

Lights, camera, action!

City hopes revival of local theater will light up downtown Des Moines

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

Des Moines' mayor hopes a renovated theater will be the centerpiece of a revitalized downtown.

Dan Spalding, a developer from Spokane, bought the theater two weeks ago for \$430,000. The property includes 10,572 square feet of space.

Spalding is an artist and musician in addition to being a real estate developer. With his multitude of skills, he plans to add a creative side to the theater.

"I saw it as a great opportunity to do something in the way of a creative mixed-use project," said Spalding.

Dave Kaplan, the mayor of Des Moines, says he is enthusiastic for the development of the building.

"He's going to take off the current roof and add a third floor that will act as a record-



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

The Des Moines Theater has been unoccupied since 2010.

ing studio. Then the second floor will be apartments for musicians who are performing or using the space. Then, the main floor will act as a venue for live performances," said Mayor Kaplan.

"The renovation plans are still in flux, but the local authorities have been very helpful and we hope to get the green

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Group fights sex trade with kindness

By Christopher Crisostomo
Staff Reporter

There is more that meets the eye at the light-blue coffee stand on Pacific Highway South. The coffee stand, known as GP Java, offers more than just a cup of joe.

Their slogan is "Offering Hope One Cup at a Time."

GP Java is part of the Genesis Project, and in the hope business. The Genesis Project is a Christian non-profit organization that provides restoration and rehabilitation for sex-trafficking victims.

Deputy Andy Conner of the

King County Police Department founded the Genesis Project in August of 2011. Deputy Conner's vision for the Genesis Project began when he was making prostitution arrests in 2005, and a girl pleaded for help.

"Within a matter of months, three girls pleaded 'help me get out of this life,'" Deputy Conner said.

After such encounters, Deputy Conner's perspective on prostitution changed. He saw that these girls and women were

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Andie Munkh-Erdene/ THUNDERWORD

Pacific Highway South near Highline College is ground zero for much of the illicit sex trafficking in South King County.

Bogus email sends students scrambling to return books

By Gary Narwal
and Enrique Montoya
Staff Reporters

An email that informed students that their rented textbooks were due for return the Saturday before finals is erroneous. As a result of the mistake, the due date has been extended another week to March 28.

"The textbooks are due the last day of finals, and the Saturday after finals we will be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students to return them," said Laura Nole, Bookstore director.

An external company that works

with the Highline Bookstore sent out the email to students about returning their rental textbooks prior to finals.

"We use an outside company, and they email out a week early, they did this last quarter too, but just know they are due [March 28]," said Eric Ho, Bookstore employee.

The Bookstore will send students an email with the correct due date, Ho said.

"The external company does not inform the Bookstore when they sent out the email to students, but the Bookstore will be sending the right due date to students this upcoming week," Ho said.

Some students were unnerved by the

mistaken notification.

"It stressed me out because I haven't had time to study and there is no other email saying that they are actually due [March 28]," Romell Valencia said.

Other students also found the email troubling.

"I took pictures of the chapters I needed to read because the email said books were due this Friday," Dylan Lopez said. "It would have been nice if the Bookstore would inform students about the wrong email."

Some students say they felt rushed to return their books on the wrong date.

"I already returned my books because of

the email," Phillip Park said. "Now I have to go to the Library all next week to study."

But some students weren't affected at all by the email.

"I don't have a final for the class. I rented the book and I didn't need it anymore," Kelly Yu said.

Other students didn't get around to check the email.

"I don't check my email, so I wasn't aware, but it would be difficult to get ready for the final without the book," Anna Vykhoanets said.

The Bookstore will be open until March 28, for students returning textbooks.

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Become part of the artwork at the annual SAM Remix



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Men's basketball team places sixth overall at NWAC tourney



Get your parking pass in Building 2

By Christopher Crisostomo
Staff Reporter

It will be no joke on April Fools Day if you return to the parking lot and find a parking ticket on your windshield.

Public Safety regularly begins ticketing illegally parked vehicles on the third day of each new quarter and this year that falls on April 1.

And streamlining the quarterly parking permit renewal pile-up is no joke for Public Safety which has announced of new processes for signing up.

Director Jim Baylor announced this week that a majority of the parking permit process will be moved to Building 2.

The schedule Public Safety will be using is as follows:

Monday and Tuesday (March 30-31): 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Building 2 only); 4 p.m.-6 p.m. (Building 6 only)

Wednesday and Thursday (April 1-2): 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Building 2 only)

Friday (April 3): 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Building 6 only)

Students who want to obtain their permits before Spring Quarter can do so during finals week, beginning on March 16 in Building 6.

Baylor said citations for parking violations will be issued starting on April 1.

Person disrupts Building 8

An unidentified individual was removed from the Inter-Cultural Center in Building 8, on March 9.

The person was being disruptive to others so they were asked to leave the building.

Graffiti spotted on Building 26

Graffiti was spotted on the first floor of Building 26 across from room 121, on March 8.

Facilities Department staff was immediately notified and the graffiti was removed.

POW/MIA memorial to get some respect

By Tanner Post
Staff Reporter

Highline plans to remodel its POW/MIA memorial to show proper respect for those the flag represents.

Bids for the project were supposed to be opened yesterday afternoon but the results were not available at press-time.

“We expect to start the rebuild mid/late March and anticipate to be completed by the end of April,” said Kendall Evans, a student working with Veterans Services.

POW/MIAs are former prisoners of war or military service personnel missing and unaccounted for in overseas wars.

Currently, the POW/MIA memorial is immediately south of Building 6 by the designated smoking area. It is a concrete structure with two plaques, one of which reads:

“This fountain, erected by students attending Highline College in the spring of 1968, is dedicated to members of the armed forces from Washington state who have given their lives in their country’s service since



McGranahan Architects

Above is the architect’s rendering of the renovated POW/MIA memorial outside Building 6 that should be complete by the end of April.

World War II.”

The fountain is long gone and the memorial is overgrown and neglected.

Evans said that he did not feel the memorial was getting the proper appreciation it deserves. The reason for remodel is because the current area of the memorial is a “maintenance nightmare, and did not properly represent the significance and importance of those who have, are or will serve,” said Veterans Program Coordinator Brian Galloway.

The estimated \$100,000 price tag “will be jointly funded by the college using one-time funds of \$40,000. [The Associated Students of Highline College] funded \$50,000, and the Facilities Department will pick up the remainder,” Galloway said.

A key focus of the reconstructed memorial will be the official POW/MIA flag.

The flag was created in June 1969 by the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia to hon-

or the service of these veterans.

Newton F. Heisley, a Syracuse graduate in Fine Arts, designed the flag using a silhouette of his son, who was on leave from the Marines at the time, as the central focus.

The flag received national recognition when it was displayed at the White House in 1982. To this day, it is still the only flag other than the Stars and Stripes to be displayed at the White House.

The flag is currently required to be flown six days a year above government buildings, federal cemeteries and U.S Post Offices.

These days are National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day and Memorial Day.

“The [number] of veterans here on campus is in excess of 200,” said Evans.

Some are students using their education benefits, and others are faculty and staff members.

Barry Holldorf, director of Facilities and Operations, is heading up the project, along with Karen Herndon, Facilities project manager, Galloway and Evans from Veterans Services.

Changes occur in placement testing

By Cinthia Velez-Regalado
Staff Reporter

Highline’s English Department has taken lessons from the Math Department and it adds up to a new placement formula.

Incoming students previously were required to take the COMPASS placement test before enrolling for classes.

As of last March, the English Department has adopted the Math Department’s procedures and now uses high school transcripts to determine whether incoming students must complete remedial classes before advancing to regular collegiate courses.

“One of the goals is to have a more valid measure,” said Shannon Waits, the director

of Academic Assessment and Placement in the Placement and Testing Center. “Transcripts are a better predictor than the test.

“[The changes have] worked out great,” she said. “Students are getting the same grades as the students who took the [MyMathTest or COMPASS] test in math or English.”

The transition to the new system has been bumpy, though.

“Students are becoming more aware that they can use their transcripts,” Waits said. But she also said there needs to be more outreach regarding using the math transcripts in particular.

Chris Wilson said he failed the MyMathTest twice before eventually acing both the math sections on his third try.

He said the test’s requirement that answers be expressed as fractions rather than decimals was a particular problem because all throughout high school he had been required to use decimals.

Wilson said he felt the tests results in putting students into classes that are unnecessary and cost students both time and extra money in pursuit of their degrees.

Another student Tyler Raflowski said he was able to register for the English class he wanted using his high school transcripts, but he had to take the MyMathTest to be placed in a math class.

“[My] high school grades were sub-par [for the math portion],” said Raflowski.

But the problem was the opposite for another student.

Claire Martinez, said her high school told her to take the COMPASS test for the English class placement, but she used her high school transcripts for placement in a math class.

There is one catch to the new placement system regarding the English Department, however.

To be able to use transcripts to enter English 101, students must have at least a 2.5 GPA and at least a B grade in 12th-grade Language Arts.

Running Start students and students whose transcripts are not recent, though, don’t benefit from the new procedure. They still have to take the COMPASS tests and MyMathTest.



Services%20-Campus%20Forum&title2=Shirley%20Bean&stream=hr/VPforum/VPBean.mov

For more information contact Amee Moon at amoon@highlone.edu.

Canidate forum video online

Last week the Director of Finance and Auxiliary Services Shirley Bean spoke at a vice presidents forum open to campus.

Bean is one of five finalists to become the new vice president for administrative forums.

Her forum is available online to watch at:

<http://video.highline.edu/vod.php?title=VP%20For%20Administrative%20>

Volunteer opportunity available

GlobalFest is looking for volunteers for GlobalFest 2015 which will take place May 9 in Building 8 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Volunteer orientation is Thursday, April 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Mt. Constance room, in Building 8.

Volunteers can do a cultural performance, be a stage hand, create a culture booth, or help with the reception.

Summit aims to empower women

The second annual Young Educated Ladies Leading (Y.E.L.L.) Female Summit will take place Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The event aims to empower young women of color to succeed in their educational goals and plans.

To volunteer contact Rickitia Reid at rreid@highline.edu.

For more information about the event visit <http://yell.highline.edu/>.

Donate items

Highline Care’s Group is collecting donations for immigrants and refugees.

You can drop your donations off at in Building 19, room 109 or in Building 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Correction

In story titled “Faculty diversity doesn’t mirror students,” there was a reference to the Faculty and Staff of Color Recruitment and Retention Council. Despite being on Highline’s website, the council apparently does not exist.

Juggling work and school is not an easy task

By Enrique J. Montaya S.
Staff Reporter

Highline College student Taylor Gunn deals with a lot of stress managing school and work at the same time.

“I feel that when I’m working and going to school it makes my stress level higher so I may not be working at my full potential because I’m tied and have to worry about school as well,” Gunn said.

Between school and work staying active can be a challenge but it all comes down to managing your time well and planning ahead, Highline students said.

When used properly time management can help you get your work done but Highline students know it’s not as easy as it sounds.

“It’s harder to concentrate at work when you are constantly stressing about homework,” Tuni Somes said. “Finding time to study and going out is hard. I end up eating out a lot just to save time then I get lazy”

Amandeep Kalhar whose job mostly deals with communication said, “usually because of school I’m exhausted and when I go to work, I don’t want to talk to anyone.”

“I can keep up with my studies by focusing more on school instead watching TV or doing something else when I’m not at work.” Wendy Lam said “Planning ahead has usually done it for me because I can always



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

Students who go to school and work share feelings of stress.

make time for different activities as long as I stay on track with school.”

First-year student Danae Lentz said “I work as a barista and take my classes in the afternoon, so having work before school is hard enough. I get home from school and think about how I have to go to bed early for work the next day it just makes me less motivated.”

Many students such as Gunn know that going to school and working at the same time can be very stressful and it restricts your free time, but with a little time management you can get

everything done.

“Coming to school and working, limits your time to study, go out and can also stress you out at work,” Jaime Rios said. “ Even with the time limitations I always been able to go out and get enough studying by planning ahead, if I want to go out on the weekend then I’ll spend more time doing homework during the week.”

Justice Allegar said “I try to finish my homework as soon as I get the time to do it. So if I have a break in between a class or in between work and classes I will do it then.”

Second-year student Dustin Hamilton said “I know that I have to get good grades so I try to focus as much as I can on my studying.”

Some students found out that their grades went up after they stopped working.

“Work takes up a lot of study time, I specially noticed that when I stopped working and my grades went up,” Zane Cope said.

John King said “because of school, I was forced to cut back my hours at work. With less work, I was able to study a lot more and be able to get almost all 4.0s last quarter.”

Second-year student Wanda

West said, “it’s been really hard to do both school and work and come home to study. I feel like that it definitely has had a negative effect on my study habits.”

“I can usually manage pretty well school and work because I don’t work that much so it gives me enough time to study and get ready for school,” Kevin Nguyen said.

Pau Piang said, “I had to quit my job to be able to study more. I had no time to study. I would be at school from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., eat lunch and go back to work and it was tiring.”

Not only is it harder to study but staying active and going out is another task that requires time management highline student found out.

“I always been active even when I worked but it is easier to stay in shape now that I’m not working.” Zane cope said.

“I find it hard to make time for exercise and if I ever want to go out and end up losing sleep,” Tuni Somes said.

Gunn agrees that time management is key to succeed in school, work and staying healthy.

“I feel that working and going to school really takes a lot of good time management. However I try to make it to the gym at least six times a week to help relieve some of the tension and stress.” Gunn said.

