



Students work on assignments in the Writing Center.

Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

Campus shows solidarity with Muslims

By Michael Muench
Staff Reporter

Muslim voices will be heard and supported at a Highline event today.

This event, which is titled “A space for all- an urgent response to hatred in this time of rising Islamaphobia” is being held in order to “let students, faculty and staff that are part of the Muslim community know that we support them,” said Associate Dean for Student Programs, Jonathan Brown.

The event follows presidential candidate Donald Trump’s call to ban on all Muslims entry to the United

See Solidarity, page 20

Students say their grades are O.K.

By Thunderword Staff

Highline students are willing to take some of the blame and credit for how well they do this quarter.

Some students say poor grades are their own fault, while others feel their professors could be to blame.

Meanwhile, students look toward Winter Quarter and what they can do to earn better grades.

“If I got bad grades I’d blame myself. They [the professor] didn’t do anything, I just didn’t care,” said Connor Low.

Eric Huang also said that it would be his fault if he received

a bad grade in his classes.

“If I got a bad grade it means that I don’t understand and I can’t really blame the professor for that,” he said. “I believe in hard work.”

“If I get really clear feedback why I got a bad grade, it would be my fault,” Lee said. “If not, I would blame the professor.”

Other students blame themselves only when they think the professor did a good job instructing them.

“If the class is interesting, I get good grades,” Redeen Duran said. “If it’s not interesting, I would blame the professor.”

See Grades, page 20

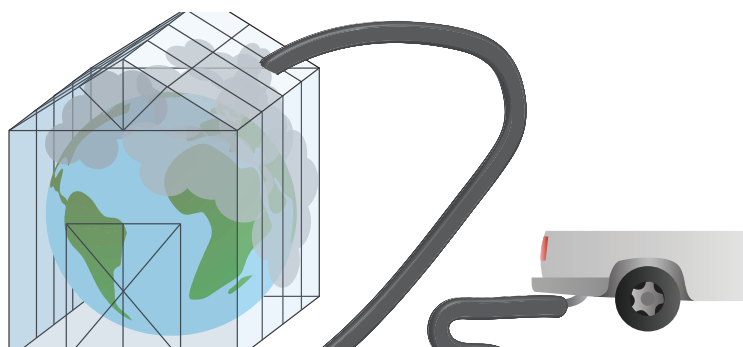
Experts warn against dangers of climate change

By Thunderword Staff

Experts agree that climate change is very real, and that the consequences may be dire.

Climate change was originally referred to as global warming because the Earth’s temperature is rising 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit a year.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, changes in temperature are caused by large amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere from industrial



Alvin Indalecio/THUNDERWORD

processes. The gases then trap energy into the atmosphere and cause it to warm up. This process is called the greenhouse effect. Although this process is

natural and needed to support life, the large amount of gases being emitted can result in cli-

See Climate, page 19

State aid doesn’t make anyone rich

By Jacqueline Robinson
Staff Reporter

Katie White wants you to know she’s not getting rich on public assistance.

While people often look at welfare as enabling people to be lazy, White – not her real name – is an ordinary Highline student, studying business, hoping to transfer and earn a four-year degree.

But beneath the bright eyes and upbeat personality, White has had her share of struggles.

White has two children and works two part-time jobs

while attending Highline. She relies on various public assistance programs to make ends meet.

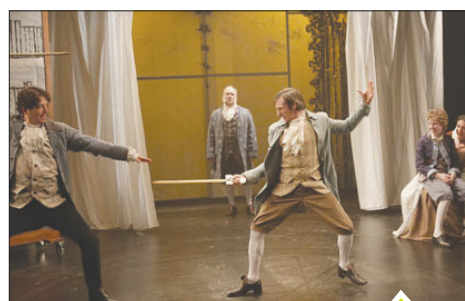
“My son is 5, he is in kindergarten and my daughter is 10 months old. It’s just us, I have to support them for the most part on my own,” said White.

She receives \$170 in food stamps, \$250 in child support, and WIC vouchers [Women, Infants, Children, a program which provide healthy food items including baby formula, eggs and bread].

See Assistance, page 20

IN THIS ISSUE

Campus life	2-3
Opinion	4
Puzzles	5
Arts	6-7
Food	8
Holiday	9-11
Sports	12-14
News	15-20



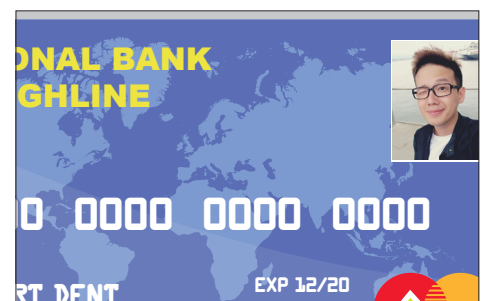
Page 7

Emma brings the page to the stage at Book-It



Page 12

Men’s basketball builds on winning streak



Page 15

Experts recommend that students start building credit



Porn watcher caught in lab

By Paul King-Sanchez
Staff Reporter

A man was caught watching pornography in the closed Kaplan computer lab in Building 25 on Dec. 3 at approximately 5:50 p.m.

When Public Safety officers made contact with the man, he said he thought the lab was open to the public.

Public Safety officers told the man that there are public access computers on the second-floor of the library.

The man was cooperative and said that he would leave for the day.

The only public access computers are in the lobby in Building 25.

The campus policy on watching pornography on college computers in the Library is that it's allowed as long as it doesn't distract people.

Student running short on breath

A Running Start student had a shortness of breath in Building 30 and didn't want medical attention on Dec. 4 at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Someone called 911 prior to Public Safety officers learning about the incident.

At approximately 9:10 a.m. South King Fire and Rescue arrived and conducted a medical evaluation on the student. The student was advised to get hydrated and to eat food.

Student falls

A female fell on a utility surface plate injuring her left ankle while walking to class on Dec. 3 at approximately 9:56 a.m.

South King Fire and Rescue came to Building 4 and transported the female student to Valley Medical Hospital for further medical evaluation.

Graffiti on campus

Orange spray painted graffiti was found along the road connecting the East Parking Lot to the North Parking Lot on Dec. 5 at approximately 8:48 a.m.

The graffiti was also found on a garbage can near the gate of Baskin Robbins and the designated smoking sign near Building 17.



