

Sunshine springs into season



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

A student takes advantage of the rare April sunshine by sunbathing on the boulders located outside of the Student Union.

College sports will enable the disabled

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

The college and Special Olympics of Washington are joining forces to bring together Highline students with and without disabilities for a soccer competition.

Unified Sports, which is a division of Special Olympics, is organizing the event.

"There are no unified SOWA [Special Olympics of Washington] sports at the college level so this is creating new opportunities for college-age people with

and without disabilities to get involved in athletics together," said Jenni Sandler, Highline director of Access Services and ACHIEVE.

Some schools don't offer any sports for disabled students, which is how this program came about.

"The idea behind this is to make kids the same. The students are treated like normal athletes," said Fawzi Belal, Highline coordinator of sports

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Kayla Dickson/ THUNDERWORD

Highline's Fawzi Belal, left, works with players at a recent practice for the college's entry into the upcoming Unified Sports tournament.

State budget battle begins

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

Both the Washington state House of Representatives and Senate have released their versions of the state budget, each pledging to support K-12 education, but with polar opposite approaches on how to generate funds to pay for new spending.

The budget proposals heavily feature increased spending for

education, and while the House relies on new taxes to generate revenue, the Senate emphasizes widespread spending cuts.

A significant part of the budget process involves negotiations between the House and the Senate to come to agreement over their respective proposals. However, the negotiations may be hard-fought thanks to major ideological differences between the two chambers.

"We are very far apart," said Rep. Carol Gregory, D-Federal Way. "It [negotiating] will be very difficult."

Much of the Legislature's proposed increased education funding is being driven by the McCleary decision.

In 2012, the state Supreme Court ordered legislators to "amply" fund K-12 education

See Budget, page 12

Michael Pham new vice president for Administrative Services

By Agatha Pacheco
Staff Reporter

Michael Pham is Highline's new vice president for Administrative Services.

President Jack Bermingham named Pham to the post last Thursday.

The vice president for Administrative Services is the financial officer of Highline, reporting to the college president regarding the strategic direction of the college.

Pham will replace Larry Yok,



Michael Pham

who retired from the position last quarter.

During his candidate forum

last quarter, Pham said he would continue to promote diversity at Highline by making sure that the departments are reflective of the students they serve.

Pham's experience with a student body similar to Highline's at Seattle Central was the determining factor to receiving the position, Dr. Bermingham said.

"Pham has been quite successful during his tenure as vice president at Seattle Central," said Dr. Bermingham.

Pham is vice president for Ad-

ministrative Services of Seattle Central until May 1, his start date at Highline.

Pham was one of four finalists to be considered for the position last quarter.

Other candidates included Highline Director of Finance and Auxiliary Services Shirley Bean; Olympic College Vice President of Administrative Services Bruce Riveland; and President of CFO Management Solutions Janice Stroh.

While the decision was being made, Bean acted as interim

vice president for Administrative Services.

Dr. Bermingham, the hiring authority, said that the finalist were very strong candidates, which made the final decision challenging.

"His work at Seattle Central is similar to Highline in it's serving a very diverse student population," he said.

Dr. Bermingham said he is confident Pham will be able to adjust to Highline's culture.

Pham was unavailable for comment at press time.

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Week of Wellness

APRIL 13-17

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Highline aims to help students get healthy and stay healthy



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The T-Bird softball team starts the season off hit-and-miss



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Young scientists will come to Highline for Science Olympiad



Samaritans come to aid of disabled student

By Bryce Sizemore
Staff Reporter

Five students assisted a wheelchair-bound student whose wheelchair became stuck at the top of a hill near the Student Union. The good Samaritans prevented the student from slipping out of his wheelchair and helped him return to the path.

East lot sees hit-and-run

A student was involved in a hit-and-run in the East Parking Lot. The victim was able to get a picture of the vehicle involved. The Des Moines Police Department was contacted.

Ex-girlfriend goes for a joyride

A student reported his car stolen to Public Safety. On a hunch, he called his ex-girlfriend to determine if she had taken his car.

During the call, she confirmed that she had in fact taken his car.

The Des Moines Police Department was contacted to supervise the return of the vehicle.

Saber rattles Public Safety

Public Safety encountered a male carrying a sheathed sword. It was determined that the sword was a blunt prop intended to be delivered to a student for an anime convention.

Man sleeps sans pants on trail

In response to student and staff complaints, Public Safety contacted a homeless man sleeping on the southeast trail entrance of the East Parking Lot. The man was sleeping with his pants down. He was asked to leave. He complied.

Graffiti found in parking lot

Graffiti was found on a pole in the South Parking Lot and in the tennis court parking lot.

Student leaders retreat to Beach Park

By Jon Albers
Staff Reporter

How students can develop their community leadership skills is the theme of a retreat sponsored by Highline's student government that will take place tomorrow on Des Moines' waterfront from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The title of the event at the Des Moines Beach Park Auditorium is "Stepping stones: Where do I begin?" and the discussion will focus on the concept of servant leadership.

Servant leadership means getting involved in one's community, said Autum Beel, chairman of the event.

"We want to make sure every student knows where to go from where they are, and the steps to giving back to their community, and getting into leadership roles on and off campus," said Beel.

One of her goals when starting this event last year was to make it



City of Des Moines photo

The spring retreat will be held at the Des Moine Beach Park Auditorium tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

more accessible to people such as single mothers, she said.

Most similar events take place over multiple days, making it very difficult for single parents to find childcare that would allow them to attend, said Beel.

The goal of the event is to give all Highline students an opportunity to meet with their campus leaders and to learn

new leadership skills, as well as uncover some that they may already have. It is a chance to get connected with other leaders on campus, to get into a leadership role, or possibly to become a leader, said Beel.

The retreat will feature guest speaker Hoan Do, a graduate of Highline; workshops; and team building exercises to equip students to be leaders who can make

a difference in the community.

Breakfast, lunch and snacks will provided at the event and students are being asked to park in the event center's parking lot.

Last year's event was full, with 90 available seats. There are 90 spots at the event again this year which are expected to be filled, however registration for the event has ended for this year.



Resource centers hold open house

The Math Resource, MESA, Tutoring, and Writing Centers will be holding their Spring Quarter open house on Thursday, April 9 in Building 26, room 319, and is open to all Highline students, faculty, and staff.

Snacks, coffee, and drinks will be provided. Staff will be available to answer questions and give tours.

Museum of Flight is for the birds

A temporary exhibit dedicated to birds and their flight will open at the Museum of Flight on April 11.

How Birds Fly will feature bird skeletons, feathers, wings, and detailed photographs to illustrate the science of bird flight and the influence birds have had on human flight. The exhibit closes Sept. 7.

The Museum of Flight is at 9404 East Marginal Way S.

Save some change with ORCA lift

Help will be available for students interested in signing up for the discount rate for the ORCA lift card in the lower level of Building 8 every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the entire month of April.

Cindy Mai, a Kent Public Health official, will be available to answer questions and give advice on how to save on transportation.

Scholarship to open soon

The Highline Foundation scholarship application will be available on April 13. Students can check at <http://www.funds4highline.org/scholarships.php> for more information.

Learn about local sex trafficking

The Woman's Programs and the Southwest King County Coalition Against Trafficking will be holding a free showing of *Rape For Profit*, a documentary giving a stark portrayal of sex trafficking in Seattle.

The documentary will be part of a push by the Woman's Programs to raise awareness of the problem of sex trafficking in the region.

The showing will be Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to noon in Building 7.

Seek jobs at Seattle hiring fair

WorkSource is hosting a large job fair at the downtown YWCA on Thursday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hiring opportunities will include Amtrak, BECU, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Safeway.

Veterans and spouses of veterans are encouraged to attend and will receive priority access for the first hour of the event.

Attendees should bring copies of their resumes, dress professionally, and be ready to speak to company representatives.