Staff Reporters Hayley Craddock, Renee Nelson, and Daysha Filipe contributed to this story.

Creating a club an easy job

By Marco Rey Cudia
Staff Reporter

You can hear the drumming halfway across campus. The rhythm is infectious and soon you’re walking to the beat.

Highline’s Taiko Drumming Club has got your attention and the subtle message is: Join us.

Fifty-four clubs around campus compete for your attention- each one formed by a group of like-minded students.

If you share interest with one of the established clubs, awaiting the next meeting may be the only thing preventing you from joining in.

The Taiko Drumming Club concentrates on playing traditional Japanese drums.

Interested in fitness? Join the Personal Fitness Trainers Club.

From Basketball Club to Volunteer Club, French Club to Bible Study Club, there is a club for a wide array of interests.

If you’ve searched for a club, not found one, but met new people with the same interest, it may be time for you to start one on your own.

The Center for Leadership and Services provides opportunities for creating clubs to

enhance growth and learning outside of the classroom.

“Creating a club is easy. We make the process as easy as possible,” Valencia said.

The first step is to find five or more students who share the same interest and complete a club registration form.

The second step is for the club leaders to attend a one-hour Club Leader Training session.

“This is an opportunity to get to know the club members, provide ideas and to create goals,” Valencia said.

Applicants must sign up with one of the student community leadership consultants to do the training.

The community leadership consultants are Frkad Alma-roof, Autum Beel, Richelle Enriquez, Karina Adame-Meza and Aundrea Voegtlin.

The last step is to attend an Associated Students of Highline College meeting to make the club official.

“We have two types of clubs,” Valencia said.

The first is the Recognized Club. To be considered as such, the club must maintain a minimum membership of five enrolled students.

The club must also complete the club registration and approval form. Furthermore, the president must attend the Club Leader Training and be approved at an ASHC meeting.

Recognized Club activities are limited. Activities must be held on campus and during working hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The second type is the Certified Club. Certified Clubs must also maintain a minimum membership of five enrolled students and complete a club certification form. But the president, the vice-president and/or official representative of the club must attend two training sessions.

Certified Clubs have faculty member advisers and more privileges. They are not limited to on-campus events and can also travel off campus.

“Certified Clubs have more privileges and access to resources,” Almroof said.

Creating a club is free. To start a club, visit the Center for Leadership and Services.

It is in the Highline Student Union, Building 8, 3rd floor.

Office hours are Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

French Club helps ISP pupil gain a global perspective

By Marco Rey Cudia
Staff Reporter

For one international student, love of language is proving to be an around-the-world experience.

Koichi Nukayama hails from Japan and he wanted to experience the United States. But he’s branched out from concentrating on the English language.

He has exhausted the number of classes available in Spanish. Now he’s immersing himself in the study of the French language, but French culture as well.

“I was interested in learning French not only by taking classes but also outside the classroom,” Nukayama said.

When he found out the college once had a French Club, he thought such a club could be beneficial to his learning.

Nukayama contacted previous French Club members and asked them to revive the club. They did and they named him vice president.

“We have about five active members,” said Mingzhen Wu, president.

The French Club was created to help students who want to explore

the language and the culture.

A second purpose is to help students with their classes.

“The French Club is important for the members because it helps them with their classes,” said Wu.

But he admitted academics were not necessarily responsible for his becoming active.

“My beautiful European-American classmate from French class started the club. But she asked me to take over because she didn’t have time,” he said.

For Nukayama, though, the chance to learn about all things French was a clear motivation.

“French Club helps students learn the language and to explore the culture,” Nukayama said.

According to Vistawide World Language and Culture, people who have learned foreign languages show greater cognitive development in areas such as mental flexibility, creativity, and higher order thinking skills, such as problem-solving, conceptualizing, and reasoning.

If that is true, Nukayama may have found the passport to becoming a global citizen.

French Club meets Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m. at Building 10, room 105.

New professor is ready for business

By Daysha Filipe
Staff Reporter

There are pros and cons of being a first-year professor at such a young age.

“It’s an advantage being younger because it wasn’t that long ago I was in school, but on the flip side I’m at a disadvantage because I haven’t had the experience behind teaching,” said Highline’s newest Business professor.

Shawna Freeman has come a long way from Georgia to make her dreams come true.

She was born and raised in San Francisco until she was 14. She then moved with her family to Georgia where she graduated from high school and Augustus State University with a bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

She met her husband while living in Georgia. He was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which brought them to Washington.

Before becoming a business professor, Freeman was in the



Shawna Freeman

marketing industry as a marketing manager. Freeman has always wanted to teach at some point in her life.

“I definitely wanted to always be a professor. When I was younger I would make charts and always at the end I wanted to teach,” Freeman said.

She has learned a lot from her first two quarters here. There were challenges that came along the way, though.

“Learning the ropes of what I couldn’t and could do was a challenge. I was given a lot of freedom from the administration. Trying different styles and activities to teach in the best way possible was another challenge,” said Freeman. It’s definitely a little easier this quarter. I have been lucky with the students I have worked with makes it easier.”

She has enjoyed her first year thus far.

“It’s been awesome, students have been great and administration is amazing. Dream come true for a first year professor,” she said.

Student Mark Talbert, enrolled in Human/Labor Relations, has enjoyed Professor Freeman’s course.

He said he believes she has a lot more energy than other professors he has had.

“The thing that stands out to me the most about her teaching is that she is there to help always and is very involved,” Talbert said.

“I have learned so much in

this class. I love the interaction, and all the things I have learned from her readings.”

Students such as Lammasen Sayqvong have enjoyed her course because of the discussions in class involve everyone and the chance to be interactive with one another.

“Professor Freeman is a great teacher. Her discussions get everyone involved which makes it fun,” said Sayqvong said. “I would take another one of her classes because I have learned so much in this one.”

Second-year student Mackenzie Connelly is taking Human/Labor Relations this quarter and says it is one of her favorite courses.

“Professor Freeman is a great teacher. She has made everyone feel comfortable with how relaxed she is. She cares about getting to know her students which makes it feel like you are important,” Connelly said.

“I have learned how to work better in a group while taking this class. I would take another

one of her courses if I needed another credit because it is one of my favorites.”

Freeman taught Marketing and Advertising last quarter. This quarter she has brought Human/Labor Relations and Pre-internship to the mix.

“The easiest for me to teach is Introduction to Business, Marketing, and Advertising. Human/Labor Relations comes with aspects we don’t think about like communication styles which are very important,” she said.

Freeman’s best advice to students looking to make business their major:

“Take the first Intro to Business class. That class is an overview of what the industries entail. It really opened my eyes for ways I could be involved in business. There is really so much to it,” Freeman said.

“There are so many different fields. For most people there are so many opportunities for no matter what personality type they are.”

Highline will bottle up plastic waste on Earth Day

By Ferdaws Abbasi
Staff Reporter

Student Government representatives will give out free transparent break-proof water bottles on Earth Day.

On April 22, the Environmental Club, student government, and Arts Club are partnering to give out the bottles to students in Building 8 to encourage students to drink tap water rather than bottled water.

The goal is to reduce the use of plastic water bottles on campus to help the environment.

Each day in America, the number of plastic water bottles thrown away is enough to reach from California to New York and back, or 50 million bottles a day, according to the Environment Protection Agency and National Association of PET Container website.

“The ultimate goal is to really show students that water from water bottles is coming from the same source as tap water that is at the water filling stations,” said LaTonya Brisbane, speaker of the Caucuses of the student government.

Currently, there are five water-filling stations on campus that can be used. They are in buildings 4, 8, 25, 27 and 30.

An additional three stations will be established in buildings 6, 28 and 29.

Art Club will be making posters to show students how plastic



Agatha Pacheco/THUNDERWORD
Using the refilling stations, students can reduce plastic waste.

bottles affect the environment.

“We are hoping with the art piece [posters] that students are able to see that it is the same quality of water,” Brisbane said.

The affects of plastic water bottles can affect our health.

“When people drink the water just from the plastic bottles, the plastic affects the hormones in our endocrine system,” said Woody Moses, a marine biology professor at Highline.

Chemicals in plastic bottles interfere with the animals’ and humans’ endocrine system; developmental reproductive, neurological, and immune systems, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Funds for the metal water bottles will be close to \$400 and it is coming out of the Student Legislative Action Community, if not, Student Government will most likely be funding it, said Brisbane.

There will be a campus-wide scavenger hunt associated with the bottle distribution and students can earn prizes for creative photos of students filling up their water bottles using the refilling stations.

Participate by liking the Facebook page: Highline: Center for Leadership, posting pictures and tagging the location.

“The goal is to save students money and save the environment,” Brisbane said.

New class discusses the role of race in American politics

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

The intersection of politics and race will be explored in a new class being offered Spring Quarter.

Political Science 217, The Politics of Race & Ethnicity in the U.S., will be offered daily at 10 a.m. in spring.

Taught by Dr. Ben Gonzalez, a political science professor, the class will explore the impact of race on American politics.

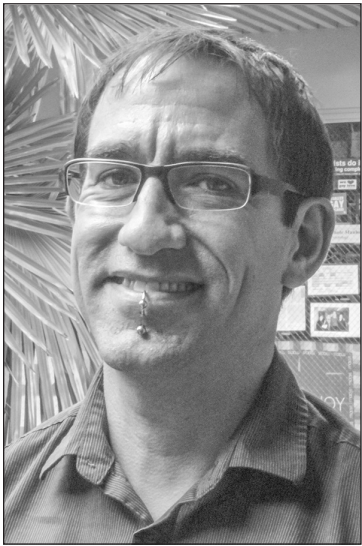
“The course examines how politics has shaped notions of race and been used to historically exclude minority groups from the benefits enjoyed by whites in the United States,” said Dr. Gonzalez.

The class is worth five credits and counts towards the social science and diversity and globalism requirements.

“My goal is to deepen every student’s understanding of the continued effects of things like slavery, segregation, and immigration policy but also to allow students of all races to have an open forum to discuss their own experiences of race in America,” Dr. Gonzalez said.

The professor said the course will cover both the history and the present of race and politics in the U.S.

“In terms of topics we’ll discuss mass incarceration, the



Ben Gonzalez

war on drugs, Ferguson, the criminalization of undocumented immigration, segregation, and the legal definition of whiteness,” he said.

“Oh and obviously the policies responsible for creating and maintaining racial hierarchies in the U.S.,” he added.

If you want to sign up for the class, the item number is 1257. The class meets daily from 10 to 10:50 a.m. The location of the class is still pending.

Dr. Gonzalez taught a similar course at UW Tacoma.

“This has been one of my favorite classes to teach and I am sure students will enjoy it and learn a lot over the course of the quarter,” said Dr. Gonzalez.

Social media consumes students

Thunderword Staff

Highline students spend a lot of time on social media. On average, students say they spend about three-and-a-half hours a day on social networking sites and apps.

Highline students use a variety of social media networks daily to stay updated with their interests.

Instagram is a popular social media site among Highline students. It is known for being the social media site where people share their photography and art with one another. Highline students say they enjoy Instagram because of this feature.

"You're able to see how people changed if you haven't seen them in a while," student Mika Burgos said.

"I can follow what art I'm into," student Hunter Kolbo said.

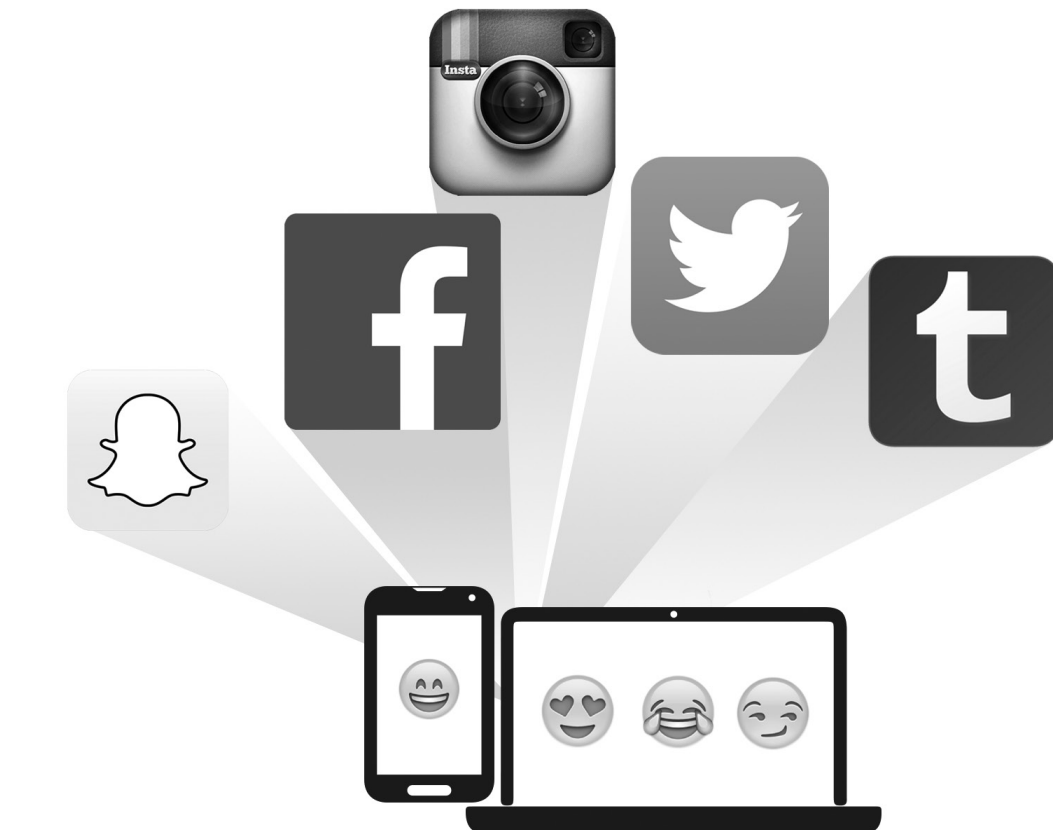
Facebook is a popular social media site that students use. Created in February 2004, it is one of the oldest social media sites. Users create a profile that gives information about themselves and are able to share pictures and post statements about their lives or about what they're interested in.