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

A crane lowers roof beams onto the expansion Building 24A. Building 24A will house more equipment and provide more space for the Facilities and Operations Department.



Watch a movie at the ICC tomorrow

Relax this Friday with a movie at Flick Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Flick Fridays is a recurring event at the Inter-Cultural Center, where movies are shown on Fridays.

This week *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* will be screened in Building 8, room 204.

For more information, call 206-592-4350.

Bookstore books coming due

Textbooks that have been



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

A damaged tree affected access between Buildings 15 and 16 thanks to Wednesday's wind storm.

rented from the library are due on Dec. 18. Textbook buybacks will be taking place on Dec. 15 until Dec. 17. In order to take part in the buy-back program, students must actually own the textbook, rather than renting

the textbook.

Library offers driving practice

The Highline Library is of-

fering free online driving tests for learning drivers.

The practice tests cover car licensing, motorcycle licensing, and commercial drivers licenses.

The practice tests are available at highline.driving-tests.org/washington/.

Windy weather wreaks havoc

High winds have downed trees both on and off campus.

A downed tree blocked access to the North Parking Lot, forcing campus officials to close the lot yesterday morning.

The North Parking Lot was reopened at 6:40 a.m. when the tree blocking access was removed.

A tree was split near Buildings 15 and 16, limiting access to both buildings.

As of press time, the damaged tree limb has yet to be removed.

The Facilities and Operations Department is working on removing the large amount of tree debris that remains on campus.

Tuition due dates

Tuition for Winter Quarter is due by Dec. 17.

Tuition may be paid either at the cashier, or online at <https://secure.highline.edu/wts/wcoba/waci600.html>.

The second increment step of the Student Tuition Easy Payment Plan (STEPP) is due on Jan. 15, and the third increment is due on Feb. 15.

Write for
the Thunderword.
Enroll in JRNL 101
with item #4202

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ATTEND A TRANSFER INFORMATION SESSION!
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www.uwb.edu / 425.352.5000

Club aims to garden as nature intended

By Bryce Sizemore
Staff Reporter

Highline’s Permaculture Club hopes to permanently change Highline’s relationship with agriculture.

The word permaculture combines the words permanent and agriculture, it is an agriculture philosophy that advocates for farms more in line with how plant life grows in nature, in order to maximize productivity and minimize soil damage, said Professor Rick Shultz, faculty adviser to the Permaculture Club.

The seeds of the permaculture movement were sown by the 1929 book Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture by J. Russel Smith, which advocated the use of more permanent crops, such as trees.

The movement has since expanded to methods such as planting local crops, and farming to fit the land that is being farmed on, rather than the other way around, Shultz said.

The Permaculture Club plans to do more than just applying its methods while working in the Highline Garden, however.

The club is taking its knowledge and methods and sharing them with Highline science students, teaching them how to do soil samples.

“The classes liked hands on-experience with soil,” said Trinda Storey, student president of the Permaculture Club.

As the urban agriculture program expands, the Permaculture Club plans to expand with it, Shultz said.



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

The Permaculture Club wants to plant a food forest on a plot on the southwest side of campus.

The club has gotten permission from college administration to start an experimental orchard on the southwest side of campus, behind Building 28, Shultz said.

This orchard will allow students to practically apply knowledge that they have learned about in the classroom, Storey said.

The Permaculture Club vice president, Madeline Cordune, has taken the first step in cre-

ating the orchard, by digging a Hugelkultur swale, which is a trench that is designed to promote soil fertility by reducing water runoff, Cordune said.

The club anticipates the donation of several trees to the orchard, and plans to use the orchard to experiment with different types of agricultural methods, Shultz said.

The club has also marked several maple trees in that area,

as they plan to tap them for their syrup, said Shultz.

Moving forward, the club hopes to push college officials to plant more edible landscaping on campus, which will allow students to benefit from the landscaping on campus, said Shultz

Edible landscaping will allow students to have a quick, free snack in-between classes, Storey said

The club hopes its orchard,

and its work in the Highline Garden, will allow them to have enough extra food to donate their excesses to the Des Moines Food Bank, said Shultz.

“Everybody has a place in the club, even if you don’t know anything,” Storey said.

Students interested in joining, or leaning more about the Permaculture Club may do so by emailing highlinepermaculture@gmail.com.

MLK Week to preach peace, love and tolerance

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Week returns to spread the message of justice this January.

Multicultural Affairs is organizing events from Jan. 18 - 26, 2016, which will focus on the messages and values of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the late civil rights leader.

“He was very radical in his thinking,” said Doris Martinez, Inter-Cultural Center leadership coordinator and an organizer of the week’s events.

Martinez said the term radical has taken a negative connotation of late, often confused with extremism.

She said the week would focus on Dr. King’s status as a force fore radical change during his time as a civil rights leader, as well as his theme of non-vi-



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered for his adherence to non-violent protest in the face of extreme intolerance.

olence.

“We really want to empower our students,” Martinez said, “to see themselves as agents of change.

Martinez said the events are all free and open to the community, as well as students, staff and faculty.

A list of events:

Monday, Jan. 18.

- A field trip to the Northwest African American Museum from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

- Liberation Shows Up! A performance by Kay Barrett from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Build-

ing 7.

- The film 14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark & Vanessa Lopez from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Building 7.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

- “What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless yet is deeply divided by race?” A lecture by Dr. Robin DiAngelo from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Building 7.

- A workshop held by Kay Barrett from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

Thursday, Jan. 21

- Between Civil Rights and Black Power, James Baldwin’s prophetic vision “To End the Racial Nightmare, and Achieve

Our Country.” A lecture by Dr. Michael Hale from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Building 7.

- A panel on gentrification from 11 a.m. to noon in Building 7.

Friday, Jan. 22

- University of Washington Black Student Union Founding Members Luncheon from 11 a.m. to noon in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

- First Friday Leadership Institute hosted by Carly Brook from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

- “White Fragility,” a lecture hosted by Dr. Robin DiAngelo from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

Only you can prevent climate change

There's no denying that the global climate of the earth is rapidly changing.

In between extreme droughts causing wildfires, changes in rain and snow patterns, the polar ice caps melting, and the sea level rising, it's obvious that climate change is a very real and legitimate threat to future generations.