To attend, sign up at www.worksourcedowntown.eventbrite.com, or call at 206-436-8600.

The Y is at 2024 Third Ave.

Tax deadline nears, but help is still available

By Jon Albers
Staff Reporter

The dreaded April 15 deadline is looming, but there is still time to get help with your federal income taxes.

Over the last two months, Highline has teamed up with United Way of King County to offer free tax help for people with household incomes less than \$60,000. So far, they have helped roughly 500 people file returns.

Accounting students are providing tax assistance after going through a brief training that qualifies them to provide such help.

According to the United Way of King County website, participants need to bring a Social Security card or individual taxpayer identification number for

every person on the tax return; a photo ID; and any tax statements such as W-2, 1099 or SSA-1099.

The agency recommends bringing a bank account number with a routing number and a copy of last year's return, but they are not required.

The service will be offered until April 18, for late filers.

Participants are advised to arrive as early as possible, as the cut-off each day for the last customer will be 45 minutes prior to closing.

Highline College is just one of the 21 King County locations offering this service to the public. Some other locations are in Auburn, Burien, Kent, Federal Way and Renton. Specific location details are available at uwkc.org/taxhelp or by calling 800-621-4636.

Take the C4 Pledge!

Statistics show the surest way for anyone to land a job in their chosen field is to finish college and earn a degree or certificate.

That's exactly what students in **Community College Completion Corps (C4)** are promising to do - signing a pledge to complete their associate degrees or certificates before leaving community college for transfer or to enter the job market.

Eighty percent of community college students want to complete a degree, but only 45% do! On April 13th & 14th in the Student Union, Bldg. 8, students can sign a commitment to promise themselves to complete college and join C4, a way for students to finish what they started and reach their academic goals. Phi Theta Kappa members will be on hand to provide resources that can help YOU succeed!



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

The bookstore is flooded with students buying supplies as Spring Quarter starts.

Spring Quarter enrollment numbers mirror last year's

By **Angelica Somera**
Staff Reporter

Students who waited until the last minute to register for Spring Quarter had trouble finding classes.

Highline has 8,312 students enrolled as of midweek, which is 82 percent of the state's target for the college. State funding is tied to the target.

College officials say that the numbers are the same as Spring 2014. Enrollment tends to rise over the course of the quarter as students are added to various programs, such as Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language.

Out of the total student population, 1,146 students have entered under the Running Start program; 495 are international students; 163 are veterans; and 265 are in the Worker Retraining program.

Students say that it is import-

ant to register for classes early because that makes the process quick, easy and stress free.

"It was a very simple task that required minimal amount of labor and the largest component of said task was based upon my ability to plan and coordinate my classes in a matter that suits my desires of attending Highline College," Corbin Scott said.

"My registration time was late but it was good. A little stressful though. I was wait-listed on all three of my classes," Ken Jason Oliva said.

Those who registered late had challenges, however.

"Registering for classes this quarter was so stressful," Claire Martinez said. "I didn't get one of the classes that I needed and then I had to find a new one, but all the ones I wanted were full."

When registering sooner rather than later, students don't have to worry about not having a class they need or being on the waitlist.

"It was quick and easy. I paid my fees and got the form turned in early so I could sign up as soon as I was able. That way I didn't have to worry about wait-lists," Giovanni Santiago said.

On top of that Highline students are having to navigate packed parking lots. Students say that every quarter it is a struggle to find parking, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. to noon.

Finding parking from 7-8 a.m. is easy, students say.

"My classes are from 7 to 10 a.m. When I get to school, there's plenty of parking. When I leave, the parking lot looks crowded," Jessica Beck said.

But for students who like to take classes that start later in the day, finding parking can get frustrating.

"Finding parking is tortuous. This quarter, we're having a bit more trouble finding a spot which makes us late to class," said student Jacob Eskew.

Long-time manager retires from Bookstore

By **Agatha Pacheco**
Staff Reporter

The Highline College Bookstore will be saying goodbye to its longtime manager, Laura Nole, this spring.

The Bookstore, in the Student Union Building, provides an array of services to students including course material, supplies, and rental programs.

Nole, 67, has been working at the Bookstore since October 2007 and has been managing college bookstores for more than 30 years.

"In all my years managing bookstores, Highline has been the best place I've ever worked at," Nole said.

During her time as Bookstore manager, Nole said she has succeeded in making the it more student-friendly and financially efficient.

"Before I came, the Bookstore did not have a working website... we did not rent electronics. We did not have a rental program," she said.

Nole has also saved Highline students more than \$1 million since 2011.

One of Highline's themes this year was "no place like Highline," and Nole said she really feels like there is no place like Highline.

"I'm going to miss working here," she said. "There is a heart and soul here that you don't find anyplace else."

Nole also said she would miss the staff and faculty, especially the Bookstore staff.

"Thank you Highline faculty, staff and especially students for the happiest eight years of



Laura Nole

my career," she said.

"I'm going to miss the student workers. They are just a great staff," she said.

The only thing Nole said she wouldn't miss is her commute to the college.

"I commute from Tacoma. If I take the train and the bus, it's an hour and a half commute," she said.

"If I didn't have a long commute and I could bring my dog to work. They'd have to carry me out of here kicking and screaming," she said.

Nole said she plans to spend some quality time with her family, enjoy some baseball games and relax after she leaves Highline.

She also has some other plans in mind.

"The honest truth is I want a dog and I can't have a dog with out retiring because I can't bring him to work. My dog passed away but I feel ready to have another dog now," she said.

Nole advises her successor to take things in stride, have a thick skin and enjoy the beauty that is Highline.

Nole's last day will be May 7.

First Friday gets rained on

By **Anthony McCurter**
Staff Reporter

Rain last Friday washed away some Highline students' efforts to clean up campus.

The Center for Leadership and Service hosted an event with intentions of cleaning the littered retention pond on the southwest side of campus on Friday, April 3.

Despite cold and rainy weather conditions, approximately 60 students showed up. Unfortunately, the clean up had to be postponed until a day with a more promising forecast.

But it was the sense of community that brought the volunteers together.

"If we do this together, it's better than doing it alone," said student Thadah Hser.

Even though the clean-up



Even though the clean-up was canceled, students took part in a meeting.

was postponed, those attending still held a meeting where students were encouraged to get involved in the many programs and events that the center offers.

"We were just so inspired by the beauty of the retention pond that we thought, why not host a clean-up event for it?" said Assistant Director Iesha Valencia.

Leak may cause chaos in parking

By **Bryce Sizemore**
Staff Reporter

Students may encounter traffic and parking delays in the South Parking Lot today as work is done on the westbound lane of South 240th Street.

This work is in response to a leak found on a water main under road near the South Parking Lot entrance. Water is visibly flowing out of a seal on the road, forming a stream that runs through the South Parking Lot.

Repairs will be aimed at preventing the soil supporting the road from eroding due to the water leakage.

The Highline Water District will be working on the westbound lane of South 240th Street.

"There could be slowdowns coming westbound on South 240th," said Karen Herndon, Highline project manager of fa-



Savanna Smith/THUNDERWORD

The water leak can be seen near the south parking lot on 240th Street. The Highline Water District will be making repairs.

cilities.

Westbound Metro buses will be rerouted, bypassing the road construction via 26th Avenue South, South 242nd Street, 24th Avenue South, and then proceeding east on South 240th Street.

"We shouldn't be impacted," said Herndon.

The work will start at 8 a.m.

and is to last until the end of today. However, if the break is more severe than predicted, South 240th Street may be closed completely for a longer period.

After work is completed, the road will be temporarily repaved for up to 30 days in order to let the soil dry and shift prior to permanent repairs.

Faith doesn't justify any discrimination

Arkansas and Indiana are the two most recent states to pass religious freedom laws that presume to allow discrimination against gays and lesbians.