Highline students say they like Facebook because of how easy it is to keep in contact with friends and relatives.

"I've been on Facebook recently," student Calli Remitz said. "It's weird because Facebook is like out."

"I rarely see my friends and family," said student Van Gutierrez. "But I know what they're up to" through Facebook.

"I like Facebook because I can talk to someone for more than 127 characters," student Nolan Brown said, referring to



Alvin Indalecio/THUNDERWORD

the character count that Twitter uses.

Twitter is another one of the social networking sites that students use.

Similar to Facebook, Twitter users can share photos, videos, and their opinions or statuses as "tweets," the main difference being that Twitter only allows "tweets" to be 140 letter characters long.

Being constantly updated, the newsfeeds give its users something new to see at all times of the day.

Students said that they enjoy using Twitter for the constant updates and notifications that they receive from their friends.

"It's all about subtweeting," Callie Remitz said, a Highline student.

A subtweet is someone's post on Twitter that refers to another user without directly mentioning them, normally as a form of

mockery or criticism.

Remitz said that she enjoys the drama and tags that she sees in subtweet conversations.

Tumblr is a social media site that many Highline students use. People can share information, media, and opinions.

It is similar to Facebook, but users on Tumblr are anonymous and only recognized by their username. This makes the site popular among students.

"Tumblr gives me access to information and opinions of other like-minded people," student Sara Wold said. "It's an amusing time waster while not being a complete waste of time."

Snapchat is a favorite social networking app among Highline students. The photo and video-sharing app has had a sudden rise in popularity on campus because of how different it is compared to other social media sites.

Designed to be an app where users send media to other users, messages disappear and delete after viewing, adding a new spin on media messaging.

Even though Snapchat is designed to delete messages after being viewed, people can take screen shots to record the message.

Users can edit their photos and videos, adding filters, colored texts and emojis (small digital images or icons used to express emotion), to their messages to make them more interesting.

"I like being able to show my friends where and what I am doing at any time of day," student David Smith said of Snapchat.

"Sometimes you just have to have a picture with words," said Brittany Mihalce.

Xavier L. Henderson, Jimmy P. Padua, and Liam Reece contributed to this story.

Highline welcomes STEM conference

By Enrique J. Montoya S.
Staff Reporter

The Expanding Your Horizons Conference is coming to the Highline Student Union this March 20 and the organizers are looking for students to help with science, technology, engineer or math subjects workshops.

The conference is part of a national effort to attract middle school girls into considering STEM subjects as a career.

"The STEM subjects aren't always interesting to students but they are in demand and underrepresented by females," said Andrea Lancaster, event coordinator. The conference is designed to show how these subjects can relate to a career and give young students an idea as to what these jobs entail.

Such careers are not only challenging, they pay well, too, she said.

The Expanding Your Horizons Conference was founded in 1974 by a group of female scientist and mathematicians.

According to the Expanding Your Horizons network, they have about 24,000 girls attending their 80 conferences every year throughout the world.

Conferences are held in 33 states in the U.S. including Washington. Other conferences are held in Japan, Italy, Thailand and Switzerland.

The Expanding Your Horizons network is a volunteer community from STEM experts, community leaders, parents, educators and government.

The network gets its funds from donations, grants and or government agencies.

In 2007 only 17 percent of bachelor's degrees earned by women were in engineering, according to one study.

Career choice has a lot to do with the difference in gender wages because a lower percentage of women are choosing STEM subjects that can later translate to higher paying jobs according to the study.

The long-term goal of the conference is to achieve equal representation from both genders in all career fields organizers say.

The conference is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Student Union. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the event coordinator Andrea Lancaster at alancaster@highline.edu or by phone at 253-335-0427.

Planning early leads to a successful transfer

By Hayley Craddock
Staff Reporter

Transferring is an exciting, but often stressful process that many students here at Highline face. Fortunately, the college offers many helpful resources to make the process a little easier and make sure students are working in the right direction.

"It's very important, as early as possible to get a faculty adviser. Most are Highline instructors who are usually experts in their field of study," said Siew Lai Lilley, director of Transfer Programs.

Advisers can give students information on what options they have and how to be the most successful because they've been through it.

For students who have a good idea where they'd like to transfer, the next step is finding out what the prerequisites



Siew Lai Lilley

are for the program of interest. This means going directly to the source and contacting the school of interest to find out what they specifically look for in a transfer student.

"Students often come in asking me which classes to take because they don't want to waste their time, they only want the classes

that will count," said Lilley.

For the students who don't know what they are going to major in, it is helpful to take a career-path course. This way they can explore their options and find out what they might be interested in pursuing as a career.

Every fall Highline hosts a transfer fair in the Student Union where four-year universities set up information tables. This allows students to connect with university representatives, listen to information sessions, and to explore transfer opportunities.

"Things students should be looking into when deciding where to transfer are things like school size, one size doesn't fit all," said Lilley. "It becomes a hard decision sometimes, due to other factors like friendships and family. But it is important to look beyond relationships and

do what is best for the student."

In addition to researching schools and using Highline's resources on how to transfer, students should also be keeping an up-to-date journal or list of accomplishments and awards.

"We do sponsor a lot of workshops in the fall, such as how to write a personal statement," Lilley said. "It is recommended that students should keep a journal of what they have done in life so that when it comes to writing personal statement they can refer back to that. This statement shows what the student has learned from their experiences. Most universities want a personal statement."

Winter quarter is coming to an end and spring is just around the corner. Getting the help and planning early is the key to a successful transfer. The next Highline Transfer Fair will be held in Fall 2015.

Staff, faculty diversity should match students'

Our staff and faculty here at Highline should be as diverse as our student population.

Highline prides itself about the fact that the students who attend here are so diverse, but what about the employees?

According to the school's website, "Highline College received the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education."

We care so much about the diversity of the student body yet we neglect the other population here: staff and faculty.

Although improving those statistics is a great goal, we need to acknowledge it won't happen over night.

When a person of color has a master's or doctorate degree, they most likely have the choice to go to anywhere in academia.

The likelihood that they would choose to work at Highline when they could work at a university that pays more raises the question: Where do you think they will go work?

The ideal picture for the future is to have a diverse staff, full of people of color with advanced degrees.

However, achieving that goal will take time.

We should focus on faculty staff diversity as much as we focus on student diversity.

Why have a bunch of students of color, but no staff for them to emulate?

We're not saying that they can't emulate with faculty and staff that isn't of color, but it can make students more comfortable to see people who look like them working at Highline.

According to Highline's records out of 135 staff, 32 of them were people of color.

That was between 2005 and 2007.

This is better then no people of color, but we should dream to do better.

"A diverse and multicultural faculty and staff are necessary in order for us to do this important work," Vice President of Institutional Advancement Lisa Skari told the Northwest Asian Weekly.

We agree with that.

But how much are we doing to actually achieve that?

Having people of color as faculty and staff shouldn't be just just to make us look good in the paper.

College is a place where lives can be changed, and people can make a difference.

Having a diverse faculty and staff can make a huge difference as to whether our students will have the inspiration to achieve that goal.

Have something to say?

Have something you want to say to the student body?

The Highline Thunderword is asking for students to voice their opinions on what matters to them. We're accepting submissions in the form of letters and columns.

Letters to the editor should be no more than 200 words; columns should be no more than 600 words.

Send submissions to thunderword@highline.edu by Monday for print on Thursday.

Write to us!



Vote yes for your safety

A bond for the South King County Fire and Rescue needs to pass to keep you safe.

The commissioners of South King County Fire and Rescue have placed a \$53 million bond proposal on the on April 28 ballot.

Capt. Jeff Bellinghausen, the community affairs officer for the South King Fire and Rescue, said the bond will help with districtwide repairs and the funding of a new station.

"Our mission statement is 'We help people' and this measure is a critical piece in providing a safe and effective response to 911 calls at the level of service our citizens expect and deserve," said Capt. Bellinghausen.

"What we will be able to purchase are; replacement fire engines and breathing apparatus, modernize technology and equipment for firefighter safety and emergency response," he said. "The bond will also pay for design and construction of a new fire station in an area that is currently underserved and modernize our existing stations."

The South King Fire and Rescue commissioners proposed the bond because the population in the district is increasing and that trend is expected to continue.



Commentary

Kiki Turner

"District safety equipment, emergency response, technology and facilities are in need of improvement and rehabilitation to continue to provide 911 emergency services for fire and basic life support," Capt. Bellinghausen said.

There are many repairs that are necessary, such as "The main fire station in Des Moines needs a new roof and other safety improvements," he said. "The fire boat stationed at the Des Moines Marina is nearing the end of its life expectancy and needs to be replaced as will a fire engine and aid car. The second fire station in the city of

Des Moines near South 272nd Street and 16th Avenue South is our oldest station and will receive an extreme makeover. The only thing that won't be rebuilt are the exterior walls and the roof."

The improvements will be beneficial to everyone who relies on the fire department.

Capt. Bellinghausen said, "South King Fire & Rescue has one of the highest cardiac resuscitation rates in the world," Capt. Bellinghausen said. "We have been given the best insurance rating in the state (only Seattle and Bellevue share this rating), [which means] lower insurance costs to our citizens and we have not asked for a bond measure in more than 20 years. The passage of this Fire-fighter Safety and Emergency Response bond measure will place us on the right path for the next 20 years."

Voting yes for the bond amounts to voting yes for your safety.

It's you saying yes you care about where you live and the people who live here, too.

The firefighters who fight to protect us need our help just as much as we need them.

We all play apart in serving and protecting our community. So vote yes.

the Staff “

Leave before your mind gets tainted!

” E-Mail: tword@highline.edu

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Artichokes are a funny, flavorful flower

By Angela Shelf Medearis and Gina Harlow

It's strange, it's lovely, it's a thistle, it's a flower, it's the pale-green blossom of spring -- it's the artichoke. Artichokes are in season, so it's time to go to the market and get some thorny deliciousness for yourself.

Artichokes may be a food you think you know -- stripped down to its heart and frozen and packaged in a box, jar or can. But artichokes are delicious in all their forms. If you've never had the chance to buy them in their full, sculptural beauty, fresh off the plant, mature or young and tender, then you're truly missing something.

The artichoke is a member of the cardoon family, which is native to the Mediterranean. Cultivation began there as early as the 9th century.

The artichoke likes mild, dry climates for growing, and in the United States it seems to prefer California's central valley almost exclusively. Being what it is, a leafy flower, makes it a great source of fiber. It's also high in vitamin C and magnesium.

If you live in California, you've probably had the chance to savor a fresh artichoke. However, it might seem a little exotic to the rest of us. The big round globe, with all its layers, might be a little intimidating. What to do with it? What is edible?



Fresh artichokes are a treat and in season.

What is not?

Use fresh artichokes within a few days of purchase. You may want to trim off the prickly points of the leaves before preparing them. Surprisingly, most of the flower is edible. The only exceptions are the more fibrous end of the stem (the upper part of the stem is very good) and the center. This part of the large, mature artichoke is inedible.

There are many tasty and attractive ways to prepare fresh artichokes. Large heads are delicious stuffed and roasted. Or artichokes can be steamed and the leaves removed and served for dipping into any sauce your imagination allows. Once the fuzzy center -- the "choke" of the artichoke -- is removed, the hollowed out core can be used as a serving dish for salads or soups. Small, young artichokes don't have to have the fibrous center choke removed, and can be cooked and eaten whole.

Try this wonderful recipe for Lemon Chicken With Artichokes and Olives. The simple combination of flavors showcases artichokes in a delicious way.

LEMON CHICKEN WITH ARTICHOKE AND OLIVES

- 1 large (4 pound) chicken, halved, backbone removed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons poultry seasoning
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 6 whole garlic cloves with skins on
- 5 large artichoke hearts, quartered, 3 1/2 pounds total (See "How to Prep Hearts" below)
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon peel
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 cup unpitted green olives
- 5 flat-leaf parsley sprigs

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Heat oil and butter in large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken all over with poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Lay chicken in hot oil, skin-

side down. Cook until browned, about 5 minutes. Turn chicken over. Pour the chicken broth around the outside edges of the chicken. Add the garlic, artichokes, lemon juice and lemon peel.

2. Roast chicken in oven, uncovered, until cooked through, about 1 hour or when temperature reaches 165 F on thermometer placed in thickest part of the thigh without touching bone. Remove the bird from the oven; let rest 10 minutes. (The thigh meat is forgiving, even if overcooked. In fact, it becomes more tender when cooked to at least 160 F.) Add olives and parsley and serve immediately. Serves 4 to 6.

How to Prep Artichoke Hearts: Snap off thick green outer leaves down to yellowish core. Halve artichokes crosswise; discard thorny tips. Trim stem to about 1/2 inch and peel tough outer skin from remaining stem. Halve artichoke lengthwise; scoop out and discard fuzzy, red-tipped choke. Put hearts in cold water with a little lemon juice and set aside until you're ready to cook.