Although many people believe that climate change is natural and unpreventable, this is simply untrue. So, changing our behavior may be the only way to save the future of our planet.

Global warming is caused by a buildup of greenhouse gases, or gases that get caught in the troposphere and prevent heat from escaping the earth.

These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases.

The only explanation for the overproduction of these gases is humans.

Although many people like to point out that the majority of methane in the atmosphere is due to high-populations of cows in farming areas passing gas, it is important to note who exactly determines where these cows are and how frequently they breed.

In fact, cows are primarily a domesticated species of animal and humans dictate their entire lives, as well as the end of them.

Therefore, the only animals we can blame for the methane gases is ourselves.

Carbon dioxide levels are also higher than they have ever been in 600,000 years, and are primarily a result of burning fossil fuels.

Trees convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, but humans are constantly cutting more and more trees down for resources.

Although warmer weather may not seem serious, the long-term effects of climate change can include crop losses, extinction of species, a lack of drinkable water, coral reefs dying, wildfires, and coastal cities getting engulfed by rising sea levels.

If the consequences to our behavior are really that severe, then shouldn't we be working harder to prevent these outcomes?

For example, we should be trying harder to find a source of renewable energy to replace the fossil fuels damaging the ecosystem.

We need to come up with solutions quickly, before we doom our future generations to a lifestyle they did not sign up for.

Have something to say?

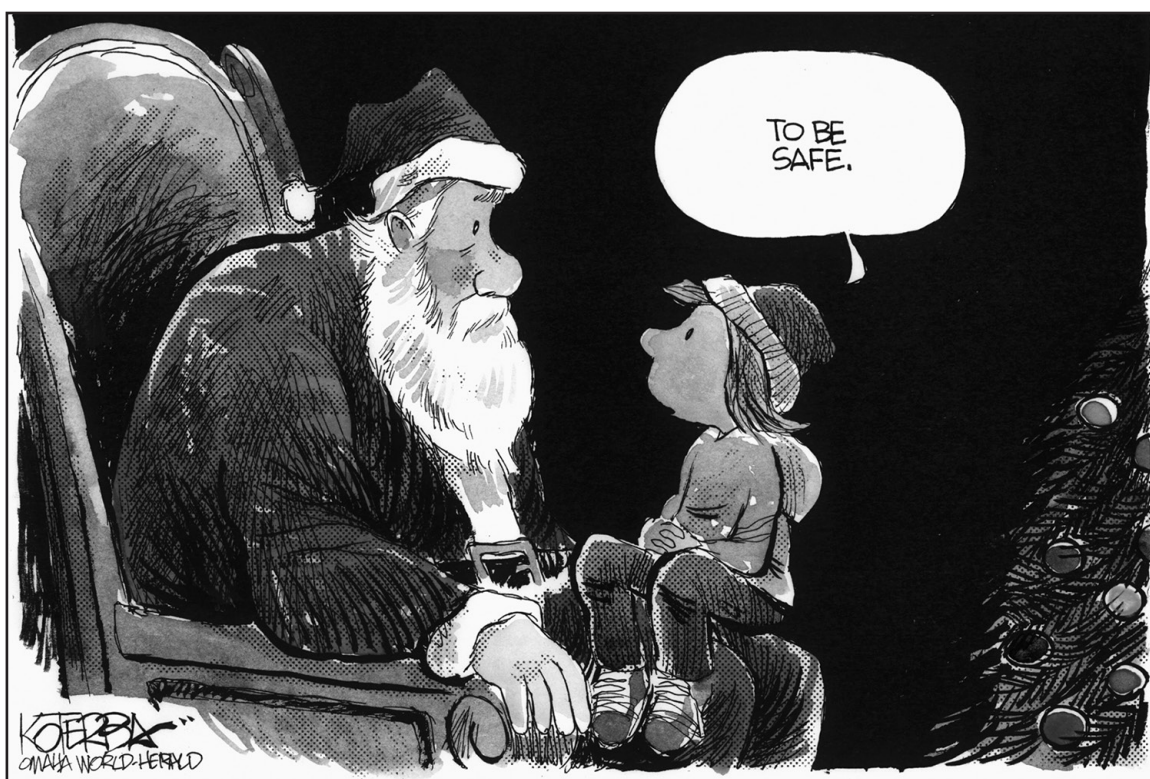
Have something you want to say to the student body?

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!



Colleges' adjunct system is damaging your education

When I was hired to teach two sections of English 205 at Highline, I was excited to be part of a new campus environment and faculty community.

Having interviewed once before at Highline, there was a sense of accomplishment to be offered a position. Not only would I get an opportunity to teach a diverse student body, but as a Seattle resident, I could continue to live and work in the region I call home.

I went through all the regular hiring procedures, collected my faculty parking permit, and was ready to go.

Starting a new job, even if doing the same thing from a previous position, is always challenging. Not only do you have to learn how a new institution functions administratively, you have to learn and adapt to the character, climate, and culture of the place.

After a few weeks in the classroom, I was really beginning to enjoy my time at Highline.

Then came the news that I would not be offered a position to teach in the Winter Quarter.

This was a one-off, and the sinking feeling of being part of a disposable, adjunct labor force set in.

There is a term for instructors like me: "Freeway Fliers," because we zip up and down

Guest Commentary



Arendt Oak Speser

the freeways of America in search of our little piece of cheese. Indeed, every day after my second class at Highline ends, I run to the car and fight the Seattle traffic back into the city to make it to my Seattle Central College class on time.

Struggling to make ends meet through multiple classes at multiple institutions is no easy task; add to that the stress of having no job security, no benefits, not knowing how you are going to pay rent when the quarter is finished, and the reality that you are treated as an expendable laborer—well, this lifestyle is

not conducive to quality performance.

Having worked in the business world before earning my Ph.D., I studied "corporate culture" as a means of understanding why certain business are more successful than others in the same industry.

The truth is this: when you feel valued as an employee, you perform better. You invest more in the job, in the institution, and in your work. Each morning when you wake before the dawn, you feel privileged to have a job that not only allows you to earn a living, but also allows you to grow and thrive as a person.

In no way does an adjunct system of labor in higher education support these basic principles. The part-time labor force is strictly about bottom lines and cutting costs, and is significantly detrimental to the mission of a college or university.