However, the states have two different bills.

The religious freedom bill passed in Arkansas directly deals with people not having to provide marital services to anyone who is gay or lesbian because it goes against their religious beliefs.

The bill passed in Indiana simply prevents the government from "burdening a person's exercise of religion."

The bill in Indiana is broader whereas Arkansas's bill is more direct.

However both bills prevent the government from intruding on a person's right to exercise their religious beliefs.

But is religious freedom more important than the freedom to be who you are?

The way the law is written, anything could potentially be religiously offensive.

Let's flip the script, how would a straight person feel if a gay business owner decided not to serve them because they are straight.

Allowing people to discriminate a little bit even for religious reasons only promotes more discrimination for any reason.

The bill is very controversial and can send the wrong message about Indiana as a whole.

People aren't going to stop discriminating unless they are made to.

Discrimination is a way people isolate themselves from people who are different than them.

The reason could be that they are uncomfortable, or they were raised to view people who are different than them in a certain viewpoint, which is unfortunate.

Treating people who are different than you the same way you would treat someone who is like you takes maturity.

To not serve someone because they are different from you is ignorant and offensive.

Not to mention that people can change their religion but people can't change who they are.

They could try, and live an unhappy life trying to be someone they aren't just to be served.

Does that seem right?

It is time to get over ourselves and realize we are all human. We all bleed the same color.

As long as we all co-exist on this earth we have to learn to get past the differences we see and start accepting people for who they are.

As long as they are not physically hurting you or harassing you then it shouldn't matter who they are or who they choose to be with.

So the answer no, it is not more important to have religious freedom over having the freedom to be yourself.

Because at the end of the day, you are who you are.

Your religion is what you practice, not who you are.

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!



Graduation, here we come

It's Spring Quarter, and you know what that means? Graduation.

My journey at Highline College has led up to this quarter. I have had a lot of fun in my two years here, and many memories to carry with me throughout my whole life.

Not to mention the life lessons I learned.

I hope to be able to take what I have learned here and help someone else.

In my first year at Highline, I was highly involved with the Center for leadership and Service, where I met a ton of people, went on many retreats and trips, and volunteered at events on campus.

I made friends, helped the community and had fun while doing it.

I even ran for vice president of Student Government.

Although I didn't win, it was a great experience.

This year I became less involved with the Center for Leadership and Service and I started working for the student newspaper here at Highline.

That experience has changed my life.

Commentary



Kiki Turner

I met so many great people and learned so much that it seems unreal.

I love to write and to get paid to do what I love is a blessing all in itself.

I am thankful for what I have learned, and what I can apply in my life.

To me going to a two-year college is better because of how close knit it can be.

Not to mention the campus isn't as big and overwhelming.

With each quarter and each class, I learned not only the subject being taught but also life

principle, from the professors. But my time is almost up.

This is my last Spring Quarter and the excitement of summer is already here.

I know some of you already have summer fever but Spring Quarter is not the quarter to mess around.

You especially don't want to screw around if you are graduating.

You don't want to be the person who worked hard and during the last quarter messed around and failed a class and didn't graduate on time.

You have to retake that class or take another class during another quarter to make up for it.

That's a lot of extra work and money, all for a little fun in the sun.

You just have to last a few more weeks.

Stay focused and on top of your stuff.

Don't slack on assignments or skip classes because the weather is nice.

You can do it; we're almost there.

Kiki Turner is the Opinions Editor for the Thunderword

the Staff

Try shouting at me. It will end badly for you.

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• Renton Civic Theatre presents *Arcadia*, a play that moves back and forth between 1809 and the present at the estate of the Coverly family. This play transitions smoothly between the timelines and explores the nature of truth and attraction, and the difference between classical and romantic temperaments. The show runs through April 13. Tickets can be purchased at rentoncivictheatre.org/arcadia or by phone at 425-226-5529.

• Audiences can follow the yellow brick road toward adventure, enchantment and magic with the Missoula Children's Theatre and more than 50 local students in an original musical adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*. This original musical production is part of the Missoula Children's Theatre's unique international touring project and will be presented by Centerstage in Federal Way on April 10 and 11. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for youth. For more information, call 253-661-1444.

• The ACT Theatre teams presents *Jacques Brel*. In 1968, the little-known Belgian singer premiered a musical revue Off-Broadway and left audiences astounded. Brel's songs have inspired covers by artists such as David Bowie, Neil Diamond, Celine Dion, and Nirvana. His songs are brought to vivid life in this intense musical experience. The show runs through May 17 at the ACT Theatre in Seattle. Tickets are available online at acttheatre.org/Tickets/OnStage/JacquesBrel#Tickets.

• On Saturday, April 11, ventriloquist Lynn Trefzger will be performing at the Auburn Avenue Theatre. For over 30 years, Lynn Trefzger has given life to a trunk full of characters and has performed for audiences worldwide. Audiences are treated to Lynn's vocal illusion talents, where they may meet a drunken and lovable camel, a grumpy old man, or a feisty little girl. General admission is \$17 or \$15 for students and seniors. For tickets, call 253-931-3043 or visit brownpapertickets.com/event/754312.

Students cash in on poetic talents

By Michael Muench
Staff Reporter

Highline student Daylen A. Nguyen recently took first place in the college's third annual poetry contest. Nguyen's poem, *Dreams of Blue*, came in first out of 43 writers who submitted a combined 80 entries.

"The judges were attracted to the poem's strong imagery and concise language," said Susan Rich, Highline writing professor and member of the Poetry Month committee. "Nguyen's ability to investigate mood – in this case one of forward-thinking nostalgia – impressed all of us."

The contest helps kick off Highline's celebration of National Poetry Month, which continued Wednesday with poetry readings in the fourth floor Library Gallery.

In the poetry contest, second place was awarded to Linda Malnack for her poem "*Apple/Evening*," which was chosen for its subtlety, and for the multiple perspectives that it approached it's subject matter from.

Third place was awarded to Anthony Constantino for his poem "*Federal Way*," which was chosen for its humorous approach, it's ironic voice, and it's unique subject matter.

Honorable mention went to seven students.

Each participating contestant was required to submit poems of no more than 20 lines and that could fit onto an 8 and a half-inch by 11-inch piece of paper. The judges were looking



Kayla Dickson/THUNDERWORD

Natasha Burrowes reads from a favorite poem at Wednesday's Poetry Month festivities.

for poems that demonstrated superior wordplay, imagery, sounds, and were tied together by a solid theme.

Each of the placing contestants were awarded a monetary prize. First place received \$125. Second place received \$100. Third place received \$75. The students who received honorable mention each received \$25 for their work.

As an additional reward alongside the prize money, the students' poems will be put on display in Highline's Library Gallery alongside nationally recognized poets Joseph Green, January O'Neil and Brian Turner.

Nguyen said that his winning poem expressed the anxieties that come with responsibilities. Nguyen submitted two other poems to the contest; one poem

about his brother, and another detailing thoughts drifting and uncertainty.

Highline is celebrating Poetry Month by holding workshops and poetry readings.

A reception and poetry reading was held on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the Library Gallery to honor the winning poets of the Poetry Contest

The contest winners and honorable mentions were asked to give readings of the poems chosen by judges Sharon Hashimoto, Susan Landgraf, and Susan Rich.

There will be a Poetry and Art Workshop today with Susan Rich and photographer Carol Sawyer from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Building 2.

Poet January O'Neil will lead a Poetry Reading and Writing

Workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Building 2.

Nationally known and acclaimed poet Joseph Green will be doing a reading on Tuesday, April 21 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Poetry Across Cultures: A Student Led Workshop is going to be held in the Writing Center on Wednesday, April 22 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The Center is in room 319i in Building 26.

The final event of Poetry Month will be the Brian Turner Poetry & Memoir Reading and Writing Workshop on Tuesday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Building 2.