...
Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook. Her website is www.divapro.com.

To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook.

Read Gina Harlow's blog about food and gardening at www.peachesandprosciutto.com. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

Comfort foods



by Healthy Exchanges

Irish skillet perfect for St. Patrick's

I've been proud of my Irish heritage ever since I was young enough to wear shamrocks and green clothing on St. Patrick's Day.

IRISH SKILLET

- 1/3 cup water
- 3 cups thinly sliced raw potatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 3 cups chopped cabbage
- 1 1/2 cups shredded carrots
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 (2.5-ounce) packages lean corned beef, shredded

1. Put water in bottom of a 10-inch skillet. Arrange sliced potatoes in water. Layer onion, cabbage, carrots, parsley flakes and black pepper over potatoes. Top with corned beef.

2. Cover and simmer over medium heat for 20 minutes, or until potatoes and vegetables are tender. Mix well before serving. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

* Each serving equals: 142 calories, 2g fat, 10g protein, 21g carb., 497mg sodium, 4g fiber.

Pancakes, pie make pleasant Paddy's Day treats

Upside-Down Shepherd's Pie

- 1 package (20 ounces) refrigerated mashed potatoes
- 1 pound lean (90 percent) ground beef
- 1 tablespoon margarine or butter
- 1 cup chopped onions (half a 10-ounce bag)
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1/2 cup loosely packed fresh parsley leaves, chopped
- 1/3 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- Dill sprigs for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Spray 1 1/2-quart ceramic or glass baking dish or deep-dish pie plate with nonstick cooking spray. Press cold mashed potatoes onto bottom and up sides

Good Housekeeping

of casserole. Bake potato crust 20 minutes or until edge is golden.

2. Meanwhile, heat 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add ground beef and cook 4 to 5 minutes or until beef is no longer pink, breaking it up with side of spoon. Spoon beef into paper-towel-lined bowl to drain.

3. In same skillet, melt margarine over medium heat. Add onions and cook 6 to 7 minutes or until tender and golden, stirring occasionally. Return beef to skillet with onions. Stir in ketchup and dried dill. Reduce heat to low; stir in parsley and sour cream.

4. Spoon ground-beef mixture into mashed-potato crust;

garnish with dill sprigs to serve. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

* Each serving: About 490 calories, 26g protein, 31g carbohydrate, 29g total fat (12g saturated), 3g fiber, 94mg cholesterol, 945mg sodium.

Green Velvet Pancakes

Add some St. Patrick's Day spirit to your breakfast with these lively, green silver-dollar pancakes. Topped with sweet cream cheese glaze and good luck charms, they're a perfect way to start the day!

- Pancakes:
- 1 cup plain or buttermilk pancake mix
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- Green food coloring, for tinting

- Topping:
- 4 tablespoons cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 cup Lucky Charms (cereal and marshmallow bits)

1. Preheat oven to 250 F. Place cookie sheet in oven.
2. Make pancakes: In large bowl, whisk pancake mix, egg, milk, butter, granulated sugar and green food coloring until combined with a few lumps.
3. Lightly grease a griddle or 12-inch, nonstick skillet; heat on medium heat until very hot.
4. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls of batter onto hot griddle.

Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until cooked through, flipping once. Transfer to cookie sheet in the oven to keep warm.

5. Make topping: In medium bowl, with hand-mixer on medium, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and milk until smooth.

6. Serve silver dollar pancakes topped with cream-cheese glaze and Lucky Charms. Makes about 2 dozen.

TIP: To make this recipe even faster, prepare your favorite pancake mix (tinted green) as the label directs and serve with the cream-cheese glaze.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		6			8	9		
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		2		8			9	5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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1. **LITERATURE:** Who wrote *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of India?
3. **HISTORY:** In what year were East and West Germany reunified?
4. **MUSIC:** What pop music artist's first live album was titled *11-17-70*?
5. **ANATOMY:** What is a synapse?
6. **ART:** What are putti?
7. **FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** What 18th-century doctor and writer once said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."
8. **NATURAL WORLD:** What kind of creature is a merganser?

9. **ENTERTAINERS:** What was Bob Hope's real name?
10. **LANGUAGE:** What are the two shortest words in English that contain the letters a, b, c, d, e and f?

ANSWERS

1. Washington Irving
2. New Delhi
3. 1990
4. Elton John
5. Gap between two neurons
6. Naked infant boys in artwork
7. Samuel Johnson
8. Duck
9. Leslie Townes Hope
10. Feedback and boldface

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 9

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King Crossword

Answers on
Page 17

ACROSS

- 1 Actor Cobb
- 5 One
- 9 Upper limit
- 12 City of India
- 13 Forbidden act
- 14 In vitro cells
- 15 Standard
- 16 Solidarity symbol
- 17 Archaeo logical site
- 18 Being, to Brutus
- 19 Illustrations
- 20 Green stone
- 21 Tackle moguls
- 23 Ostrich's cousin
- 25 Woodsy shout
- 28 1983 Michener bestseller
- 32 The sort who'll court
- 33 Leg bone
- 34 Ahead
- 36 Swell
- 37 Catcher's place?
- 38 List-ending abbr.
- 39 Play area
- 42 Meadow
- 44 "Phooey!"
- 48 Praise in verse
- 49 Boring

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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51				52					53			
54				55					56			

- 50 Capri, e.g.
- 51 Triumphed
- 52 Malaria symptom
- 53 Deposited
- 54 "Acid"
- 55 Pinochle ploy
- 56 Pairs
- film-wise
- 7 Foot part
- 8 Youngster
- 9 Last few notes
- 10 Enthusiastic, plus
- 11 Senate staffer
- 20 TV's "French Chef"
- 22 Massachu- setts politico John
- 24 Sacred composition
- 25 Low card
- 26 Charged bit
- 27 Tend the grass
- 29 "The View"
- airer
- 30 Medical research org.
- 31 Rotation duration
- 35 Flood
- 36 Rang out
- 39 Prolonged cry of grief
- 40 Fussess
- 41 Tear asunder
- 43 Hebrew month
- 45 Biblical brother
- 46 Advertising award
- 47 Kesey and Follett
- 49 Beavers' creation

DOWN

- 1 Highway division
- 2 Hollywood clashers
- 3 Blunders
- 4 Chef with an epony- mous award
- 5 Prejudiced
- 6 Bleak,

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A pesky health problem should clear up soon. Meanwhile, travel — both for personal as well as for business reasons — is strong in the Aries aspect this week, and well into the next.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Look for Bovines to be on the move this week, whether it's traveling for fun or for business. Other "moves" include workplace adjustments and, for some, relationship changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Geminis who have just gone through a hectic period involving job and/or family matters might want to take some well-earned time out to relax and restore those drained energy levels.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A romantic situation seems to have stalled, just when the Moon Child was expecting it to go forward. Could that be a bad case of miscommunication going on. Talk it over openly and honestly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Showing a genuine interest in something that's important to



a friend, family member or colleague could open a communication line that had been pretty much shut down for a while.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making a potentially life-changing decision takes as much knowledge as you can gather, plus determination and patience. Take your time working it out. Don't let anyone rush you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You should be back on schedule and heading in the right direction after clearing up a misunderstanding. But there could still be some setbacks. If so, correct them immediately.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A business matter keeps you pretty busy, but try to squeeze in time to be with family as well as close friends. You need the good vibrations you get from people who care for you.

SAGITTARIUS (November

22 to December 21) Investing in an attractive prospect (business or personal) with little or no information can be risky. Avoid future problems by getting all the facts before you act.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone close to you might have an unexpected reaction to a decision you feel you're prepared to make. Listen to his or her point of view. It could prove to be surprisingly helpful.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't give up yet. That once warm, personal relationship that seems to be cooling off fast could recover with some tender, loving care, and who better than you to provide it?

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Career matters are strong this week. You might want to enter a training program to enhance your skills. Also, consider getting professional help in preparing a brilliant resume.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of respecting the feelings of others, which is one reason people feel comfortable having you in their lives.



- Artists will take over next month when Artists United takes over the entire Burien Arts Gallery for their Annual Juried Art Show. Members of the group work in a variety of artforms, including watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, mixed media, photography, pottery, printmaking, glass and jewelry. Visitors can vote for the People's Choice award throughout the run of the show, March 4 to March 29. There is also a meet the artists event at the opening reception on Friday, March 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. The Burien Arts Gallery is located at 826 S.W. 152nd St. in Burien. They are open Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The Gallery is closed Monday and Tuesday.
- Snap along with the perspectives and ideas of your peers at the Poetry Lounge in the Inter-Cultural Center today. The Intercultural Center is hosting this event to give students the opportunity to share their original poetry in front of an audience. Anyone is encouraged to participate in this event, and no one is excluded. The event begins at 11 a.m. today, March 12, and no pre-registration is required. The Inter-Cultural Center is located on the second floor of Building 8, room 209.
- Make your drinks, and drink them too at the Sake 101 Class at Downtown Spirits in Seattle. Sake Specialist, Jennifer Ross will teach the class and will cover different styles of sake from different regions. Class attendees will taste and learn about premium, hand-crafted Japanese sake and walk away with a deeper understanding of this category of wine. Attendees must be at least 21 years-old to participate. This class is free to attend, and will take place at 6:30 p.m. on March 25. To RSVP your space in the class, email info@downtownspirits.com. Downtown Spirits is located at 2300 7th Ave. in Seattle.

Party one night at museum

By Jordan Mellott
Staff Reporter

Students can spend an evening of music, activities, art and more among the Seattle Art Museum's current collection at the SAM Remix.

The event will be in the entire Seattle Art Museum building on Friday, March 13.

The SAM Remix occurs three times a year. In the summertime, the event is at the museum's Olympic Sculpture Park on the Seattle waterfront.

"SAM Remix started small in the winter 2007 with an attendance of 200, and now the event regularly sells to a capacity crowd of 2,800," said Wendy Malloy, the museum's public relations manager.

"About 50 percent of the attendees are young adults," she said.

Friday night's activities will be themed after one of the museum's current exhibitions: Indigenous Beauty: Masterworks of American Indian Art from the Diker Collection.



Seattle Art Museum
People dancing at the last Seattle Art Museum Remix.

- Activities at the Remix will include:
- An exploration of Native culture through portraits with Wendy Red Star
 - Working with artist Alicia Betty to create Duchamp-inspired silhouettes
 - Building Rube Goldberg-type machines with Romson Bustillo and architects from Weber Thompson

- Playing the game Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna), which was developed in collaboration with the Iñupiat, an Alaskan Native people
 - DJ Doc Adam and dj100proof will be the musical entertainment for the event.
 - Special guests will lead "My Favorite Things: Highly Opinionated Tours" through the museum's galleries.
- Tour guides will include Cliff Burrows, Starbucks' group president of the U.S., Americas and Teavana; and Jonathan Cunningham, manager of Youth Programs and Community Outreach at Seattle's EMP Museum.
- The event is for people ages 18 and older.
- Tickets to the event are \$25 for adults; \$20 for students; and \$12 for Seattle Art Museum members. They can be purchased at tickets.seattleart-museum.org/public/auto_choose_ga.asp?area=1.
- The event is on Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight and is at the Seattle Art Museum at 1300 First Ave., Seattle.

Ballet performance graces Kent

By Jeff Rowden
Staff Reporter

The Brigham Young University Theatre Ballet comes to the Kentwood Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 12 for an evening of *Fairy Tales and Fantasy*.

The BYU Theatre Ballet is the university's top ballet touring company and will be performing selections from classic ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Don Quixote*, and more for audiences of all ages.

The ballet's theme of Fairy Tales & Fantasy is an extension and compilation of the best selections from the full-length ballets the company does on campus in Provo, Utah.

The company has taken the selections on the road through the western regions of the United States, and in recent years have toured to Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California.



City of Kent
The Brigham Young University Theatre Ballet will perform at the Kentwood Performing Arts Center March 12 during an Evening of Fairy Tales and Fantasy.

- "I am working to expand the company's repertoire as we bring guests that will expose these dancers to the most exciting ballet opportunities that are rarely offered at the university level," said Shani Robinson, the artistic director of the BYU Theatre Ballet.
- The audience is encouraged to come dressed as fairy tale royalty and meet the cast in the Prince and Princess Pre-show Party, where attendees can take pictures and meet the cast and dancers.
- The show starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are available for \$22 general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for children.
- Tickets can be bought online at kentwa.gov or the night of the show at the Kentwood Performing Arts Center at 25800 164th Ave. SE in Covington.

Local events embrace St. Paddy's

By Jeff Rowden
Staff Reporter

The Seattle area is rich in Irish history and culture, and this St. Patrick's Day, there will be no shortage of ways to celebrate for people of all ages.

•AFK Elixirs & Eatery in Renton will feature live comedy at 7:30 p.m. on March 17 by Brian Moote, the morning radio host on 98.9 FM. Enjoy a geek-culture themed restaurant with food that will build up your XP, and a selection of beer on tap and cocktails that will take you to the next level.

- Mick Kelly's Irish Pub in Burien will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with three live bands and a DJ on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

- On March 15, the Cove to Clover 5k Marathon will start at the Normandy Park Community Club at noon and finish at the Burien Masonic Lodge.

Race Day registration will be at the Burien Masonic Lodge from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. There will be a free shuttle from the registration location to the start line from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

- Come walk in the biggest St. Patrick's Day parade in the Seattle area at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. The parade will head north on Fourth Avenue and Jefferson Street to

Renton Civic Theater is located at 507 S. 3rd St. in Renton.