This is not a problem unique to Highline, of course; but students at this college should be aware of the fact that what you are paying for, the main component of your daily studies—namely, the faculty—is being jeopardized by a system that does not value its labor.

Dr. Speser is an English professor at Highline College.

the Staff

I should have cheated.

E-Mail: tword@highline.edu

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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8			1			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. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which U.S. state is closest to Russia?
2. **HISTORY:** In what year did labor leader Jimmy Hoffa disappear?
3. **FOOD & DRINK:** What relative of the banana is a staple food in tropical regions?
4. **TIME:** When is the next leap day?
5. **MOVIES:** What famous 1950s movie featured an unlikely couple named Charlie and Rose?
6. **MUSIC:** Who was the first artist to have a “greatest hits” album?
7. **TELEVISION:** Who starred as Simon Templar in *The Saint*?
8. **SCIENCE:** What is the most abundant gas in the air we breathe on Earth?
9. **GENERAL KNOWL-**

EDGE: In olden days, what was the occupation of a wainwright?

10. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby whale called?

- Answers**
1. Alaska
2. 1975
3. The plantain
4. Feb. 29, 2016
5. *The African Queen* (Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn)
6. Johnny Mathis
7. Roger Moore
8. Nitrogen. The air is made up of about 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and 1 percent other gasses.
9. One who makes or repairs wagons
10. A calf

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Puzzle answers on Page 17

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 5 5 7 8 9

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Too
5 Legislation
8 Use scissors
12 Picnic hamperer
13 Raw rock
14 Mexican entree
15 Water
17 Microwave
18 Classify
19 Mock
21 Med. research org.
22 Unescorted
23 \$ dispenser
26 Calendar abbr.
28 Once more
31 Child of the streets
33 Name
35 Sicilian spouter
36 Praise highly
38 Conger or moray
40 Early bird?
41 Eye part
43 Deteriorate
45 Official emissary
47 Puts on a pedestal
51 Vacationing
52 Go to court
54 Apportion (out)

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- 55 One of the Stooges
56 Chills and fever
57 Raised
58 Moreover
59 Put into words
7 Mary-Louise Parker series on Showtime
8 Warehouse’s purpose
9 Steer
10 On the rocks
11 Corn recipe
16 Puzzle diagram
20 Greek H
23 Shock and —
24 Tariff
25 Ease
27 Prompt
29 Gerund suffix
30 Complain constantly
32 Made an incursion
34 Scolded
37 Eng. class
39 California city
42 Alabama city
44 Frat party garb
45 Mary’s follower
46 Basin accessory
48 Indian style of music
49 Needle case
50 Origin
53 Electrical particle

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel that you have all the answers right now. But it might be wise to listen to other ideas before you decide to close the lid on other possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Bovines give and expect loyalty, so it might not be easy to reconcile with someone you feel let you down. Why not ask a neutral party to set up a clear-the-air meeting?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Anticipating the holidays with family and friends fuels your must-do Gemini energies. But try to pace yourself so you’ll be up for whatever comes along later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) More background information might come through regarding a decision you expect to make. Be sure to check the source carefully before you move.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The strong, nurturing nature of the Lion comes through this week as you reach out to family and friends in need of your warm and loving support.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A relationship that has almost totally unraveled could be close to being restored with more effort on your part to be more patient and less judgmental.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your sense of fair play is strong this week, which can cause a problem with a longtime relationship. But in the end, you’ll know what decision to make.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might not know all the facts behind an unwelcome development, so keep that Scorpion temper in check and resist lashing out at anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to reinforce relationships -- family, friends, colleagues -- that might have been overlooked in recent years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family

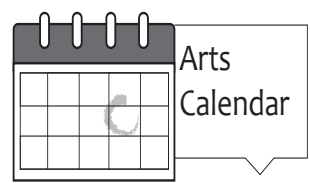
situations continue to thrive. Business associations also improve. Some holiday plans might have to be shifted a bit. Be flexible.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Avoid any influence of negative energy in this week’s aspect by not allowing small problems to grow into large ones. Work them out immediately.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need advice on how to deal with a challenge to his or her moral values. And who better than you to give the honest answer? Good luck.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a sense of adventure that inspires others to follow your lead.





•Santa Claus arrives at the Museum of Flight on Dec. 12. at 11:45 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be at the museum to listen to children's holiday wishes until 4 p.m.

While the couple is here, there will be various musical performances. Christmas Flutes is playing at 11 a.m., the Boeing Concert Orchestra plays at 12:30 p.m., and the Boeing band is playing at 2 p.m.

These events are free with admission to the museum.

The Museum of Flight is at 9404 E. Marginal Way S., Seattle.

•Auburn's White River Valley Museum is unveiling a new exhibit for fashion fiends on Jan. 13, 2016.

Small Bags For Big Events: 100 years of Pretty Purses is an exhibit that will feature purses of all kinds from as early as 1860 to 1960.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Admissions for the museum are \$5 for adults, and \$2 for seniors and children.

White River Valley Museum is at 918 H St. S.E., Auburn.

•Watch a special screening of the documentary *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* on Dec. 17 at 7: 30 p.m.

Radical Women Seattle, a local feminist organization, is hosting the event.

Anita: Speaking Truth to Power is a film about Anita Hill and her sexual harassment case against a U.S. Supreme Court nominee in 1991. Hill's testimony changed the way that sexual harassment was viewed in the workplace.

Tickets for the screening are \$3 at the door.

The screening is at New Freeway Hall at 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle.

•Art will be raffled off at the MaST Center until Dec. 19.

The art pieces are mixed media pieces done by local artist Denise Chandler Smith. The pieces focus on marine life, such as octopuses and anemones.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at the MaST Center. The funds raised from the raffle will be used to support programs at the MaST, such as Live Dive and Discovery Days.

Raffle tickets are \$3 each or four tickets for \$10. Tickets are available to buy on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are also available on Dec. 12, 17 and 19.

The MaST Center is at 28203 Redondo Beach Dr. S., Des Moines.

Gamers play for victory

By Trevar Jordan
Staff Reporter

Competitors from all over the Pacific Northwest will clash at Highline for one of Washington's biggest and most anticipated fighting game tournaments.

On Dec. 19, competitors will meet in Building 8 for Northwest Battlegrounds, a series of tournaments spanning multiple fighting game titles.