For the full schedule of upcoming events for Poetry Month on campus, visit <https://highline.edu/calendar/category/national-poetry-month/>.

Dorothy visits Oz in Missoula Children's Theatre production

By Haley Lusher
Staff Reporter

The Missoula Children's Theatre creates a unique environment for child actors by putting children from the local community into a professionally managed show.

One such example will occur April 10-11 when Centerstage Theatre in Federal Way will host performances of *The Wizard of Oz* by Missoula Children's Theatre.

The Wizard of Oz tells the story about a young girl who is transported to a magical place after a huge tornado lifts her house away from her family's farm in Kansas. She then finds her way home by traveling down a yellow brick road with

some friends she meets along the way.

The task of following the yellow brick road may seem like a simple task, but young Dorothy encounters several fearful creatures including a wicked witch.

"Our program is really about our mission -- the development of life skills in children through the participation in the performing arts," said Missoula Children's Theatre Marketing Director Jonna Michelson.

Two actor/directors walk the potential cast members through the audition process, and then rehearse the children over the remainder of the week. The show is that weekend.

The actor/directors are the only Missoula staff present at the auditions and the show.

"While only one will perform with the children, the other guides the process backstage," said Michelson.

The Missoula Children's Theatre visits approximately 1,200 communities around the world each year, performing two shows per community visited.

The show time starts at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets range from \$28 for adults to \$24 for seniors (65 and older) and military; youth \$10; Kid-zone youth (18 and younger) \$7. For more information on show times and purchasing tickets, visit <http://centerstagetheatre.com/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=140>.

The Centerstage Theatre is at 3200 S.W. Dash Point Road in

Go Figure! answers

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Weekly SUDOKU

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King Crossword

Answers												
Solution time: 25 mins.												
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File photo

African drummers perform at last year's Global Fest at Highline. The celebration of cultural diversity returns to Highline on May 9.

Global Fest returns, heads indoors

By Diana Prikhodko
Staff Reporter

Highline will once again celebrate its diversity this May with a festival for all cultures. Global Fest will unfold Saturday, May 9, from 1-5 p.m. The free event highlights the cultural diversity among the hundreds of international students at the college through performances

of song, dance and drama. Global Fest has always been a huge success, said Amee Moon, associate director of International Student Programs. It's been for around 15 years. In previous years, the event has always sold out, once within the first 20 minutes. Unlike last year, this year's event will take place indoors in Building 8, painting the space

with color and culture. Moon said that they have had "the worst luck" with weather for their events this past year and are "going to the way it was before." Moon said she believes this event is an opportunity for many students at Highline to be exposed to other cultures. She said this event "inspires [students] to talk to others and get more comfortable with them."

Looking at young adults now, whether they're from China or Poland, it's evident that most everyone wears jeans and a T-shirt, listens to pop music, and is socializing over the Internet, Moon said. There's something so beautiful and fascinating in seeing young adults proud to express their cultural roots and dress traditionally, she said. Moon said she hopes that

those attending the event get an "around-the-world experience." Over the years, Global Fest showcased many different cultures from countries such as Korea, Germany, Vietnam, Japan, Greece, and many others. Justin Alcala, last year's International Leadership Student Council student leader, said it's "the spirit of the International student."

Auburn theater chose the nose for April shows

By Mark Kirylka
Staff Reporter

Disney's *My Son Pinocchio Jr.*, a story about a parent-child relationship, comes to life at the Auburn Avenue Theater this April. Directed by Angelica Danielle Duncan, the performances feature child actors, ages 7 to 17. The musical is inspired by the original Disney movie *Pinocchio* that was made in 1940 and also by the movie *Geppetto*, made in 2000. However, The Auburn Avenue performance is different from the movies. This musical is more focused on Geppetto as a parent than on the boy-puppet, Pinocchio. "Since a young age I loved being on stage," Director Duncan said. "I've always wanted to teach and perform. It is good to have experience of performing before teaching and being able to do both." "I am a storyteller with strong messages. I believe that being a human means storytelling, and I want to continue it through theater art," Duncan

said. "The purpose of this particular musical is to create a theatrical experience for students," Duncan said. "Most important is that this is focused on the children. It is about them and making them feel successful," she said. "Students learn voice, choreography, acting, set design, costuming and many other skills at once that will benefit them in life." There are many challenges in producing a children's musical and one of them is that "not all the kids have experience so we have to be flexible and conscious of it," Duncan said. "Theater can change students' lives. Students need to learn to work together as a team to make this musical happen." Disney's *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* runs on Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. It is about one hour and a half with intermission. Tickets are \$8. Call Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation at 253-931-3043, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. or Friday, 8 a.m. to noon, or order online.

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Be mindful: A little thought can beat the blues

By Antonina Valiere
Staff Reporter

Stress, anxiety and depression can harm the body, but by engaging in the practice of mindfulness, people can cope with these ills, a Highline counselor said Monday as part of the Week of Wellness.

With more than 40 people

in attendance, Dr. Allison Lau, the associate dean for Counseling and Student Judicial Affairs, started the Week of Wellness by giving a presentation of what it means to be mindful.

Mindfulness is the act of paying attention to your thoughts without judgment.

Her presentation focused on the importance of mindfulness

because without it you're losing touch with reality.

Losing touch with reality means that you're focusing your thoughts primarily on the past and future rather than living in the moment.

Dr. Lau stressed the importance of practicing the act of mindfulness by participating in activities such as breath-

ing exercises, meditating and yoga.

These techniques allow one to live in the moment because it increases their awareness of their surroundings and what is currently happening.

People often fill silence with thoughts to avoid what is happening in the present.

"When we have time to re-

flect it can be scary, because it can bring thoughts and emotions of pain," Dr. Lau said.

"When we let our thoughts rule everything, then that's dangerous."

Dr. Lau's final advice was to notice that your thoughts are happening, and rather than to judge these thoughts, to respond to them.

Art that helps the heart



Yui Fujiwara/THUNDERWORD

Highline students expressed their emotions through art at a workshop Wednesday in Building 8. Week of Wellness continues today and tomorrow with more workshops and presentations.

Build beginner's workout with simple exercises

By Jordan Mellott
Staff Reporter

The thought of going to the gym can be confusing and overwhelming for many people, but yesterday's Workout: Tips and Tricks workshop aimed to help beginners build a workout.

The event, led by Counseling Center intern Tolani Ogunyoku, was part of the Week of Wellness events on campus.

"The gym is a very vulnerable place to be in," Ogunyoku said. "It's all about finding your comfort with it."

The workshop was focused on teaching participants exercises that can be done almost anywhere. No machines or weights were needed.

He started the workshop by having participants do some light stretching. After that

they ran in place to get their heart rates up.

Ogunyoku typically does 15 to 20 minutes of cardio before a workout, he said.

For the rest of the workshop, he showed the group three different exercises and had them repeat each of them 15 times, then nine times, and finally six times.

After all three sets were done, he had the students repeat the pattern with three new exercises.

Exercises included push-ups, burpees, wall sits and squats.

"Working out helps boost your endorphin level," Ogunyoku said. "You end up living a happier and healthier life when you work out."

At the end of the session, a drawing was held and student Gurpreet Sandhu won a FitBit fitness tracker.



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

Tolani Ogunyoku leads an exercise class Wednesday.

Versatile yoga offers energy

By Bogdan Koval
Staff Reporter

For students, faculty and staff looking for a way to reduce stress and promote good health, yoga was offered as an alternative at a Wellness Week presentation Monday.

Brooke Stepps, a yoga instructor, offered a free introductory class as part of the week-long series of events in support of human wellness.

Nearly 50 people gathered in the Mt. Olympus room of the Student Union to hear Stepps explain how yoga is beneficial to the human body.

Most people who attended the event arrived in casual clothing and participated in the demonstration.