Westlake Park at Pine Street. Parade attendees are encouraged to join in the parade and walk with any of the groups participating. Closing ceremonies will be at the main stage in the Seattle Center Armory.

- After the St. Patrick's Day Parade through downtown, there will be a free Irish Festival in the Seattle Center Armory on Saturday and Sunday,

March 14 and 15. The festival features Irish music performers, Irish dancing, Irish and Celtic products for sale, lectures, cultural displays, children's activities, genealogy and history Workshops, art exhibits, a film festival, and more.

The festival is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday March 14 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday March 15.

By Ashley Johnson
Staff Reporter

A man with a shaved head and goatee, wearing a dark striped shirt, holding several wooden sticks (possibly drumsticks) in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand.

“Music is an important part of their lives, for most people,” said Dr. Ben Thomas, coordinator of the Music Department. “We have something for all people.”

to more experienced musicians such as Jazz History, 20th Century Concert Music, and Intermediate Voice.

More advanced music classes are Advanced Art Song Class Voice, Vocal Technique and Performance III.

The music instructors are Dr. Glover, Dr. Thomas, Todd Zimberg and Dr. Sydney Stegall.

Dr. Glover's voice class performs every quarter. The music program will be expanding such performances next year, Dr. Thomas said.

Highline also offers classes

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SP9810

T-Birds finish sixth in championships

By Charles Prater
Staff Reporter

The men’s basketball team finished sixth in the NWAC tournament after going 2-2 in the four-day affair.

Handling their business in the first round against Wenatchee Valley, Highline lost a nail-biter in the second round to Peninsula.

The T-Birds next played in the consolation bracket and beat Pierce in double overtime, only to lose to Bellevue for a chance at fifth place.

The T-Birds came in to the tournament as a No. 2 seed from the West Division ready to make some noise.

Peninsula was a fourth seed from the North Division. The two teams previously played each other in the first game of the year, with Highline winning 81-54.

With 35 seconds left to go and the game tied at 81, Peninsula’s Deonte Dixon drained a mid-range jumper with 12 seconds left on the clock to lift the Pirates to an 83-81 victory over Highline.

“Ironically we did not do what we did the day before, win the battle on the glass,” said Head Coach Che Dawson. “That was a lack of focus, effort and a sense of urgency. I’m afraid we overlooked them a bit.”

Peninsula went on to lose to Edmonds in the semi-finals and Edmonds lost to eventual champion Clark.

Highline seemed to have the game in hand, taking a 44-31 lead with 3:31 left before halftime.

The Pirates cut it down to nine by getting to the free throw line, closing to 46-37 at the half.

The second half saw a lot of fight in the Pirates, as they battled their way back in the game.

Both teams traded buckets with the T-Birds up 78-75 at 1:44 left.

A steal by Peninsula’s Jonah Cook gave them the ball.

With time ticking off the shot clock, Peninsula freshman Riley Callaghan raised up for a three, knocking it down and drawing a foul from Highline.

Hitting the free throw put the Pirates up 79-78 with 1:41 left in the game.

After making his first free throw, Doug McDaniel missed the second one and the Pirates recovered the rebound and score another basket to put them up, 81-79.

Sophomore Madison McCaffrey, went to the line with 35 seconds left to tie the game, only for that tie to be erased with Dixon’s bucket at the end.

“Well they made some really tough plays and shots down the stretch,” said Highline forward



NWAC Photo
Highline’s Doug McDaniel drives for a lay-up in Saturdays win against Wenatchee Valley.

Ben Tucakovic. “It didn’t help that we made some bonehead plays. We fouled a three-point shooter and he made the shot. Just broke down defensively.”

Peninsula’s Deonte Dixon led all scorers with 35 points.

McCaffrey led Highline with 18 points. Harold Lee scored 12 points and Jimmy Kuem and Tucakovic netted 10 points each.

Highline opened against Wenatchee Valley.

From start to finish the T-Birds had control in this game, never giving the Knights a single lead. The T-Birds went on to win 67-57.

“The biggest thing was we just stuck together. There were a lot of moments in the game where we could’ve stopped playing and given up,” said Tucakovic.

Tucakovic was the leading scorer for the T-Birds with 15 points. Jimmy Kuem was all over the place in the second half, tallying 10 points, seven rebounds, five assists, and a block and a steal.

“We executed well offensively and did a great job in the game against a good rebounding team,” said Coach Dawson.

The T-Birds next game was on Monday against fellow West Division rival Pierce, with the T-Birds prevailing 80-76 in double overtime.

Highline ran up some early leads, but the Raiders eventually took the lead with 3:09 left.

Pierce got the ball back and wound down the shot clock before hoisting up a missed three, but Pierce’s Keaton Corr recovered the rebound and kicked it out to Tre Benton, who knocked

threes in the game and scoring 27 points along with five rebounds and five assist.

Tucakovic recorded a double double with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

After beating Pierce, the Thunderbirds had a chance to place fifth with a win over Bellevue. After a strong first-half effort, they fell apart in the second half, losing 80-64.

This was Highline’s third loss to Bellevue this season.

Against one of the top defensive teams in the league, Highline shot the ball well in the first half, going 12 out of 26 and ending the half tied 32-32.

At the start of the second half, a lot of fouls were called on the T-Birds, with the Bulldogs’ taking full advantage of it and going on a 13-0 run.

The Thunderbirds tried their best to get back into the game, but the Bulldogs’ rebounding and three-point shooting was too much to overcome.

With the score at 70-56 and seven minutes left in the game, the T-Birds had a chance but the Bulldogs grabbed three offensive rebounds in a row to not only keep possession of the ball but kill some time off the clock.

Bellevue had four players in double figures.

Highline’s Doug McDaniel went four out of nine from the

three-point range to score 24 points total and Keum came off the bench to score 12 points.

“It was a good team effort. Nobody had an outstanding tournament,” said Coach Dawson. “Our collective inconsistency on both ends of the floor proved to make it difficult for us to win as many games as we wanted to win.”

The 2015 men’s basketball team will look a little different, as seven players will be graduating.

Captains Isom Brown and A.J Banks are among the players graduating, uplus Ben Tucakovic, Harold Lee, Madison McCaffrey, Jimmy Keum, and Doug McDaniel.

“I have been contacted by four-year schools about all seven of our sophomores. A couple of them have offers on the table,” said Coach Dawson.

“They need to finish the year strong academically to have an opportunity to get an education at the next level,” he said.

“I definitely plan on moving on to a four-year university, hopefully College of Idaho,” said Tucakovic.

Of the returning players, five will be sophomores next season. Guard Caden Rowland and forward Remeake Keith should see more playing time in their respected positions, along with Reynaldo Cheney, Sundiata Edwards and Keeandre Rowland.



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Lady T-Birds stumble at NWAC tourney

By **Mikel Abraha**
Staff Reporter

The Lady Thunderbirds left the 2015 NWAC tournament not having fulfilled their goal of a title.

They beat Wenatchee Valley and lost their next two games against Peninsula and Columbia Basin.

They went head to head with the Wenatchee Valley Knights and came up with a hard fought 74-62 win.

Wenatchee Valley kept a close lead for most of the first half but came up short due to Highline's usual second half push.

This game consisted of 10 lead changes but the most important lead change came with just under five minutes to play.

Highline went up 61-60 and then scored nine unanswered points to finish the game on a 13-2 run.

Allie Weathersby led the way for the Lady Thunderbirds with 15 points, while Chardonnae Miller added 11 and Ionna Price pitched in nine.

Darian Gasseling scored a team high 17 point for the Wenatchee Valley knights.

Highline lost their next game to eventual champions Peninsula, 69-55.



NWAC Photo
Allie Weathersby drives against a Wenatchee Valley defender in Saturdays win. The T-Birds then lost their next two games.

The T-Birds played a competitive first half and were down 32-30 to the Pirates.

The Lady T-Birds played what seemed to be a great first half but weren't able to turn it on in the second while Peninsula never looked back.

"We played hard against Peninsula. We really wanted to win that game, we just came up short. Shots that would normally go in for us, didn't," Weathersby said.

Imani Smith led the Pirates with 20 points and 9 rebounds while teammate Gabi Fenumiai pitched in 15 points.

Miller tallied 16 points and

10 rebounds for Highline.

Brittany Barrington, Allie Weathersby and Ionna price went for a combined 8 for 39 from the field.

"We had a weird vibe from the very start that day. I thought that some key players didn't play as well as they should and the ball didn't move like it did against Wenatchee," Price said.

The T-Birds went on to play Columbia Basin in the consolation bracket in day three of the tournament.

Highline ran into a brick wall in Columbia Basin for a chance at fifth place, losing 104-65.

The Hawks were on fire, making 11 of their 13 three-point attempts and scoring a record setting 61 first half points.

"There was some motivation to win but that dwindled as they shot the lights all game, and the loss against Peninsula was still lingering," said Price.

"As a team we wanted to win that game to get a trophy regardless, but we couldn't even get a shot to go in for us," Weathersby said.

"It makes it even harder when the other team can't miss a three."

Sydney Mercer had 29 points for the Hawks. Lyndsay Oswalt also had 21 point for the Hawks.

Gabby Evans and Chardonnae Miller were the top scorers for Highline with 11 points each while Ionna Price added in 10.

Although the season did not result in a Cinderella story, the T-Birds say they are proud of their season.

"The season was unforgettable. The journey leading up to the NWAC tournament was amazing and through the ups and downs this season was a fun one," said Weathersby.

"I absolutely love my teammates and I'm so happy I was able to play with all those girls. Tough way to end the season but I'm thankful for my teammates."

Scoreboard		
Woman's Softball		
Team	Conference W-L	Season W-L
West Division		
Pierce	0-0	4-2
Centralia	0-1	4-3
Green River	0-0	0-2
Highline	0-0	1-5
Grays Harbor	0-0	0-4
South Puget Sound	0-0	0-4
South Division		
Clackamas	1-0	7-3
SW Oregon	0-0	8-1
Mt. Hood	0-0	8-2
Clackamas	0-0	5-2
Lower Columbia	0-0	6-4
Clark	0-0	4-4
North Division		
Bellevue	0-0	7-3
Everett	0-0	1-1
Shoreline	0-0	0-2
Olympic	0-0	1-3
Edmonds	0-0	0-4
Skagit Valley	0-0	0-0
Douglas	0-0	0-0
East Division		
North Idaho	0-0	9-2
Spokane	0-0	6-1
Columbia Basin	0-0	6-2
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	6-2
Walla Walla	0-0	2-5
Treasure Valley	0-0	1-5
Big Bend	0-0	2-6
Blue Mountain	0-0	1-7
Yakima Valley	0-0	0-6

Water park to bring summertime fun

By **Liam Reece**
Staff Reporter

A summer waterfront activity center is being created in Des Moines.

The Waterland Adventure Center is a City of Des Moines project meant to boost summertime tourism and get people to use the multiple waterfronts in the area.

Last year the committee in charge of the project received a \$10,000 sponsorship from Seattle Southside Visitor Services to put the project in action, according to the public notes from the Dec. 17 Waterland Adventure Center Committee meeting.

The Waterland Adventure centers will be at the Des Moines Marina/Beach Park and at Redondo Beach.

"We're getting businesses together to provide activities and get people on the water," said Patrice Thorell, director of Parks, Recreation and Senior Services.

Activities for the Waterland Adventure Center include hiking, bike rentals, kayak tours, paddleboard

classes, scuba diving charters and lessons, Puget Sound tours, and a kids' summertime adventure camp.

Highline's Marine and Science Technology Center is one among many advertised local destinations for people using water trails provided by the Waterland Adventure Center. Water trail destinations are meant to be places for people to visit while having fun on the water.

"If people want to visit the aquarium, they can," Thorell said.

"We are working with the Marina, the Olympics Outdoors Center, Seattle Southside Visitor Services, Argosy Cruises, Hula K Adventures, Ocean Quest Dive Charters, TL Sea Diving, the MaST Center, and many other local businesses," Thorell said.

The Waterland Adventure Center will open this June, depending upon the weather.

A website is being created that will give people more information about the water activities offered and allow people to sign up for activities in advance.

Highline wrestling faces big offseason recruiting challenge

By **Xavier L. Henderson**
Staff Reporter

Although Highline holds the crown for the best academics in the country, recruiting wrestlers for next season presents challenges for the T-Bird wrestling program.

Highline stands as one of the few two-year colleges left in Washington to have an actual wrestling program.

All other schools have ended their programs due to lack of funding, scholarships and popularity.

"We are very good academically. There's no reason to cut our program," said Assistant Coach Brad Luvaas.

Highline won the National Academic Championship this year, for the second year in row.

In 2014, Highline's average G.P.A. was 3.49, and in 2015 the average G.P.A. is 3.17.

Luvaas said that Highline wrestlers win awards for having high grades, and there's nothing detrimental about having a wrestling program at Highline, despite the lack of popularity.

However some challenges

Highline faces with recruiting come from the lack of funding and not having dorms on campus.

Luvaas said while other two-year colleges in Region 18 give full-ride scholarships to their wrestling programs, Highline does not.

"It's hard to compete with recruiting wrestlers when we don't have dorms here," said Luvaas. "Where will the kids live? The apartments by the school are too expensive for their own budget."

Highline does offer scholarships to wrestlers who are being recruited.

"We get, \$9,000 in scholarship money to recruit," said Luvaas. "Whereas Clackamas gets triple our amount."

Luvaas said people come to Highline to wrestle for Head Coach Scott Norton and for the academics. A goal for the wrestlers is to transfer to a four-year college.