Ever since the inception of fighting video game tournaments, Washington has been the hub of competition for the Pacific Northwest region.

Players from all over Washington, Oregon and British Columbia will meet for the monthly tournament series to prepare for major tournaments around the world.

The local tournament also serves to unite fighting game fans around the world and sponsors with the area's local players by broadcasting the event on the live streaming service Twitch.

Super Smash Bros. Melee player Otto "Silentwolf" Bisno, who finished in the top 8 at Evolution Championships 2014, first place at Northwest Majors 7 and first at the recently held Northwest Majors: Dropzone, will be in attendance to defend his Battlegrounds title.

BlazeBlue: Continuum Shift II Evolution 2011 champion Alex "Spark" Chen will also be in attendance to support one of the most thriving games in the area. It has a growing number of players and a large skill pool.

Owner of Gameclucks, a local area network café, and Northwest Majors coordinator, Chris Anderson has brought his brand to Highline to serve the fighting game community



Northwest Majors photo

Gamers play head-to-head at a tournament at Highline last month.

on a more local level compared to his Northwest Majors series of tournaments.

Instead of a three-day event geared toward players flying in and competing, Battlegrounds is more focused on players from the Northwest.

The event will take place on only one day, and offer a power-ranking system, assigning points to players based on how they do in the tournaments, and ranking them in a region-wide leaderboard.

Some of the games that participants will play in include: Ultra Street Fighter 4, Mortal Kombat X, Tekken Tag Tournament 2, Super Smash Bros. Melee, BlazeBlue: Chrono Phantasma Extend, and Guilty Gear: XRD.

"Highline is really lenient of gamers doing things here, like setting up in the Student Union for fighting games or using the 212 [computer] lab for League of Legends," said Highline stu-

dent and competitive fighting game player Eric Valente.

Highline has proven a suitable venue for competitive gaming events. Battleground is just one of many of the events Anderson runs on campus. Northwest Majors and Pacific Northwest Regionals have also been held at Highline.

Battlegrounds was on a small hiatus, the last event was held In September. Players expressed their anticipation for the return to a bigger venue. Gameclucks, where the local tournaments were previously held doesn't have the same advantages Highline does for running fighting game events. Highline's abundance of space, great internet service, built-in public address and audio-visual make running the event here easier for the organizers, and more enjoyable for attendees.

"I look forward to seeing players and spectators alike come to the event and see what

we put together for them," said Anderson.

Highline can make anywhere between \$1,000 to \$5,000 to rent out Building 8 for these events, and Anderson is confident that even a local event brings in enough registrants to cover this cost.

The recent Smash Bros. exclusive tournament Northwest Majors: Dropzone featured 350 registrants, and with multiple games on display, Battlegrounds is likely to be just as popular.

There will be no fee for spectators but competitors must register at the door, paying an initial \$10 venue fee and an additional fee depending on what tournament they choose to enter.

Viewers can tune in at home by visting www.twitch.tv/teamkhaos. Additional information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/912374765497910/>.

Youth concert celebrates holidays

By Michael Dizon
Staff Reporter

A cavalcade of music from around the world will be presented by Rainier Youth Choir this weekend to showcase the talents of young singers from around the community.

"A World for Christmas" will be performed Saturday, Dec. 12 in Kent.

The choir, made up of members ages 7 through 21, will sing old and new songs from around the world for this year's show.

"A number of songs are from other parts of the world. For example, The World for



Rainier Youth Choir photo

Rainier Youth Choir will perform Saturday in Kent.

Christmas [is from Spain]. The younger kids are doing the traditional song *Silent Night*," said Karen Fulmer, executive director.

"We enrich the opportunities for the children in the

community by providing great, affordable instruction," she said.

"This concert will also include a local Seattle group called Erwilian, which is a popular acoustic band," Fulmer said.

After this weekend's performance, the choir will hold auditions through the end of December and will accept new students up until January.

Fulmer said singing in a choir is a great way for people to connect.

"When you're singing with other people it bonds you together," Fulmer said.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students (12 and older) and \$7 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased online in advance.

The Dec. 12 performance will be at Kent United Methodist Church, 11010 S.E. 248th St. at 3 p.m.

‘Emma’ is a match for book lovers

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

Jane Austen’s *Emma* jumps off the page at Book-It Theatre’s in Seattle.

Book-it is a theater that takes books and presents them on-stage. This involves dialogue straight from the book and even includes characters narrating themselves.

Emma is a novel about Emma Woodhouse, a rich heroine in a small English town. The story opens up at a wedding. She takes credit for their union and proclaims herself a great matchmaker.

Over the course of the story, she learns that she isn’t that great of a matchmaker.

The 1815 novel was adapted into a play by Rachel Atkins, and was directed by Carol Roscoe.

Sylvie Davidson, who plays Emma, strutted across the stage as the meddling heroine.

Her range of emotions throughout certain events was well received, and whenever she was sad, you wanted to cry along with her.

Her counterpart Mr. Elton, played by Jaryl Draper, has a commanding presence while



Book-It Theatre photo

Jaryl Draper, left, playfully takes on an opponent in Book-It Theatre’s production of *Emma*.

on stage. He interacts smoothly with all the other players, but then could break out and demand all the attention.

Jocelyne Fowler’s costumes look like they have stepped straight out of a painting, transporting viewers to the 1800s.

The costumes go perfectly with Andrea Bryn-Bush’s set

design: Carriages ride across the stage, cobble-streets click-clack and moors spread across the background.

The adaption stayed true to the novel throughout, which may have been confusing to patrons who haven’t read the book.

In true Austen fashion, the

play has long monologues and subtle romances. If you’re not familiar with the story or a fan of Austen, these parts could bore you to sleep.

To see the *Emma*, purchase tickets on book-it.org. Tickets are \$50.

The play is being performed Wednesday through

Sunday until Jan. 3. On weekdays, the shows are at 7:30 p.m. On Saturdays, there is a showing at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sundays, the shows are at 2 p.m.

Book-It Theatre is at the Armory Theatre at the Seattle Center. The address is 305 Harrison.

New murals welcome you to buildings

By Jessica Stand
Staff Reporter

From charcoal to colorfully painted canvas, this quarter’s Mural Class has dedicated its time to making international students feel more at home.

Two locations on campus will have finished murals by the beginning of Winter Quarter.