Stepps showed that yoga can be done most anywhere to help practitioners gain energy, relax and/or melt away stress.

"Yoga is a way to connect with yourself and the community and if you aren't present with yourself, you can't be pres-

ent with others," Stepps said.

Many of the students attending tried yoga for the first time and their impressions varied from "it's painful" to "it's relaxing."

The first basic move the yoga class attempted was called child pose and is an easy move that is great to do during finals or if a person just needs a break from any stressors, Stepps said.

Stepps assisted any of the students who were struggling to make sure that everyone who attended could learn the technique.

A majority of the class focused on breathing.

"In yoga, breathing is one of the most important things to grasp and if you learned how to breathe today, you did really well," Stepps said.

Throughout the class, Stepps kept reminding students that they need to be kind to their bodies when doing yoga to prevent injuries.

Philip Prokashin, a Highline student said, "I could do this all

day because I felt so good after it." Another student said, "I did each move and I felt so great, we need more of these classes here at Highline."

An iconic yoga move the class attempted was the Warrior 2, and after completing it Stepps asked, "Class, notice how it makes you feel when that breath is in your belly. Pretty good, right?"

Fifty heads nodded.

Stepps was a ballet dancer until she injured her knee when she was 16.

She went through physical therapy assigned to her and when it didn't help, she began doing yoga with her mother. It helped them bond as it ultimately healed her knee.

Stepps' final questions for the class were: How do you want to leave this room? How do you want the rest of this day?

Yoga, she said, will give you choices to make it great.

Yoga classes are offered here at Highline through the Physical Education department.



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Softball team faces uphill battle

By Chuck Prater
Staff Reporter

The softball season is under-way for Highline having tallied a 1-1 (5-9 overall) record for the season so far.

The season began back on March 6 when the T-Birds traveled to Lacey to compete in the Inter-Region Tournament being held from March 6 to March 8.

The T-Birds played three games on the first day winning their first game against Lower Columbia 9-8.

They went on to lose their next two games, 15-2 to Bellevue and 10-4 to Olympic.

The T-Birds next had two games on March 7 against Wenatchee Valley and SW Oregon losing 20-6 and 9-0.

Chemeketa was the T-Birds last opponent on March 8 and a chance to get back on the winning side, unfortunately the Storm beat them 11-1 to end the Inter-Region Tournament.

“Our defense could be better and we’re short handed with new girls in new positions,” said Highline Head Coach Jason Evans.

“So we give up a lot of runs, but I feel good with what we have.”

Highline traveled back home and prepared for a March 20



THUNDERWORD PHOTO

The T-Birds prepare for a game at home recently.

double-header against Eastern Washington University.

Highline beat the Eagles 8-0 in their first game and 5-1 in the second game.

The T-Birds got off to a good start earning five runs in the first three innings and closed out the Eagles in the fifth inning earning another two runs.

It was also a good day for the T-Birds at bat being led by sophomore third baseman Hayley Craddock who’s two hits earned her four RBI’s in the game.

Craddock was all-conference last year as a freshman and is second in the league at batting average with .565 percent and

increasing that total with every game she plays.

“Our sophomores have stepped up big for us,” said Evans.

“Hayley is going to be competing for the top batter in the league all year, she just needs to get out of her way and settle down.”

The T-Birds played the Eagles again shortly after the first game was over.

Highline scored three runs in the third inning to go up 4-0 before an Eagles player hit a home run to close the gap.

Freshman outfielder Ally Rippingham scored off a wild pitch by the Eagles pitcher making the score 5-1.

Highline’s defense and sophomore pitcher Emma Seymar helped close out the game out not allow another run.

“I think our strengths is our pitching and our offense,” said Evans.

“We’ve scored over 70 runs in the last six games.”

The T-Birds’ next double-header was an away game against Edmonds on March 21.

Highline lost both games by one run, losing 16-15 in the first game and 12-11 in the second one.

It was back and forth throughout the innings, with the T-Birds’ best innings coming in the first scoring four runs and in the fifth inning with five runs.

The Tritons rallied back in a big way scoring seven runs ahead of Highline’s three runs in the seventh inning.

The second game was not close in the beginning with the Tritons outscoring the T-Birds 10-1 in the first four innings.

Highline attempted a huge comeback in the fifth and sixth inning, scoring five runs and four runs.

After splitting the two games with Chemeketa on March 28, beating them 11-6 in the first game and losing 15-6 in the second game, Highline played their next game on April 4.

The T-Birds had a noon double-header against Centralia at home losing 9-2 and winning 11-2.

Sophomore shortstop Paige Hughes started things off at the bottom of the first by being walked allowing sophomore second basemen Jennifer Simpson to score.

Freshman outfielder Judy Johnson was big in the first inning registering two RBI’s.

With runners on first and second base, sophomore catcher Daish Felipe connected on a double allowing Rippingham to score from second base and Craddock advancing to third.

An over throw by a Centralia outfielder helped Craddock score and Felipe advance to third base.

Felipe then scored off a wild pitch by the Trailblazers increasing the lead to 7-0 headed into the fourth inning.

The T-Birds’ next game is a double-header home game Friday against South Puget Sound beginning at 2 p.m. and then another double-header on Saturday at noon against Green River at home.

“The goal every year is to get into the playoffs and compete for a championship,” said Evans.

“We’ve done it the last four years in a row and I don’t want to stop that streak this year.”

Scoreboard

Woman's Softball		
Team	Conference W-L	Season W-L
West Division		
Pierce	2-0	9-11
Centralia	3-1	8-14
Grays Harbor	2-2	2-8
Green River	2-2	6-13
Highline	1-1	5-9
South Puget Sound	0-4	0-12
South Division		
SW Oregon	4-0	17-3
Clackamas	3-1	15-5
Lower Columbia	1-2	10-7
Clark	1-2	10-9
Mt. Hood	1-3	13-5
Chemeketa	1-3	12-9
North Division		
Douglas	6-1	9-5
Olympic	6-2	11-5
Everett	4-2	6-8
Bellevue	5-3	13-9
Edmonds	3-5	7-9
Skagit Valley	1-6	1-6
Shoreline	0-6	1-9
East Division		
Spokane	10-1	18-2
Columbia Basin	4-1	12-7
Treasure Valley	8-4	11-13
Wenatchee Valley	6-4	15-8
Blue Mountain	4-6	6-14
Big Bend	4-8	10-16
Walla Walla	1-5	7-15
North Idaho	0-0	20-1
Yakima Valley	0-8	0-17

Women's soccer continues to restock team

By Chuck Prater
Staff Reporter

Highline’s women soccer has added more players to increase their 2015 recruiting class to 10.

The T-Birds have been busy this off-season, stacking their team for another shot at the NWAC championship.

“The number of players we have signed to come in is very normal. I would say that last year’s letter of intent list was extraordinarily large,” said Highline Head Coach Tom Moore.

“We are now back on track with the numbers we want to see on average each year. We should usually be looking at bringing in 10-15 kids each year and retaining 10-15 from the previous year.”

In addition to the players that signed with Highline in the beginning of the year, including Kendra Wallace, Dakota Grim, Chentay Warnes, Sierra Leach, Emily Vandehey, Miranda Wolfe, Alex Ashe, and Maya Gray, the T-Birds got three more players.

All three players, goalkeepers Sydney Peters, Kiera Taylor, and mid-fielder Angelique Rose Deittrick are from different states.

“People are recognizing that we have built a successful pro-

gram that is competitive and allows for student-athletes to move on and continue to play at a higher level while staying on a successful academic path,” said Moore.

“I think our connection with four-year schools has been extremely successful and there have been a lot of schools contacting us looking for players who we can move on, and also schools contacting us trying to place players who aren’t able to be a part of that school’s program.

“Chris Wells, my assistant, has been doing an outstanding job in networking the West Coast and all recruiting territories. He has done a great job of getting our name out there and people are starting to take notice,” he said.

