their first wins since April 12 against Green River.

Third sophomore Faith Baldwin pitched both and led her team to the 11-10 and 11-2 victories.

“Going into the game our spirits were up. We went in with the attitude of ‘Let’s just have fun, it’s the last day of the season’ Baldwin said.

Baldwin added that none of the T-Birds expected that they would be ending the season with two wins.

The T-Birds won because they were finally able to produce in the run department.

Highline scored 11 runs with some help from Grays Harbor freshman pitcher Theresa Mott, who allowed only five hits but struggled with control all game and the T-Bird players maintained good plate discipline drawing a fistful of walks.

The 11 runs that Highline scored equalled their total runs in their last seven games played.

Highline entered the seventh and final inning down 8-6, but drove in five runs in the innings against Mott to take the lead by three.

Baldwin bent but didn’t break in the bottom half of the seventh, allowing two runs before putting her foot down and keeping the one-run lead.

Baldwin struck out four in the game and allowed 13 Choker hits.

The second game didn’t provide the dramatic ending that the first game did but ended with the same result.

Highline once again knocked in 11 runs off of five hits, getting on base from more wild pitching, this time Choker pitcher Ashley Moore was the victim.

Baldwin buckled down and was a much stronger pitcher in the second game, allowing only two runs off of three hits and striking out four.

The two wins ended the 18-game losing streak for the T-Birds, and gave them a 7-26 record to end the injury-plagued season.

“It was so good to end on two wins. I could not have imagined a better way to end the season,” Baldwin said.

The T-Birds’ disappointing season stemmed from many injuries suffered by their starters to go along with five players failing to qualify academically at the beginning of the season and being cut from the team.

“At the end, there were six out of 10 that were injured and yet we played through the pain and finished strong,” Baldwin said.

The lack of players resulted in the coaching staff having to force players into unfamiliar positions, which didn’t go well for Highline.

The T-Birds struggled early in the season on the defensive side of the ball.

We were plagued with injuries and lost the majority of our games because some players played different positions than they’re used to,” Baldwin said.

The T-Birds found light amid the darkness and kept a positive atmosphere in the dugout through the entire season.

The highlight of the season was beating Head Coach Scott Dilling’s old team, Green River, on the road back on April 12, Baldwin said.

The team won the game in seven innings after an illegal substitution left its mark on the game.

“If we had to have one win on our record I am so glad the first [division] win was against Green River,” Baldwin said.

The team barely improved over their 6-28 record last season, but had a much more positive experience.

“The season could have gone better with this particular group but if I had to go through the same struggles again, I would want to do it with the same girls,” Baldwin said.

The rocky season has ended for the T-Birds, who have failed to make the playoffs since 2008.

“There was some sadness because we realized we were done,” Baldwin concluded about her team’s attitude after the season.

The playoffs take place at Delta Park on May 20-23 with the first pitches being thrown at 9:30 a.m. on Friday.

Saints march in as softball favorite

By JOSHUA HART Staff Reporter

Top-seeded Bellevue hopes to take home some hardware when the NWAACC softball playoffs begin on May 20 in Portland.

Despite the success of the Bulldogs this year, who went 35-1, the favorite still appears to be No. 2-ranked and Mt. Hood.

The Saints won the tournament last year after going 33-9 and boost a 21-9 record this season after returning seven players from their championship squad.

The Saints’ first-round matchup is against Spokane.

The Sasquatch ended this season in a tie with Columbia Basin for the final slot in the playoffs from the East Division by recording a 20-23 record.

Spokane then defeated Columbia Basin in a play-in game by a score of 2-1.

Bellevue faces off against the 16-23 Centralia Trailblazers for what appears to be an easy first round matchup.

Wenatchee Valley is also another favorite as the co-winner of the East Division with a 37-5 record.

The Knights returned 10 players from last year after they lost to the eventual champion Mt. Hood in the second round.

Wenatchee Valley will face off against No. 3 seed South- west Oregon, who made it to the championship last year as a No. 4 seed before bowing to Mt. Hood.

Walla Walla could also make some noise as the No. 4-ranked team in the NWAACC and co-champion of the East Division.

The Warriors begin play against No. 4 seed Lower Columbia, who finished with an 18-12 record this season after losing in the semi-finals against Mt. Hood last year.

West Division champion Pierce is trying to make a name for the West, after the West lost all four of their first round games last year.

Pierce is ranked No. 8 after they ended the season with a 34-7 record.

The playoffs take place at Delta Park on May 20-23 with the first pitches being thrown at 9:30 a.m. on Friday.