Luvaas said mixed martial arts is an option, and so is wrestling at D1 colleges, for wrestlers who move on from Highline.

Luvaas said the most people who go on to mixed martial

arts don't come into college expecting that. MMA is something most wrestlers who have no more eligibility venture to do.

"Wrestling is an addiction. You won't understand it unless you wrestle. It's a drug and you're just looking for a fix," said Luvaas.

Highline's only All American wrestler this year, Ben Tynan, will graduate and keep his options open for a potential D1 college to wrestle at.

Luvaas said the coaching staff also doesn't know who will return from this year's squad for the 2015-16 season.

The Thunderword needs a photo editor and an assistant business manager for spring. Send a resume and cover letter to thunderword@highline.edu

Learn how to fight like a luchador

By Enrique J. Montoya Siordia
Staff Reporter

Create an alter-ego, learn to wrestle and get in shape with others during your free time at Lucha Libre Volcanica.

Renton-based Lucha Libre Volcanica is the only place in the Pacific Northwest to see authentic Lucha Libre in action.

Lucha Libre is a traditional Mexican form of wrestling where the wrestlers dress as characters that represent good and evil or other cultural traditions.

This type of wrestling is similar to the WWE in the United States. Lucha Libre is a sport-entertaining event.

In the Lucha Libre style, wrestlers known as luchadores not only use common American wrestling moves, but they also use acrobatic attacks where they fly in the air to hit their enemy.

Jose Luis Gomez, who has 35 years of experience professionally wrestling in Mexico, founded Lucha Libre Volcanica.

"I've known this my whole life and it only made sense to teach it and keep working with in the industry," said Gomez.

Gomez said he started wrestling because it was a popular tradition back in Mexico and there were a lot of other people doing it in the area.

It's a Lucha Libre tradition to keep your identity secret much like a super hero.

In press and public events where luchadores are invited, they will either wear their masks or go by their luchador name since masks are not required although highly popular in the culture.

Luchadores are careful to



Enrique J. Montoya Siordia/THUNDERWORD

Gringo Loco faces off against an opponent during match at Lucha Libre Volcanica.

choose a name that represents them, since that's the identity they will publicly go by.

Gomez went by a couple different names during his career but he said they were always related to the rock and roll culture that he always liked. Some of his names were Baby Rock and La Garra Acesina.

Avispa, a luchadora, female for luchador, said "I chose Avispa, which is Spanish for wasp, because I'm vicious and like to fly around when I'm in the ring."

Luchador Peligro Jr. (Spanish for Danger Jr.) said, "I chose my name in honor of my dad and Luchador Peligro. I also did it because I'm dangerous in the ring."

There are two types of

luchadores in the Lucha Libre culture, technicos and rudos.

Technicos, which translate to technical wrestlers, are usually the ones that use acrobatic moves and are known as the good guys that follow the match rules and usually are fan favorites.

Rudos are the ones that break the rules and are more brutal. In American style wrestling like WWE they are known as heels.

Rudos and technicos are rival styles but there could be matches where they put rudos versus rudos and vice versa.

There are lots of rivalry in Lucha Libre and usually the main event will be two known rivals wrestling against each other.

There are wrestling match-

es to gain respect and honor, where the loser of the match must give away his mask to the winner and reveal his identity to the public. If the wrestler doesn't have a mask, he might then shave his head inside the ring after the match.

Luchadores don't only bet their masks and hair, but they can fight for championship belts and retirement fights, where the loser will have to retire.

The popularity of the sport and heritage of it is why lots of luchadores start wrestling.

Gomez's students said they started wrestling because they like to stay active, enjoy contact sports and the Lucha Libre culture.

Luchador Heroe (Spanish for hero) said, "I always loved con-

tact sports. I did capoeira, Brazilian martial arts for a while and transitioned into Lucha Libre about six years ago."

"I love wresting and I'm pretty crazy, so I like to jump and fly around the ring," said luchador Gringo Loco.

Gomez said he has a big college fan base from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

Wrestling matches for the school are advertised at the University of Puget Sound and there have been up to 2,000 college students in the audience for their summer matches, Gomez said.

Lucha libre Volcanica has up to two events a month in their gym free of admission and over summer they stage events at different locations such as the University of Puget Sound.

Anyone interested in going to their live events can find out the time and details at their Facebook page Lucha Libre Volcanica. They can also be contacted over the phone at 206-790-4469 or 360-910-4535 for live events and information on joining the school.

At the school, students are involved in different programs to develop good technique, physical condition, safety, and develop a character. Students are instructed by various professional luchadores in their programs.

The school accepts anyone over the age of 13 no matter how much experience they have and tuition is only \$150 per month. Every month students would receive eight classes and days vary depending on skill level.

The school is located in Renton at 355 Rainier Ave. N.

Gomez said he has plans to grow the school to a bigger gym to allow for a bigger crowd and more space for the students.

The world of competitive gaming deserves respect

Competitive video games or E-sports, are getting big and it's only a matter of time before they are just as big as traditional sports.

Although they will never replace sports, I can assure you they will be just as popular, and perhaps they already are.

All around the world e-sport tournaments, annual competitions and leagues are popping up. Just to name a few; Major League Gaming, DreamHack, Evo, League of Legends World Championship, and one close to home, the most important, The International.

Last year The International 4, an annual tournament for the multiplayer online battle arena game Dota 2 had a crowd sourced prize pool of over 10 million dollars. That's five times more than the Tour de France and 3 million shy of the NBA playoffs prize pool.

This is not a coincidence;



Commentary
Agatha Pacheco

The International had 20 million viewers not including ESPN, Xbox and CCTV.

I like to think that e-sports are similar to traditional sports but better. They require a much higher level of thinking and strategizing because the games in

question are much more in-depth than any sport could ever be.

Games like Dota 2, Starcraft II, Super Smash Bros Melee, and League of Legends require you to have a quick reaction time, and an understanding of the ins and outs of the situations and, in the case of Dota 2 and League of Legends; the ability to work in a team.

These games are real-time strategy games (think chess without turns).

The game itself is constantly being updated to promote creativity and prevent repetitiveness of strategy among the professional players. This does not mean changing the game, rather it means tweaking small details within the game.

In traditional sports every strategy has already been used once before, there is nothing new to figure out. A basketball coach may be surprised by the

strategy the other team chose to use but it's likely he's seen in before.

Where sports like basketball and football lack innovation because they are figured out and the strategies are common, e-sports thrive in innovation and new discoveries.

Like creativity, there is a lot that isn't possible in traditional sports that is possible in e-sports.

You have more of a change of playing a game of Dota 2 with Jeremy Lin than playing one-on-one basketball with him. In the world of online gaming, playing with the e-sports pros is not uncommon.

Anyone has the potential to be as good as the professional players; you aren't limited by your genetics. If you're 5'2" it's unlikely you will play in the NBA, however your chance of becoming an e-sport pro is not determined by uncontrollable

factors like your height.

All that matters is you have the dedication and brain power to learn and understand the games.

Professional Starcraft II players input roughly six commands per second and the average Starcraft II game lasts 10 to 20 minutes. Every command is essential to winning. This give you only a taste of what it means to "understand and learn" a game. That's just a one player game; imagine thinking about your precise commands while coordinating with four other teammates as you would in Dota 2 or League of Legends.

It's time to give e-sports and the video game industry that made competitive gaming possible, the respect it deserves. These are not just gamers they are athletes.

Agatha Pacheco is the editor-in-chief of the Thunderword and is not afraid of criticism.

Boardwalk repair costs soar and no date set for starting

By Tanner Post
Staff Reporter

Increased repair costs for the Redondo boardwalk have now set the rebuild date back to sometime in the spring or summer of 2016.

A storm late last November heavily damaged the popular three-quarter mile boardwalk and forced its closure. Waves driven by winds from the northwest popped planking and pounded the underpinnings of the walkway.

The boardwalk has been fenced off since that time.

Initial estimated costs to repair the boardwalk were in the ballpark of \$2 million. The estimate has now grown to \$2.7 million.

City of Des Moines engineers once considered a concrete deck to replace the wood planking, but the higher cost is making a concrete deck installation unlikely.

The city is seeking emergency relief funding for the project from the Federal Emergency Management Administration, which handles disaster funding.

FEMA will only cover a rebuild of the exact same thing that was there before.

"The problem is the design of the old boardwalk caused all the damage. We're negotiating with them to add design changes," said Des Moines mayor, Dave Kaplan.



THUNDERWORD PHOTO

The November storm destroyed entire sections of the Redondo boardwalk to the cost of \$2.7 million.

A definite date is not certain because no confirmation has been given that FEMA will finance any boardwalk repairs.

Once funding is determined, the intricate details of accomplishing the repair will need to be worked out. Because the project is within a marine environment, particular caution will have to be taken to not harm the environment.

"When the project proceeds into the design phase, the city will be coordinating all permit

requirements with the appropriate agencies," project manager Andrew Merges said. "At that time, permit conditions will most likely dictate how and when any mitigation efforts are implemented. At this time, the city does not have a funded project."

"We are coordinating with stakeholders to develop a project and an associated financing strategy. No permitting decisions will be made at this time."

Despite the fact the boardwalk is closed and fenced off,

Redondo residents have witnessed people climbing over the fence and onto the boardwalk.

This causes concern for not only injury, but also the possibility of further damaging the boardwalk.

Sgt. Doug Jenkins of the Des Moines Police Department said, "This would be considered a trespassing violation, and if you see this happening you should proceed to call 911."

Show you care with donations

By Marco Rey Cudia
Staff Reporter

The struggle to obtain the necessities needed to balance life and school can be tough for college students.

Imagine coming from another country, leaving everything you have, arriving with nothing and then trying to gain an education.

Sheelan Shamdeen, a teacher aide for Adult Basic Education, has become intimately familiar with the struggles of refugees and immigrants. She decided to do something about it.

In 2006, the Highline Cares Drive was created.

"I was a teacher aide at the time and some of the students came up to me and said they lacked necessities of daily living," Shamdeen said.

Shamdeen tried her best to provide for the students, but with the small budget that she had, was overwhelmed.

Realizing that meeting the students' needs was exceeding her financial capabilities, Shamdeen asked the campus community for help.

Highline and Shamdeen partnered to create the program and started to collect items for immigrants and refugees.

"We collected blankets, pillows, clothing, kitchen utensils, household items and more," Shamdeen said.

The Highline Cares Drive accepts any new or used items that can be of any help to immigrants and refugees.

When the program started, the items were just for immigrants and refugees. As the program grew, the drive now helps anyone in need.

"When we ask people to donate, we ask for the immigrants and the refugees. But the items that are donated can be shared by everyone in the community who is in need," Shamdeen said.

The next Highline Cares Drive will take place on March 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Building 14, room 104.

Yok is leaving Highline to pursue doctorate

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

After nine years as vice president for Administrative Services, Larry Yok is saying goodbye to Highline.

As vice president, Yok has worked closely with the Board of Trustees, President Jack Birmingham, and the upper echelons of administration to shape the college's direction.

Last October, Yok announced his intent to retire. His last day is March 20.

Yok said he will be devoting his time to attaining his doctorate from Nelson Mandela University in South Africa.

Yok entered the dissertation-only program seven years ago. Completing his doctorate in economic development studies has been an ongoing goal.

On Tuesday, many of Yok's past and present colleagues turned up to wish him well at a party in his honor.

Because they will not be with him when he attains his degree, several of his friends and co-workers presented Yok with a graduation gown complete with the sleeves of a doctoral graduate.



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

Vice President Larry Yok is leaving Highline after nine years.

Jim Baylor, Highline's director of Public Safety has worked for Yok, is a former law enforcement officer. As he explained it, when an officer retires with honor, they are presented with a retirement badge. Baylor produced and presented Yok with a retirement badge of his own.

Working at Highline has given Yok a taste for education. Coming from an administrative background, he joined the campus community in 2006.

Yok said he was interviewed

at Highline after being encouraged to do practice interviews following his departure from Group Health. The position of vice president was not one he expected to receive.

Since then, Yok has been hard at work, particularly concerning Highline's finances.

Yok arrived in 2006, a year-and-a-half or so before the recession began. Prior to that, the college had been suffering reduced enrollment, though once the recession hit, recently un-

employed people went back to school, bolstering attendance.

In his time at Highline, Yok said that the campus grounds have improved dramatically. When he arrived, he said, buildings were in various states of disrepair.

"Things really changed," Yok said.

Working at Highline has instilled a passion for higher education in Yok. When he could, he tried to take time to go to various seminars that occur on campus on Thursdays and Fridays, though his job often required him to be in meetings or his office.

Yok is also an adjunct professor at San Francisco State University, where he said he would try to continue lecturing throughout his retirement.

Of Highline's future course, Yok said he hopes the college keeps community connections in mind.

"Connection between community colleges and local economies is the key," Yok said. "The college needs to be sure it's connected to new industries."

Yok said that after he attains his doctorate, he will do what every other graduate does: look for a job.

The Thunderword is seeking a photo editor and an assistant business manager for spring quarter. Contact thunderword@highline.edu.

VP candidate seeks student involvement

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

As vice president for Administrative Services, Janice Stroh would support more student involvement in campus projects and operations.

Janice Stroh, one of four finalists for the job, talked to representatives from Highline's staff, faculty, and students in a forum last Thursday.

With the retirement of Larry Yok, the position of vice president will soon be vacant at Highline.

The vice president for Administrative Services reports to Highline's president as the chief administrative officer and chief financial officer of the college, making the position crucial to day-to-day operation.