“It also shows that Highline is a place of diversity and I think we are continuing to show that with the type of student athletes we have brought in the last few years,” said Moore.

“The fact that we are able to branch out is a great thing and provides a great experience for those who choose to attend this institution from out of the area and for those commuters down the road.”

Along with the 10 new play-

ers, the T-Birds are bringing back 21 players from last season squad in which we saw one of the best, if the not best, offensive teams in the league.

The T-Birds scored 105 goals in games last season, 25 more than the next team behind them.

“I think it will be a competitive environment once again. Just because you are a returner doesn’t mean your job is any easier, or any safer,” said Moore.

“We have to make sure we are going out and recruiting players that are better or at least as good as what we have currently in order to keep this program

moving in the right direction. The returners understand this and have a lot of work to do in the off-season to make sure they put themselves in a good spot as we approach preseason,” he said.

“Nobody is guaranteed anything, and that’s how it should be. Those that work the hardest, and come in to season most prepared will have the opportunity to showcase that as they battle for impact roles among the team.”

“I am excited for the returners and for the incoming class as we will have a chance to be very successful once again,” said Moore.



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7	1		6			9		
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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. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many sides does a snowflake have?

2. COMICS: What superhero's alter ego was Natasha Romanova?

3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long is the dolphin's gestation period?

4. LANGUAGE: What is fratricide?

5. MOVIES: What was the name of actress Lauren Bacall's debut movie?

6. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. state has the most coastline?

7. TELEVISION: Where did the Flintstones live?

8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces are in 2 pounds?

9. PRESIDENTS: Ramsey Clark served as attorney general under which president?

10. HISTORY: When was the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable completed?

Answers

1. Six
2. Black Widow
3. About 12 months
4. Killing a brother or sister
5. *To Have and Have Not*
6. Alaska
7. Bedrock
8. 32
9. Lyndon Johnson
10. 1858
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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.

	x		-		16
-		÷		x	
	x		+		14
x		+		+	
	+		x		14
15		10		17	

1 2 3 4 4 5 6 8 9

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Matterhorn, for one
4 Bankrolls
8 "Unh-unh"
12 Vast expanse
13 Others (Lat.)
14 Mountain goat
15 Bald
17 Zilch
18 Zilch
19 Lurches
21 File container
24 Restroom, for short
25 Before
26 Bathroom fixture
28 Malodorous
32 Criterion
34 Space
36 Stash
37 Black tea of India
39 That man's
41 Chaps
42 Varnish ingredient
44 Cheap and shabby
46 Cutting tool
50 Under the weather
51 Wrinkly fruit
52 Lax
56 Compared to
57 Caspian

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- feeder
58 Try the sherry
59 Engaged in karaoke
60 Newspaper page
61 Pigpen
- old Assyria
9 Reed instrument
10 Teller's partner
11 Old partners
16 Disencumber
20 Luftwaffe foe (Abbr.)
21 Greek salad ingredient
22 Raw minerals
23 Carpet
27 "Humbug!"
29 Eternal
30 Mid-month date
31 Say it
- isn't so
33 Spilling the beans
35 Snapshot
38 More, to Manuel
40 Protect
43 Chocolate source
45 Right angle
46 Shacks
47 Turkish title
48 Family
49 Distort
53 "Norma —"
54 Perch
55 Agent

DOWN

- 1 Blond shade
2 Meadow
3 Distress-free
4 Billfold
5 Hearty brew
6 Platter
7 Cordage
8 Capital of

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Puzzle answers on Page 5

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be put off by a seemingly too-tangled situation. Sometimes a simple procedure will unsnarl all the knots and get you in the clear fast and easy, just the way the Lamb likes it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to go through your work space -- wherever it is -- and see what needs to be replaced and what can be tossed (or at least given away) without a second thought.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Someone who disagrees with your position might try to intimidate you. But continue to present a fair argument, regardless of how petty someone else might be while trying to make a point.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might find yourself exceptionally sensitive to family matters this week. An issue could come to light that you had overlooked. Ask other kinfolk to discuss it with you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might have more questions about a project (or perhaps someone you're dealing with on some level) than you



feel comfortable with. If so, see which can be answered, which cannot, and why.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to clean up and clear out what you don't need before your tidy self is overwhelmed by "stuff." Then go celebrate the Virgo victory over clutter with someone special.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel a mite confused about why something you were sure couldn't go wrong didn't go all right either. Be patient. Things soon move into balance, exactly as you like it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) At this decision point, you could be moving from side to side, just to say you're in motion. Or you could be considering making a move straight up. What you choose is up to you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although your finances should be in an

improved situation at this time, thrift is still the savvy Sagittarian's smart move. Advice from a spouse or partner could be worth heeding.

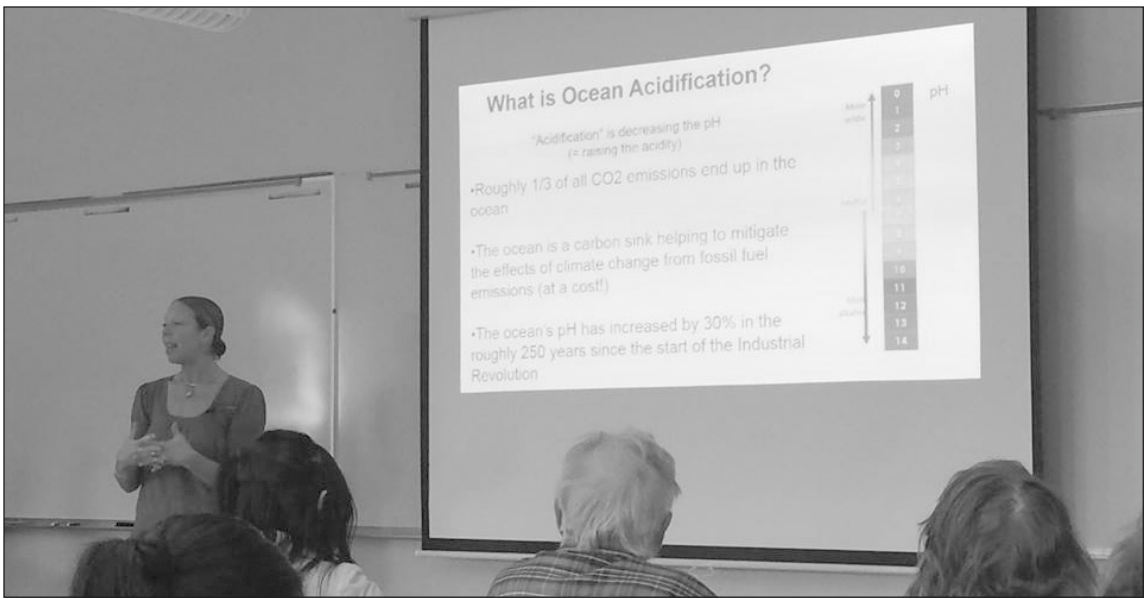
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Taking on a new challenge brings out the Goat's skills in maneuvering over and around difficult spots. Best of all, the Goat does it one careful step after another. (Got the idea, Kid?)

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your well-known patience might be wearing thin because of a disturbing (and seemingly unending) problem with someone close to you. This could be a time to ask for help. Good luck.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful about a new venture that lures you into a "just-look-and-see" mode. Be sure that what you're being given to see isn't hiding what you should be seeing instead.

BORN THIS WEEK: Aries and Taurus give you the gift of leadership and the blessings of care and concern for all creatures.

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Kayla Dickson/ THUNDERWORD

Washington state is the leading researcher toward technologies that combat ocean acidification.

Carbon emissions dangerously increase ocean acidification

By Michael Muench
Staff Reporter

Ocean acidification is causing damage to our oceans, said the Seattle Aquarium’s interpretation coordinator at last Saturday’s Science on the Sound seminar.