The first mural is dubbed the “Welcome Mural” and is in the east entry of Building 30. Anyone who has entered the Computing Center recently has undoubtedly noticed the writing on the wall. Students have sketched the word “welcome” in what will be approximately 15 different languages, spiraling across the wall when finished.

“Whatever they don’t finish in the spiral I’m going to have to pick the languages and tidy it up and finish it,” said Art and Design Professor Tracy Carrera.

“This is definitely their mural, so I’m not going to change anything major — we’re sticking to the plan — it’s just a time thing,” she said.

The students didn’t have a set design, they had to create



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

Students begin work on a welcome mural in Building 30.

the design and choose the languages themselves, Carrera said. During the break, Carrera

will be finishing anything left undone.

The second mural site,

dubbed the “ESL Mural,” (English as a Second Language) is in the lobby area of Building 19. Six panels are being painted off site that will be installed over the break.

“This is another thing me and my man have to do over the break, we have to figure out how to put these paneling in and install them in a way that’s safe and secure but not super permanent,” Carrera said. “[The college has] some concerns about the images being permanent.”

The panels consist of a monarch butterfly because of its migratory nature; colorfully painted women from different nationalities dressed in traditional attire and head coverings; a mudra which means “don’t be afraid;” an African looking tree; and even a chicken.

“Knowing the English language is a form of privilege, people who grew up with this language take it for granted,” Carrera said. “It’s important to me, that when students go into the ESL area that it should feel welcoming. We do that with color and the images that we chose. It should be welcoming and calming.”

Joy to come to the masses

By Michael Dizon
Staff Reporter

Seven Burien ensembles will join together for the Northwest Associated Arts’ Joy! Christmas Concert.

ChoralSounds Northwest, SilverSounds Northwest, KidSounds Northwest, YouthSounds Northwest, TeenSounds, VocalSounds Northwest, and Smamblettes will join for the pair of concerts on Dec. 12 and Dec. 13.

“Audiences love the individual ensembles, but Joy! will include seven of the Burien local choirs all combined into one,” said Paul Bauer, general manager.

The large ensemble, which includes 200 singers, will sing music from all over the world.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission. Performances will be at Highline Performing Arts Center, 401 S. 152nd St. in Burien from Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.



Depositphotos.com

Spicy peanut chicken is based on traditional African cooking.

Spicy peanut chicken recalls African flavors

This easy recipe is based on the cuisines of Africa. A crisp cucumber salad and jasmine or basmati rice, available in most supermarkets, are the usual accompaniments.

- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 medium chicken legs, skin and fat removed
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 1 (28 ounce) can plum tomatoes, drained, coarsely chopped, and juice reserved

- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/4 cup packed fresh cilantro leaves (plus additional sprigs for garnish)
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

1. In cup, combine cumin and cinnamon. Use to rub on chicken.
2. In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until very hot. Add chicken and cook until golden brown, about 5 minutes per side. Add onion

- and cook until golden, about 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in blender or in food processor with knife blade attached, puree reserved tomato juice, peanut butter, cilantro, garlic, salt and crushed red pepper until smooth.
 4. Pour peanut-butter mixture and chopped tomatoes over chicken; heat to boiling. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until juices run clear when thickest part of chicken is pierced with tip of knife, about 40 minutes. Garnish with cilantro sprigs. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

Gingerbread cookies sing a holiday tune

- The season wouldn't be complete without gingerbread cookies.
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
 - 1/3 cup shortening
 - 1 1/2 cups dark molasses
 - 2/3 cups cold water
 - 7 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 teaspoon baking soda
 - 2 teaspoon ground ginger
 - 1 teaspoon ground allspice
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
1. Mix brown sugar, shortening, molasses and water in

- a large bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.
2. Heat oven to 350 F. Grease cookie sheet lightly with shortening.
 3. Roll dough 1/4 inch thick on floured surface. Cut with floured gingerbread cutter or other favorite shaped cutter. Place about 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
 4. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until no indentation remains when touched. Remove from cookie sheet. Cool on wire rack. Decorate with colored frosting and candies if desired. Makes about 2 1/2 dozen cookies.



Depositphotos.com

Nothing says the holidays like gingerbread cookies.

Bake up some tasty treats for the holidays

Holiday Bars

If ever there was a time of the year when plates of cookies are a "must," it's during the holiday season. Those cookies keep all the boys and girls (and their elders) on their best behavior so their wish list from Santa just might be fulfilled.

- 1 (8-ounce) can reduced-fat crescent rolls
- 1 (8-ounce) package fat-free cream cheese
- 1 egg or equivalent in egg substitute
- Sugar substitute to equal 1/3 cup sugar, suitable for baking
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-9-inch cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray. Un-

Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

- roll and pat half of the crescent rolls into prepared cake pan.
2. In a medium bowl, stir cream cheese with a spoon until soft. Add egg, sugar substitute and vanilla extract. Mix well to combine. Stir in walnuts. Pour mixture evenly into cake pan.
 3. Pat remaining crescent rolls flat, being sure to seal perforations and carefully arrange over top of filling. Bake for 25 minutes. Evenly sprinkle chocolate chips over top and continue baking for 5 minutes.
 4. Place cake pan on a wire rack and allow to cool com-

- pletely. Cut into 16 bars. Makes 8 (2 bars each) servings.
- * Each serving equals: 160 calories, 8g fat, 7g protein, 15g carb., 41mg sodium, 0g Fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Fat.

S'more Cake Brownies

- These chocolate treats are so yummy, you'll think your BEST holiday gift is enjoying a couple of these without guilt!
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - Sugar substitute to equal 3/4 cup sugar, suitable for baking
 - 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/2 cup fat-free yogurt
 - 1/3 cup fat-free mayonnaise
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 3/4 cup water

- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 6 tablespoons purchased graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-13-inch cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar substitute, cocoa, baking soda and baking powder. In a medium bowl, combine yogurt, mayonnaise, vanilla extract and water. Add liquid mixture to dry mixture. Mix gently just to combine.
3. Spread batter evenly into prepared cake pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Evenly sprinkle marshmallows over top of partially baked brownies.
4. In a small bowl, combine cracker crumbs and chocolate chips. Sprinkle crumb mixture evenly over top. Continue baking for 10 to 15 minutes or until

- a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
5. Place cake pan on a wire rack and let set for at least 10 minutes. Cut into 16 brownies. Makes 8 (2 each) servings.