Stroh has a master's degree in finance from Washington State University and has served as a high level administrator at 10 colleges, including Eastern Michigan University, Eckerd College and Alfred University.

She is currently director of Financial Services at Tacoma Community College.

Prior to the forum, Stroh was given a framed question: "what



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

Janice Stroh is one of four finalists for the position of vice president for Administrative Services at Highline.

are the three most important characteristics at Highline and what can you do the promote them?"

Stroh responded with diversity, collaborative education,

and sustainability.

"I've been kind of all over the country," said Stroh. "I've been at small private [colleges], and larger publics. In those areas, I've dealt with a lot of diversity."

On diversity, Stroh cited her time as vice president of Business and Finance at Eastern Michigan University, a school just outside of Detroit that ranks above the national average in regard to racial diversity, as well as controller at Mills College, which has an all-woman undergraduate program.

In her time at several colleges, Stroh said that she took steps to improve the level of minority involvement on campus, such as framing projects to include minority owned businesses.

"Diversity really enriches an organization," said Stroh.

On collaborative education, Stroh is a supporter of student internships, which give students the chance to work in a field in a learning environment.

She said that she fostered a policy that contractors working on campus would have to employ student interns.

Stroh also supported the inclusion of students on campus committees to get multiple perspectives.

"How is the decision we're making going to support the students?"

Stroh said that she had been interested in sustainability since the start of the environmental movement.

"You have a lot of sustainability," said Stroh of Highline's 80-acre, tree-rich campus.

Attendees of the forum were given time to question Stroh on issues relevant to their areas.

Stroh spoke with a representative from Highline's student government.

"I have worked a lot with student government," said Stroh. At one time she collaborated with students to renovate a student union building.

Stroh was asked about her hiring policies and what she looks for in an employee.

"One of the things I looked for in an employee was someone who was dedicated to the college's mission," said Stroh.

"You are hired to do a job. Go for it."

You can watch the full forum online at:

<http://video.highline.edu/vod.php?title=VP%20For%20Administrative%20Services%20-Campus%20Forum&title2=Janice%20Stroh&stream=hr/VPforum/VP-Stroh.mov>

Psychiatrist counsels on uppers and downers

By Ferdaws Abbasi
Staff Reporter

Depressants and stimulants may only alter cognitive function and memory in certain groups, said a Seattle psychiatrist at last week's Science Seminar.

Science Seminar is a weekly series of presentations on topics of scientific interest by members of the community.

People often feel hyperactive under the influence of stimulants such as Adderall or caffeinated drinks, said Dr. Paul Zarkowski.

To figure out how Adderall or other drugs affect a person's cognitive function, a placebo, a sugar pill, is used in facial recognition and memorization tests.

"You don't just give somebody Adderall and ask him or her if they feel better, you compare it to a sugar pill," Dr. Zarkowski said.

"Most typical people can remember six out of 25 words. After they took Adderall they remembered only five. This is a significant finding," Dr. Zarkowski said. "If you consider yourself an average performer, Adderall is likely to hurt you."

Average performers have metabolisms that will produce the right amount of dopamine

and norepinephrine.

"If you don't have the type of metabolism in which you don't have enough dopamine and norepinephrine, [Adderall] kind of helps," Dr. Zarkowski said. "People have genetic variations based on how much dopamine and norepinephrine are in their system."

Less serious energy boosters include energy drinks and coffee.

"There is a half point difference in test results between someone who consumes energy drinks everyday and someone who never touches it," he said.

Depressants such as Xanax and clonazepam are classified as benzodiazepine. These depressants work with the gamma-aminobutyric acid inhibitory neurotransmitters responsible for anxiety seizures and panic attacks.

"When a benzodiazepines comes along, it will open up the GABA [gamma-aminobutyric acid] receptor sites and let chloride ions through. This shuts down the cell from firing," Dr. Zarkowski said.

Spring Quarter Science Seminar begins April 4 in Building 3, room 102 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Students may register and receive one credit for attending all seminars

Education can save your life, Honors Colloquy guest says

By Renee Nelson
Staff Reporter

A Highline alumna told her Honors Colloquy audience last week that she hit rock bottom and is using education to improve her lot in life.

Elizabeth Bray has worked to overcome her alcoholism and is working to regain her dignity after losing everything. Her goal now is to help those who are in the same place she was.

Growing up, it was understood that she would pursue a higher education even though neither of her parents had gone to college. Her mom encouraged her to pick up skills such as typing, sewing and cooking for career options.

"I did not want those traditional jobs," Bray said. "I didn't want what a woman usually did for a job. I wanted to be an actor."

She got her undergraduate degree in Music and Theater at the University of Tennessee and then moved to New York to pursue acting.

As New York was new and exciting for her, she began drinking.

"I was an alcoholic and my drinking was unhealthy," she said. "I had the ability to function so for years I got away with it."

In 1982, Bray moved to Se-

attle for a relationship. Her parents wanted her to start settling down and get married, but her relationship did not last.

She started working as a bartender and for 18 years became more and more involved in drinking.

"In 2007, I hit rock bottom," she said. "I felt like my whole life was a waste and that I couldn't amount to anything."

Eventually, her alcoholism got to the point where she lost everything. She lost her job and her house on Queen Anne Hill.

"I had enough money to not live on the streets and lived in a crack hotel in Aurora," she said.

Out of desperation and fear of what was ahead of her, she finally reached out for help.

She got treatment.

When she completed the program, she got back on her feet with the help of the Union Gospel Mission. In the process, she started to get her life and dignity back, she said.

Going back to school was a way for her to move forward. She had always wanted to get her master's, so she determined to do it right. In 2008, she came to Highline. She hadn't attended school since the 70s, but wanted a good foundation for graduate school.

"I took a lot of classes I wanted to take," she said. "I started embracing education again as learning became an adventure."

In 2010, she was accepted into Seattle University to study theology. She chose theology because it co-existed with acting. For Bray, acting and theology are ways to understand and explore people, as well as finding meaning in life.

That search is leading her to help people.

"I want to stand up, advocate and help people who may not have strong voices," she said.

She is finishing up her degree and is set to walk in June. Although she does not know exactly what is in her future, she hopes to work for environmental advocacy and nonprofit organizations.

"I learn from my failures and I learn from my successes. I take nothing for granted," she said. "I'm in my 60s and I have my whole life ahead of me."

She urged her audience to embrace tough classes and teachers.

"I encourage you to go into it with an open attitude," she said.

Honors Colloquy returns next quarter with the theme of pushing boundaries. It can be taken as a one-credit course but is open to all members of the Highline community.

Safety will be Pham’s No. 1 priority

By Agatha Pacheco
Staff Reporter

A finalist for vice president of administration said last week that he wants to make sure the college has a focus on students.

Michael Pham is the current vice president for administration at Seattle Central College and could potentially be the next vice president for administration at Highline.

President Jack Bermingham will determine the next vice president for administration with the advice and recommendations from a hiring committee, executive staff and the campus community.

Pham said his No. 1 priority is safety.

“If there is a safety concern I don’t care what it is, I want to fix it,” he said.

Although Pham said that safety is his priority, he said diversity is one of Highline’s most important attributes and he wants to continue to promote diversity in the college.

Pham said he hasn’t began many initiatives that promote equality or diversity at Seattle Central yet, but hopes to here at Highline.



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

Michael Pham is one of four finalists for vice president of administration at Highline.

“As a leader in admin, what would I do to continue to promote diversity? [Make sure] our departments are reflective of the students we serve,” said Pham.

He also explained that diversity is not just limited by what our college looks like, but by thinking in different and diverse ways to bring services to the campus.

To provide services budgeting is key to a successful outcome. Vice president for administrative services is the chief financial officer of the college, reporting to President

Bermingham on the strategic direction of the college.

Pham said colleges across the state will face financial challenges from the state Legislature.

“As a college, are we ready to cut our financial resources?” he asked.

Pham said his personal belief is to lessen the difficulty of high tuition rates to the students.

“I believe we are here for the students,” Pham said. “I am of the mind right now that tuition and student fees have become a huge burden on our students.”

The best thing he could do would be to help with student finances while creating a positive environment, he said.

He also highlighted the influence Highline should have in the surrounding community.

“As an administration leader ,we have to show we are a leader to the external community and internal community here,” said Pham.

A video of Pham’s forum is available online at: <http://video.highline.edu/vod.php?title=VP%20For%20Administrative%20Services%20-Campus%20Forum&title2=-Michael%20Pham&stream=hr/VPforum/VPPham.mov>

Riveland offers varied experience for VP position

By Agatha Pacheco
Staff Reporter

A finalist for the position of vice president for administration said his varying experiences in Washington state colleges make him a good candidate for the position.

Bruce Riveland is one of four candidates to replace Larry Yok after he retires from the position later this month.

Riveland attended Shoreline Community College and got his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Washington.

He has also worked in different departments at Olympic College, Bellevue College and Green River College as well as teaching at Green River and the University of Washington.

“I have insight in teaching and learning,” said Riveland.

He said he knows the struggle of having limited supplies or being in classrooms that are too small with too little or outdated resources.

He wants to make sure money goes toward the college.

“I want to see a budget process where students can succeed in their outcomes,” said Riveland. “[There’s a need for] aligning our systems and programs that revolve around the outcome.”

Investing in students’ futures



Andie Munkh-Erdene/THUNDERWORD

Bruce Riveland has studied, worked and taught at community colleges in the state.

is what Riveland said he thinks the budgeting process should capitalize on.

“It’s really about distribution of resources, some things are

better returned in investments when it comes to students,” he said.

Riveland used an initiative he started three years ago as an

example of investments toward student success.

“We wanted to improve student achievement so we created a system where people could

approve proposals for money,” Riveland said.

The proposals had to be measurable to the point where you could see improvement and if they appeared to be successful more money could be invested, he said.

“We added these structured programs and we will see in the fall if they were successful,” he said.

Aside from student success, Riveland pointed to diversity as something that is very central to the Highline culture. He said he is committed to diversity and cited initiatives dedicated toward social justice, multiculturalism and diversity as examples.

“At Olympic College, I worked with facilities to open unisex bathrooms for transgender students,” he said.

Riveland said these changes to support students were as simple as changing the signs on some of the bathrooms.

“It’s innovative solutions that support student success,” he said.

You can watch Riveland’s presentation forum at: [http://video.highline.edu/vod.php?title=VP%20For%20Administrative%20Services%20-Campus%20Fo- rum&title2=Bruce%20Rive- land&stream=hr/VPforum/ VPRiveland.mov](http://video.highline.edu/vod.php?title=VP%20For%20Administrative%20Services%20-Campus%20Forum&title2=Bruce%20Riveland&stream=hr/VPforum/VPRiveland.mov)

College may permit religious observances

By Nasri Isaac
Staff Reporter

Students may soon be able to have two excused absences per academic year to participate in religious observances if a proposed policy is adopted by the college's Instructional Cabinet.

Last year the Legislature approved granting local school district and state employees two unpaid days off for reasons of faith and conscience. It was unanimously approved in the Senate and passed the House on a 64-32 vote before being signed by the governor. The language adds organized religious activity as an additional reason for unpaid holidays or school absences.

A draft proposal is now winding its way through Highline channels that would apply the state law to students here. It would prohibit students' grades from being adversely impacted by absences authorized under the policy, provided that each holiday be taken as a whole day.

Students would also be required to notify their in-



Mai Lam/ THUNDERWORD

structors at least two weeks in advance of the date of their intended absence and if a test is scheduled for the day of the absence, faculty would be authorized to require the test be taken before the planned absence.

Should a student fail to give the proper notification and be absent, instructors would not be required to make any accommodation or treat the absence as authorized under the policy or the law.

"We are working with the Instructional Cabinet to enact the bill here on campus," said Rolita Ezeonu, dean of Instruction. "We want Highline to benefit from this and provide

flexibility."

Students would have to be allowed to take the unpaid absences on specific days that have religious significance, unless the employee or the student being gone those days would affect public safety or cause undue hardship.

"I think this is very progressive," said Jonathan Brown, associate dean for Student Programs. "It will provide flexibility for students and staff," he said.

As to when the policy might take affect, "we are drafting it out right now so we are just at the beginning stages of how the policy will look at our campus," Ezeonus said.

Apply for a print shop internship

By Gary Narwal
Staff Reporter

Highline's print shop gives Visual Communication students the opportunity to gain real-life experience through an internship program.

"The requirement of the Visual Communication degree requires the students to perform an internship," said David Weber, manager.

The college print shop is a good place for them to learn print production and apply the skills they learn in Visual Communications," he said.



Dave Weber

As an intern you get real life experience through the program.

"They pretty much are getting on-the-job training and they're applying their skills and knowledge of software and graphic design principals," Weber said.

"They learn the printing process, which is something they don't get in their regular coursework."

The internship offers students another opportunity.

"I get paid," said Tristan Wogoman, an intern for the print shop.

The program is exclusive to Visual Communication majors.

"It is pretty much limited to Visual Communication majors because they have to interview for the positions and they have to have a resume and a portfolio," Weber said.

"We are really focused on Visual Communication majors because they tend to have the skills needed to work in the shop."

Since the renovation of the print shop and having to sell

off the printing presses last December, Weber has hired three interns.

"This is the first quarter we ran the three-intern program," Weber said.

"In the past we have had a larger shop and when the presses were here this was a two-person department," he said

Weber said he likes having three interns per quarter, and he replaces them as they leave.

"We are in the process of interviewing for the intern we replaced in February," he said.

The job requires the interns to work to meet their one-credit 30-clock-hour requirements.