Nicole Star Killebrew said her goal is not only to help educate and combat ocean acidification, but to also raise awareness locally and globally to fight this problem.

Ocean acidification is a decrease in pH over time in the world’s oceans, Killebrew said.

The ocean’s pH has decreased by 30 percent over the last 250 years and one-third of all carbon dioxide emissions caused by factories and motor vehicles end up in the ocean.

The ocean acts as a carbon sink for our gases, Killebrew said. But that comes at a cost.

She used a diagram to show the carbon dioxide levels in the air. The readings, taken from a recording device on top of the Space Needle, showed a visible spike right around the time commuter traffic is most dense.

Another diagram she used depicted carbon dioxide accumulation on a global scale. With the carbon dioxide represented as a green smog, which over a series of simulated years grew thicker and thicker.

New technologies are emerging that will help scientists record and fight ocean acidification, Killebrew said. Satellites that scan the ocean and can compile as much information in a minute as a ship could in 10 years.

“Washington state is leading the way in ocean acidification research,” she said.

Pacific Northwest waters are naturally exposed to some of the lowest pH waters in the entire world, caused by both nutrient run off and atmospheric emissions from our factories and cars.

“Here in Puget Sound we’re seeing pH values of 7.4-7.6,” Killebrew said.

The Puget Sound is one of the most sensitive marine environments to ocean acidification. “We are part of the ocean food web. We are part of the global food web,” Killebrew said.

Marine wildlife are not the only species affected by this change.

People are affected as well. This point was brought up multiple times throughout the presentation.

There is an 80 percent mortality rate for larval oysters in some hatcheries around the Pacific Northwest, Killebrew said. Due to ocean acidification, not enough calcium carbonate is available in the water for oysters to form their shells. This affects more than just the oysters.

While shell-forming animals are among the most drastically affected, any and all marine life is affected in some form, she said.

People think of the ocean, weather, and the atmosphere as completely distinct entities, when in reality they are one interrelated working system, Killebrew said.

The public needs to recognize that carbon dioxide emissions are causing our climate to change, and that there are many reusable alternatives to fossil fuel. Solar energy, wind energy, and geothermal energy are just a few of many examples, she said.

A single person may not think that anything they can do will be of any value, Killebrew said, especially when compared to things such as the ice caps melting or other large events they may see in the media.

Oft times miscommunication to the public is a direct result of how media outlets presented the information. The media communicates using panic tones, or speaks in global terms, Killebrew said. This may make the individual feel like they are incapable of making any sort of change.

One of Killebrew’s main concerns is the need to communicate to the general public that

this was happening, to tell them how it was happening, and to do it clearly.

That is how to raise general awareness so that people can change everyday activities to help combat ocean acidification, she said.

The Seattle Aquarium has workshops, including dealing with ocean acidification, available to the general public. They are listed on it’s website.

The aquarium is also forming a national network of key partnerships to help interpret and combat climate change. It is a coalition of nearly a dozen stand-alone organizations operating under one umbrella towards a common goal.

“We will make those differences because the health of our ocean and the health of our planet depend on it,” said Killebrew.

The next Science on the Sound is May 2, when Susan Landgraf will host a writing workshop.

Highline hosts the Science Olympiad

By Abdirizak Ahmed
Staff Reporter

Nine hundred would-be Einsteins will invade the Highline campus on April 18 for the 2015 Science Olympiad state competition.

The college previously hosted the Science Olympiad regional competition on March 7 that involved 700 students. An estimated 120 Highline faculty and engineer students will volunteer to help organize this event.

Judy Mannard, tournament director and Highline professor, plans on using the same system that was successful for the regionals.

The students will be based in buildings 2, 8 and 22 while

awaiting dispersal to competitions in buildings 8, 12, 16, 28 and 29. They will go in either groups or individually, depending on the type of competition.

This event is for middle and high school students, and is a positive outreach opportunity for Highline, Mannard said.

“The beauty of this event is that it brings science supporters from all over the community to celebrate our young scientists and engineers,” she said.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by an award ceremony and physics magic show at 3:30 p.m. in the Pavilion.

Competition winners will advance to the national competition at the University of Nebraska on May 15 and 16.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PHOTO

The Science Olympiad brings together middle school and high school scientist to compete in a science tournament.

Get Microsoft Office 365 free

Microsoft Office 365 is available to students for free.

Students must sign up for the program with their Highline login to install on personal

computers. Students can receive up to five copies, free of charge.

To sign up visit <http://office.com/getoffice365>. Detailed instructions are available at http://helpdesk.highline.edu/Documentation/Free_Office365_Students.pdf.

HELP WANTED

Assistant Business Manager

The Thunderword has an immediate opening for an assistant business manager, to help the business manager with advertising and record keeping. Preference will be given to students who will be returning for the 2015-2016 school year. The ideal candidate will be majoring in business, advertising or accounting.

This is a 10-hour-a-week, on-campus job with flexible hours.

Please send a resume and cover letter to thunderword@highline.edu



Annual ceremony rewards women

By Tiffany Thompson
Staff Reporter

The Highline Women's Program is seeking great, deserving women who have overcome obstacles on and off campus.

Women in Action are awards given to worthy individuals who have moved forward in spite of the difficulties faced in life and became self-sufficient.

"This is not just for women; men can be recognized as well," said Jean Munro, program coordinator.

Nominees can range from staff, faculty, and students as well as a community member who has influenced the public for the better.

Applications can be picked up at the Women's Program, located in Building 6, at the reception desk. Nominations are due to Women's Program on April 24 at 5 p.m.

Munro also wanted to make clear that there are no accomplishments that are too small or big to be recognized.

Women in Action is just a small part of the Women's Program 33rd Annual Celebration. Along with the recognition of women there will be live entertainment, a guest speaker, and a raffle.

There will be a pre-affle prior to the celebration. Raffle tickets will be going on sale next week until April 29 and can be purchased for \$1.

"This is our first year attempting a pre-affle. If successful it could potentially become a trend," Munro said.

"All the money will go towards an emergency scholarships fund which is used to assist students who have none or partial funding needs," said Munro.

There will be a raffle held at the end of the celebration with the option to place your raffle tickets for your prize of choice, Munro said.

Along with Jean Munro, several people are taking part in planning this event. Maria Toloza is a student/employee who is handling the donation side.

"We have received donations from places like the Space Needle, Northwest Puppet Center, Comedy Underground just to name a few," said Toloza.

Women's Program 33rd Annual Celebration will be May 6 in Building 8 with raffles opening at 10 a.m.

Empowering women is goal of summit

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

Empowering young girls is the goal of Highline's second annual Young Educated Ladies Leading summit this Saturday.

The YELL summit is on April 11, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with workshops all over campus. Participants will be served breakfast and lunch, and will be eligible to win prizes.

Last year, the summit hosted more than 300 women from all over the state.

"We had women from the local area and even women from eastern Washington," said Rashad Norris, the director of Community Engagement.

The conference is aimed at women in high school and older.

"This summit is created to let the young ladies see themselves

in a positive light," Norris said.

The conference will have multiple guest speakers from all walks of life to tell their stories.