- * Each serving equals: 170 calories, 2g fat, 4g protein, 34g carb., 352mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Fat.
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KWANZAA

begins Saturday, Dec. 26

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Unwrapping Christmas

Trees and wreaths have long association with the celebration

By Lucie Winborne

Whether they adorn city-street lampposts or front doors, holiday wreaths are as much a symbol of the season as silver bells and carols... and they've been around for longer than you might think.

A visit back in time with our pagan ancestors reveals that the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, meant a great deal to them. In anticipation of spring and increased sunlight, celebrants gathered wreaths of evergreen, a symbol of life through darkness. In Sweden, candles were added to symbolize the sun's power.

Ancient Persians donned wreaths as headbands to symbolize importance and success. Victorious Olympians were endowed with crowns of laurel much like those worn by Roman leaders, and similar coronets embellished doors as marks of victory.

A quite different purpose was achieved by early Europeans, who used wreaths to identify their homes in much the same way we use house numbers today, with exotic blooms likely grown by the homeowner. But while modern wreaths serve a merely decorative purpose, their inherent meaning survives in some of the materials we use to make them, such as holly to represent immortality, cedar for strength... and best of all, a joyous spirit of festivity and welcome.

Thinking about designing your own wreath this season? The possibilities are endless, but here are a couple of fun and easy suggestions.

Frosted Fruit: A great option for either autumn or winter. Just gather an assortment of artificial fruits and insert a florist pick into each one. Roll them one at a time in tacky glue (available at your local craft store), then Epsom salts, and finally white iridescent glitter. Insert the pins into a foam brick and allow the fruit to dry. Wrap an 18-inch straw wreath in green ribbon, securing it with pins, and use a craft knife to insert holes in the ribbon where the fruit will go. Insert the fruit into the wreath, beginning with the larger pieces and securing them with a glue gun. Attach an organza ribbon with wire and wrap the ends around the wreath.

Candy Cane: Looking for a variation on the traditional circle? A candy cane wreath will add a perfect holiday statement to your home. Draw a candy cane shape on a large piece of paper, cut it out and trace it onto a 2-inch thick piece of Styrofoam, then cut it out with a serrated knife. Wrap a piece of white felt 4-inches wider than the cane around it, using straight pins to attach it on the back, then wrap a piece of wire around the top, forming a loop for a hanger. Spread a bunch of peppermint candies and candy-cane pieces on a newspaper in a well-ventilated area, and spray them with polyurethane — making sure all sides are coated — and let them dry. Apply the candy with a glue gun and spray the cane with two more coats of polyurethane. Add some sprigs of pine and a bright red bow to top it all off.



King Features photo
People have been decorating Christmas trees for more than 500 years.

500 Years of Christmas Trees

- In 1510, the first Christmas tree is decorated in Riga, Latvia. Early Christmas trees are decorated with paper, fruits and sweets.
- By the 1600s, it is common in Germany to decorate Christmas trees with apples. Trees decorated with ribbon, tin shapes, small books and lace, as well as food soon followed.
- By the 1700s, edible ornaments become so popular that they are often called "sugartrees."
- In the 18th century, the first accounts of using lighted candles as decorations come from France.
- In 1777, the tradition of the Christmas tree is brought to Colonial America by Hessian troops fighting for Britain in the Revolutionary War.
- In 1804, U.S. soldiers at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) bring trees into their barracks at Christmas.
- In 1842, Charles Minnegrode introduces decorated Christmas trees to Williamsburg, Virginia.
- In 1851, Mark Carr opens a retail Christmas tree lot in New York City, the first in the United States.
- In 1856, Franklin Pierce, the 14th U.S. President, brings the first Christmas tree into the White House.
- Around 1883, Sears, Roebuck & Co. begins offering the first artificial Christmas trees: 33 limbs for 50 cents and 55 limbs for \$1. (Today, 80 percent of all artificial trees are made in China.)
- In 1901, the first Christmas-tree farm is started when W.V. McGalliard plants 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey.
- In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge starts the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, now held every year on the White House lawn.
- In 1966, for the first time, the tree displayed in the Blue Room of the White House is presented by the winner of a competition held by the National Christmas Tree Association.
- In 2015, approximately 25-30 million real Christmas trees will be sold in the United States.

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People like a little wrap music for the holidays

By Lucie Winborne

Some of us hate it enough to pay someone else to do it. Others take delight in folding corners just so, or the challenge of covering uneven angles, not to mention the seemingly endless varieties of design and texture.

But why do we wrap gifts in paper in the first place?

As with so many modern practices, it dates back to ancient cultures. First came the Chinese and their priceless gift of the invention of paper in 105 A.D. That was followed in the eighth century by the Japanese "furoshiki" and Korean "bo-jagi," reusable wrapping cloths originally designed for transporting goods or preventing clothing mix-ups in traditional baths, as well as covering gifts.

By 1509, a new English invention appropriately dubbed wallpaper filled a similarly dual purpose, but not for long, since it easily cracked and tore upon folding. The Victorians, whose notions of decor are considered "fussy" by many nowadays, applied a like aesthetic to their gift wrapping, using elaborately decorated paper adorned with ribbons and lace. But that paper also was heavy and rather unwieldy. It gave way in the early 20th century to colored tissue ... which is still in use today, but more as an interior covering.

So what happened in between?

Chalk it up to yet another example of necessity being the mother of invention. In 1917, holiday business boomed so well for a couple of stationery store-owning brothers in Kansas City, Missouri, that they ran out of colored tissue paper. Fortunately, a search of their inventory yielded a supply of "fancy French paper" designed for lining envelopes. In the true spirit of American ingenuity, they put it on sale at 10 cents a sheet.

Guess what was snapped up in a Kansas City minute?

The enterprising brothers tried their experiment again the following year, and the year after that. Finally convinced they were on to something, they began designing and producing their own decorative paper, solely for the purpose of wrapping gifts.

Still, let's face it -- gift wrap isn't practical. In fact, it's downright wasteful. So why do we spend more than \$2 billion on it every year?

Maybe it's the element of surprise. Maybe it's because, as research has suggested, we feel more positive about a gift that is wrapped. Or maybe it's just because that paper is so darned pretty.