"I [work] from 9-3p.m Mondays and Wednesday," said Nathen Springs.

The training takes three weeks to get the interns ready to work on projects independently.

"They get the basic routine where the can work independently after about three weeks of training," said Weber.

"The work challenges drive the training."

Event promotes poetry to find happiness

By Marco Rey Cudia
Staff Reporter

Highline Multicultural Affairs is holding a poetry event today from 11 a.m. to noon at the Inter-Cultural Center in

Building 8 room 204.

The event, Pursuit of Happiness and Everything in Between, will acknowledge and focus on the struggles that students have to overcome throughout their lives. This would include recent struggles that they have been able to conquer.

The event gives students the opportunity to share and witness others' stories.

"I hope that students get to see the struggles of others and how they get back on their feet. Also how people better themselves in our community," said Jasmine Bravo, the event coordinator.

Creating this event was not easy. Lots of paperwork was needed to be finished and turned in on time.

"Another obstacle that we faced was finding people who wanted to partake in the event," Bravo said.

She created flyers and was able to land a core group of performers.

"We have six people and counting who already have signed up for the event," Bravo said.

From open mike to rap, singing to poetry, everyone is welcome.

"The event is free and food is provided," Bravo said.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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2	1	7	4	9	6	8	5	3
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3	7	2	1	8	4	6	9	5

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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A	G	R	A		N	O	N	O		O	V	A
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Go Figure!

answers

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+		x		+	
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Senate passes tuition limits

By Derrick Nunnally
Associated Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington state Senate passed a bill Wednesday to cut tuition at the state's public universities and community colleges.

Senate Bill 5954, which passed on a 37-12 bipartisan vote, would link tuition at state schools to a percentage of the average wage for Washington workers. It will now be considered by the House.

Tuition would be highest at the state's two research universities, Washington State University and the University of Washington. At lower tiers, the state's regional universities and community colleges would have their tuition rates set to lower percentages of the state's average wage.

The bill's lead sponsor, Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia, said tuition increases of recent years need to be undone to keep college affordable for Washingtonians.

"We've seen tuition rise at a rate that is just crushing for the middle class," Braun said.

According to a report from the College Board, tuition at Washington's public universities increased more during the recession than in any state other than Arizona, but still isn't close to the highest public university tuition in the nation. From 2008 to 2014, Washington's average in-state tuition increased by \$4,085 in inflation-adjusted dollars.

The Washington Legislature gave universities permission



Elaine Thompson/AP photo

Daffodils reach skyward along with the Space Needle amid the recent warm weather in the Seattle area. The National Weather Service predicts cloudy wet weather for the next several days, however.

to raise tuition by double digit rates during the recession to make up for double-digit cuts in state appropriations for higher education. From 2008 to 2013, tuition and fees in Washington state rose 37 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars, while state dollars going to higher education were cut by nearly 28 percent.

Students and parents caught up a little this year and last after the Legislature froze tuition for two school years.

In his budget, Gov. Jay Inslee has proposed two more years without a tuition increase.

The cost of his tuition cuts are estimated to fall somewhere between \$112 million and \$232 million, depending on whether the bill's full tuition decreases

are enacted for the coming fiscal year. Several of the Democratic senators who voted against the bill said it lacks clarity on where the money to cover the cuts will come from. Without a clear funding source, they said, the bill constitutes an unfunded mandate.

"We're all for lower tuition," said Democratic Sen. David Frockt of Seattle. "We all want to see this change. The question is: can we fund it?"

Braun countered that he believes money can be found in the state's budget to cover the cost of his bill.

"All this is really talking about is making higher education a priority as we craft a \$37 billion budget," Braun said. "It doesn't take funny money. It

doesn't take new money."

Senate Republicans' lead budget writer, Sen. Andy Hill of Redmond, said the money can be found for tuition cuts if the state elevates higher education funding to the same priority level as mental health care and early childhood education.

"I am confident, voting for this, that we can make it work," Hill said.

If it passes in this legislative session, the bill would be in effect for the fall 2015 semester. Democratic Sen. Jim Hargrove of Hoquiam, however, said he did not expect the Democrat-controlled House to approve the measure.

"I don't expect this bill is headed for the governor's desk anytime soon," Hargrove said.

City ignites anti-pot campaign for teens

SEATTLE (AP) — More than two years after Washington legalized marijuana, community groups in Seattle are launching a citywide effort aimed at preventing use of marijuana and other drugs by teens.

The campaign, with support from the Seattle City Attorney's Office, aims to spread positive messages that most kids don't use drugs or alcohol. The messages, which also ask parents to talk to their kids about marijuana, are being displayed on nine billboards around the city, some of them donated by Clear Channel Outdoor.

Organizers are asking students to take part in their "Above the Influence" contest, including taking selfies showing what inspires them not to use drugs or alcohol. Prizes include Seattle Seahawks and Sounders tickets.

Last year, the state Department of Health launched a statewide radio and online campaign targeting parents, but this is the first effort aimed at youth in Seattle since Initiative 502 passed.

Meanwhile, a study shows that many people are apparently still not clear on the specifics of Washington's new law that legalizes marijuana.

University of Washington research, published recently in Substance Use & Misuse, found that only 57 percent of Washington parents in a small survey knew the legal age for recreational pot use. And just 63 percent knew that homegrown marijuana is illegal under the law.

The study found 71 percent of 10th graders knew the legal age, but fewer than half knew the legal limit for marijuana possession.

Data for the study - which involved 115 low-income families of teens attending Tacoma middle schools - was initially collected before Washington approved recreational marijuana in 2012, and then two years later during the summer of 2013.

Kevin Haggerty, a UW professor of social work, says the findings show the need for better educational outreach. Haggerty says the states legalizing marijuana need to run public information campaigns to insure people have the information they need.

Senate votes to ease payday lender regulations

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington state Senate passed a bill Tuesday night that would reshape the state's short-term loan laws in response to industry demands.

By a 30-18 bipartisan vote, senators approved a bill by Democratic Sen. Marko Liias of Lynnwood that would abolish the existing system, which allows two-week payday loans of up to \$700 with 36 percent annual interest up to eight times in 12 months.

In its place, Senate Bill 5899 would create a system where lenders could offer loans with monthly and other fees and a similar interest rate charged for up to six months.

The new model is based on a system created by Colorado five years ago.

"This is part of the way we built a financial model where these products can be offered in our state," Liias said. "The market can sustain them."

Seattle-based Moneytree



AP Photo

State Rep. Sharon Nelson, D-34th District, speaks against a bill easing regulations on payday lenders.

lobbied on behalf of the bill. It now moves to the House, where a companion bill is pending.

The measure passed only after more than two hours of debate that stretched past 10 p.m. and required an official vote to keep the Senate floor open. Democrats proposed dozens of amendments that would have cut the interest rates and fees at-

tached to the short-term loans.

"We are creating a situation where people will default and will continue to put themselves in a greater and greater cycle of debt," said Sen. Pramila Jayapal, a Democrat from Seattle who proposed several of the amendments.

Most of them failed after Liias said they would harm the industry's viability, which would

leave those in need short on places to go for money.

"We ended the payday industry and replaced it with something that's lower cost for most borrowers," Liias said.

He and Sen. Pam Roach, R-Auburn, both spoke of times in their lives when they had turned to high-interest short-term loans as reasons to keep the products available.

"I was grateful for the opportunity," Roach said. "I could still hold my head up. I didn't have to ask relatives for money."

Opponents called the loans exploitative of vulnerable people who may not understand how many charges are piled into the loans, including origination fees, a monthly fee and interest on the outstanding balance.

"I've not heard anyone other than two members of this chamber stand up proudly to support this bill," said Sen. Cyrus Habib, D-Kirkland. "I think I know why. It's because the rates in this are nothing short of usury."

Sex

continued from page 1

trapped in these lifestyles and if they wanted to escape there was nowhere for them to go for help. “After extensive research, I could not find any comprehensive recovery programs for young women in the Seattle area,” Deputy Conner said. He explored the matter further by talking to the girls and becoming familiar with their life stories. He discovered that these girls were trapped by brute force, coercion or by twisted romantic attachment to their pimps. “I realized that these girls weren’t criminals. They are completely powerless,” Deputy Conner said. “They are the victims of this slavery.” His vision became reality with the help of the Corridor, a local community outreach

non-profit, a drop-in center for domestic minor sex trafficking victims opened. It was opened in the year of 2011, and is now known as the Genesis Project. The Genesis Project’s statement of faith includes the belief of the life, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It’s website reads: “We believe in the power and love of Jesus Christ. Restoration and complete healing of women and underage girls forced and coerced into the sex trade is possible through him.” The Genesis Project offers help to any woman of any faith, without discrimination. The Genesis Project provides rehabilitation for victims, but it also spreads awareness using different vehicles such as GP Java and the Freedom Walk. GP Java is a small coffee stand on Pacific Highway South just north of South 216th Street. It is a non-profit, anti-bikini barista coffee stand. All of the

funds go directly to the Genesis Project drop-in center. This stand has three goals; to provide job training and paychecks for sex trafficking survivors, provide sustainable income for the drop-in center and to promote awareness about sex trafficking along Pacific Highway South and in the surrounding areas. The Freedom Walk is a 5K that the Genesis Project promotes annually to fundraise for the organization. This year the event is on July 18. The Genesis Project consists of people with the same mission and vision from local areas. They also seek volunteers. Lisa Henry is a volunteer who worked admissions to the Genesis Project drop-in center. “I was an intern for the Genesis Project this past summer, mainly focusing on admissions,” Henry said. “I also worked directly with the victims as well.”

“My experience was eye-opening,” Henry said. “I don’t think people realize that the extremity of human trafficking especially the role it plays in Seattle.” She said that this issue needs to end and it isn’t only about prostitution but pornography as well. “Not only prostitution, but also the porn industry in general,” Henry said. “Human trafficking is not something to be dismissed or taken lightly.” Overall, she said that her interaction with the survivors was difficult, but educational. “The stories of the women that I worked with are horrific and painful,” Henry said. “But with organizations like the Genesis Project, their stories are brought new meaning and they are on track for the road to recovery.” Anyone interested in getting involved with the Genesis Project can take part in four specific ways:

- Donate monthly to the organization
 - Become a Genesis Project advocate
 - Volunteer at the drop-in center
 - Join the Genesis Project prayer team
- A Genesis Project advocate encourages friends, family and church communities to consider financial partnerships. Financial partners in the cause range from \$30 a month to \$500 a month. Volunteers at the drop-in center work first hand with women and girls in need of care and support. This job is for women only. Someone in the Genesis Project prayer team gathers with staff and volunteers, and local law enforcement regularly to lift up the girls in prayer. The Genesis Project encourages everyone who believes in the cause to stand up and fight against domestic minor sex trafficking.

Movie

continued from page 1

light soon on the construction phase,” said Spalding. “I can’t wait to see what these multi-faceted cats do with the space.” Since it has sat vacant for many years, Mayor Kaplan says he is excited for the project. “We found the right person who has the financial wherewithal and the vision,” said Mayor Kaplan. “It’s the core of our downtown business area.” The theater originally opened in March 1947. When it opened, it had a 400-seat cinema, retail stores, and office space. In 1973, the theater was sold to new owners and became an x-rated theater. Local groups protested and the city took legal action in the 1980s. In the 1990s, it re-opened as a family oriented theater under new management. In the early 2000s, the old owner had to move out of state to take care of his ill parents. After that, a developer purchased the theater, but was unable to accomplish his plans. Since 2010, it has sat unoccupied and for sale, until Spalding bought it on Feb. 27. The theater is located at 22333 Marine View Drive S. Along with the theater, other developments are in the works. Wally’s Chowder House, which is located on Marine View Drive South, is planning on expanding its restaurant to host more patrons. “They’re taking out their deck and adding restaurant space so they don’t have to turn people away,” said Mayor Kaplan. The Marina has been undergoing improvements to bring in more revenue for the city.

The seawall is in the process of being replaced. “There are still places where it needs to be fixed but it’s all coming together,” Mayor Kaplan said. In addition to physical fixes, the city is looking at ways to generate more revenue from the crowds. The Farmer’s Market happens every Saturday during the months of May through October. The Farmer’s Market is operated by a non-profit organization. While the market operators pay rent to the city for using the marina, the city is looking for more ways to generate revenue from out of town visitors. The Landmark on the Sound, which is located at 23660 Marine View Drive, closed in late 2014 and has been for sale since then. Mayor Kaplan predicts that the landmark will be sold within six months and then redeveloped. The Federal Aviation Administration is planning on moving



Andie Munkh-Erdene/ THUNDERWORD

The theater is located in downtown Des Moines. its office and Des Moines is a contender for their relocation. If they move their office to Des Moines, they will bring 1,600 employees with family wages to the city. Adding all these different developments to downtown Des Moines is important for a multitude of reasons. In 1996, an initiative was passed in Washington that took

caused cities to get less revenue through real estate taxes. “We’ve been struggling,” said Mayor Kaplan. With the real estate market going under, the city of Des Moines lost \$1 million a year, which meant they had to put off projects to improve the city. “In the city of Des Moines, a road has not been paved in seven or eight years,” Mayor Kaplan said. Des Moines, like other cities, wants economic development to attract businesses to move into the area. This creates more sales tax revenue and gives the city more money to make fund services. Currently, in addition to the aforementioned projects, developers and landowners are working on six to 10 other developments. “I believe a lot of projects are going to get done and help the city. We’re really excited about it,” said Mayor Kaplan.

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