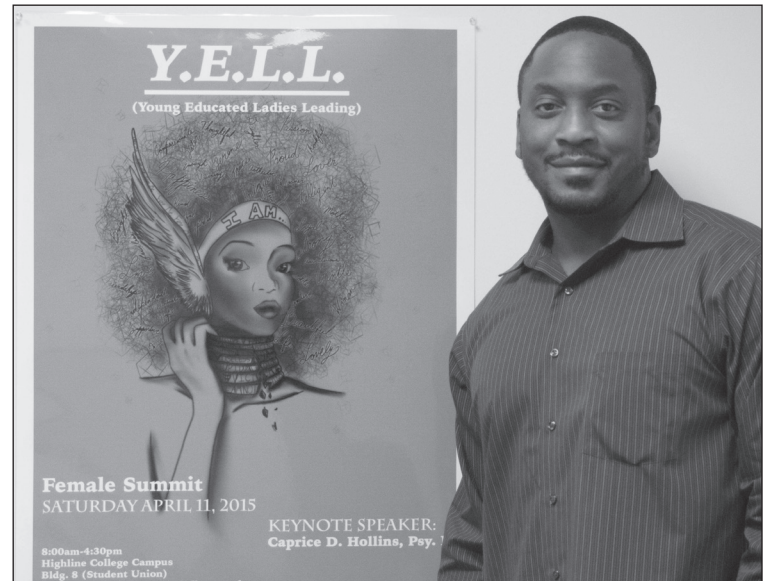
Speakers include women who have various degrees, are involved in politics, or work in the science fields.

"We were looking for individuals with a story to tell," Norris said.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Caprice Hollins, who is an associate professor at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology.

She has more than 15 years experience working with diverse groups and facilitating workshops.

There will also be multiple workshops hosted by guest speakers throughout the day. Some examples of the workshops include: "The Art of Greatness" and "We are the leaders we have been waiting



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

Rashad Norris is the chair of the committee who planned the YELL summit.

for."

"At the beginning of the seminar, the women will be given nametags that are color-coded and tell them which seminar to attend at what time," Norris

said.

Registration to attend was due April 6.

"We have a strong committee that has worked to put this together," said Norris.

Local homeless non-profit seeking tutors

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets is looking for tutors to help prepare students for their General Educational Development test.

PSKS is a non-profit organization, created in 1995 by homeless youth, based in King County that aims to help the homeless reach their full potential and succeed in life.

Each year PSKS serves 500 people by giving them shelter, food, clothing, job training, and an education.

They are looking for volunteers to tutor students for their GED tests.



Mai Lam/THUNDERWORD

The GED test is a high school equivalency certificate or diploma. It is the only high school equivalent recognized in all 50 states.

The test has five parts; language arts, social studies, mathematics part one, and mathematics part two.

"The demand for our services is increasing in the Burien

and Des Moines area," said Will Ross, a volunteer coordinator.

There are more than 5,000 homeless youth in King County according to county statistics.

Fifty percent of these people do not graduate from high school.

PSKS hosts tutoring sessions because there are not other pro-

grams available to their members.

"The majority of our participant/students in the GED program do not qualify for other similar programs," Ross said.

To be eligible to be a tutor, you must be 18 or older and be proficient in at least one of the test subjects.

The tutoring sessions usually happen at local libraries.

"We do provide the supplies but most of our off site tutors prefer to use the GED materials at the libraries," Ross said.

If interested in being a tutor, visit www.Psks.org, and click the "support" tab to apply.

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Budget

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in what is known as the McCleary decision. The Court’s reasoning was that the precise language of the state Constitution mandates the Legislature to do no less than “amply” fund education.

The Democrat-controlled House’s \$38.8 billion budget would allocate \$1.4 billion to fulfilling McCleary, with an additional \$1.8 billion to maintain funding of current standards. Of that \$1.4 billion, a portion would also go toward reducing K-3 class sizes, full funding for all-day kindergarten for every child in Washington.

At \$3.2 billion, the House budget’s education allocation would be a 21 percent increase since the last budget in 2013. Mental health care would also get increased funding in the House budget.

Higher education would receive \$256 million to go toward a two-year tuition freeze, increased financial aid, and additional funding for certain degree programs.

“We have a serious problem with tuition,” said Rep. Gregory.

Tuition rates have increased at nearly four times the rate of inflation. This is in part thanks to the cuts higher education funding has endured over the last eight years.

Rep. Gregory said that the state has put the burden of funding higher education on



AP PHOTO

State Sen. Joe Fain, R-Kent, speaks in favor of the Senate budget proposal recently. Sen. Fain is the Senate majority floor leader.

the backs of students. She also said that it is her goal to ensure accessible college for everyone who wants to go, and to do the same for any other form of higher education.

To create revenue for the new funding, \$1.5 billion would be generated through new and increased taxes on higher tiered tax brackets, and the elimination of seven tax exemptions deemed archaic.

“We have a very inequitable system,” said Rep. Gregory of Washington’s tax system.

Rep. Gregory said she supports a 5 percent excise tax on capital gains profits, which would be targeted toward individuals with higher incomes.

Revenue from the tax would go into a dedicated fund to be used for investments in K-12 and higher education.

The total \$1.5 billion in revenue generation will not be enough to cover the \$3.2 billion education package.

Rep. Gregory said that House budget writers are confident that they will be able to fund the proposed funding increases through alternative revenue sources.

In contrast, the Republican-controlled state Senate calls for a budget of \$38 billion, \$800 million less than the House proposal.

In compliance with the McCleary decision, the Senate calls for \$1.3 billion toward K-12 education. As with the House pro-

posal, \$350.1 million would go toward reduction in K-3 class sizes and \$187.7 million would go towards all-day kindergarten.

The Senate plan would also allocate funds toward higher education for a two-year tuition freeze. This would be at the cost of state-supported financial aid programs.

Whereas the House revenue proposal is grounded in tax dollars, the Senate proposes spending cuts. The Senate plan involves some \$500 million in cuts from the wages of state employees. In doing so, the Senate ignores recently negotiated contracts regarding state employee wages. To compensate for the cuts, and to offer, employees

would be given a \$2,000 pay increase over two years.

Additionally, the Senate plan would allocate roughly \$300 million of revenue from marijuana taxes.

The Senate would also cut \$200 million from the Public Works Assistance Account, which grants loans for government work projects, and put the money into the general fund.

State Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, said in a release that the Senate’s plan is rife with problems.

“This is a budget based on broken promises and broken trust,” said Sen. Keiser.

Rep. Gregory said that despite the differences in revenue generation, both chambers of the Legislature are fairly close in terms of education funding.

In the last seven years, the Legislature cut \$12 billion in spending, which precipitated this years spending.

“Over the years, the Legislature has reduced funding for a lot of things,” said Rep. Gregory. “[We’re] paying the piper.”

Despite the high price of the new funding, Rep. Gregory said that the economy is improving, and will improve further.

All the areas receiving new funds will affect the economy, said Rep. Gregory.

“[It’s about] strengthening components of government, which will lead to a strong economy tomorrow.”

The budget is supposed to be finalized by April 26, the scheduled last day of the 2015 legislative session.

Sport

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diplomacy and outreach.

Seventeen colleges from around the state are set to participate in the competition.

Highline’s team has eight members right now, with six students with disabilities and three students without disabilities. The students with disabilities are called athletes, with the other students are considered partners.

The competition will be played as five-a-side.

“In a game of five-a-side, there is three athletes and 2 partners playing,” said Belal. The competition will be played on Championship field at Seattle University, which is located at 901 12th Ave. in Seattle.

“It’s a modified soccer field, so it’s smaller,” Belal said.

Many students involved have played soccer for years.

“Yeah, I played for Special Olympics for East Side Catholic,” said second-year student Austin Landon.

Other members usually don’t play any sports.

“No, I haven’t played before, but I needed to do something new for me,” said first-year student Maddie Lindsay.

The mix of skill levels hasn’t affected the team.

“The team is doing great,” Belal said.

The matches are April 17 -18. On April 17, all participants will have a chance to socialize. After that, there will be a dinner party from 5 to 9 p.m.

On April 18, the soccer competition starts at 8 a.m. and breaks at 1 p.m, followed by a lunch and indoor carnival from 1 to 2 p.m. The final unified soccer matches will be from 4 to 6 p.m.

“Any time people with differences have opportunity to come together over a common goal, we find we are more similar than we think,” Sandler said.

“We hope that the Highline community will come out to support the Thunderbirds,” she said.

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