Whatever the case, those two brothers from Kansas City knew a good thing when they stumbled upon it. Because, in case you hadn't guessed it, their last name was Hall. As in Joyce and Rollie Hall.

As in Hallmark.

You heard it here.

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One thing is certain, this ain't your ancestors' Christmas

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

Christmas is both a religious holiday and a worldwide cultural phenomenon of gift giving, but it wasn't always this way.

In the Roman Empire, Saturnalia was a celebration of the roman god Saturn, who controlled agriculture, liberation and wealth.

Saturnalia started on Dec. 17 and ended on Dec. 23.

The Romans celebrated by starting with a sacrifice in the Temple of Saturn, followed by gift giving, feasts where slaves and slave masters dined together and a carnival.

During the third century, the Roman Empire came under Christian rule. Saturnalia was still celebrated privately, even after it was removed from the official calendar.

According to a manuscript from the 4th century, Christians originally celebrated the birth of Jesus with feasts.

Pagans celebrated the winter solstice in December, with the exact date depending on the Gregorian calendar.

"It's usually celebrated on Dec. 20, 21, 22 or 23," said Trisha Warner, King County Library System librarian.

The celebration is called Yule and celebrates when the dark half of the year relinquishes to the light half, since the



winter solstice is longest night of the year.

"The celebration was all about the Sun's rebirth. Centuries ago, pagans celebrated the Sun King, who they thought was the giver of life," Warner said.

To celebrate, bonfires were lit and children were given treats of apples and oranges.

"The fruit represented the Sun," Warner said.

The main attraction of the celebration was the Yule log.

"The Yule Log had to be chopped down by the person themselves. They couldn't just go and buy it. Then, the



person gave the Yule log to a family member or a friend," Warner said.

The log was then placed in the person's fireplace and decorated with herbs before being burned.

"After it was first lit, the log would then smolder for 12 days before being put out," Warner said.

Christmas was first referred to in the sixth century, when Saint Augustine of Canterbury used the term. St. Augustine held a celebration for the birth of Jesus.

In the 1600s, Protestant groups banned Christmas cele-

brations on several occasions because they thought it was too pagan, and thus unbiblical.

The current Christmas celebrations involve both old and new traditions. In America, gift giving is still a big part of our celebration. Gift giving has become so popular that businesses offer special shopping days to draw in buyers, such as Black Friday.

"Christmas is a hodge-podge of a bunch of different celebrations, so Christians can't take all the credit," Warner said. Christmas is nationally observed on Dec. 25.



Holidays at times aren't joyous for all

By Kayla Dickson
Staff Reporter

The most wonderful time of the year is more wonderful for some than for others.

Although time off work and family reunions are supposed to be relaxing, it often seems to leave people feeling more stressed than ever before.

"There are two sides of the holiday season," said Dr. Bob Baugher, a psychology professor at Highline.

"On one hand, the holiday season brings back childhood memories. Because the weather is the same every year — it looks the same, the air smells the same — there are many association triggers for people during the holiday season," Dr. Baugher said.

"On the other hand, many people are stressed. Between buying presents and deciding which family to visit this year, there is a lot for people to think and stress about," Dr. Baugher said.

For most people, these responsibilities are stressful enough, but some people experience another level of stress, particularly due to loss.

"Grief victims have it really hard over the holidays," Dr. Baugher said. "Everything about the holiday season tends to remind them of their loss. It's a hard decision whether you set a place at the table for them, or don't speak of them altogether due to the pain."

Although the holidays can really take a toll on your mental state, they can also take a toll on your child's mental state.

There is no evidence that believing in Santa Claus or receiving presents is damaging to children, but some traditions aren't as healthy.

"Giving gifts is a societal norm, it's one way we show we care," Dr. Baugher said. "However, telling a child that they'll only get presents if they are good and holding it over their head," is taking it too far.

"It really brings up the question, 'What is good?' A child will spill things, trip, act clumsy, but their coordination isn't fully developed. Does that make them bad? I don't think so," Dr. Baugher said.

However most traditions have been in place for centuries without any adverse effects on people.

"Kids believe in Santa, the Tooth-Fairy and the Easter Bunny, and turn into normal healthy adults. These figures are also generally positive, so there may be a correlation," Dr. Baugher said.

Elf stands tall as students' favorite Christmas movie

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

The holiday season means many things — spending time with your family, eating as much food as you can and piling around the television to watch holiday films.

Many students say that watching holiday movies are part of their December traditions.

"Every year, I watch all the classics like *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. It just gets you into the right kind of mood," said Yvonne Lopez.

Student Carlos Williams said that he and his girlfriend like to watch holiday movies together.

"Probably about 90 percent of our dates in December involves us watching movies like *Elf* or *A Christmas Story* together. It's great because we love it and it doesn't cost me any money," he said.

Williams's girlfriend Sarah Werner added that it's just nice to be together.

"Holiday movies make you feel good, so after a hard week, we get together and watch them. It's nice to relax together," she said.

Student Amanda Pickler said that it's a tradition in her family to watch movies all day on Christmas Eve.

"All my cousins come over and we watch movies all day. My mom and aunt usually are in the kitchen making cookies too. My favorite one to watch is *Elf*," she said.

Student Nina Santos doesn't celebrate

Christmas, but she still watches holiday movies.

"I'm Jewish, so I celebrate Hanukkah. But there are not really any movies about that, so I just watch Christmas movies."

Some students don't even wait till the holiday season to watch holiday films.

"Oh, I watch them all year long. *Elf* is one of my favorite movies, period. I probably watch it every month," said Ana Wu.

"I watch them whenever. They get me excited for Christmas," said Shelly Munich.

Fifty students were asked what their favorite holiday film was and there were only four films that students said. Sixty-eight percent said *Elf*; 20 percent said *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*; 8 percent said *A Christmas Story*; 4 percent said *A Wonderful Life*.

Highline film professor Dr. Tommy Kim said holi-

day films rarely stay popular because it lacks an interesting story.

"Every year, Hollywood throws out a bunch of Christmas films but almost none of them last. Most of the time it's because the story lines are cliché, it's always the same thing where the film ends with some rewarding sentiment about the value of family and friends," he said.

Dr. Kim said that most of the time popular holiday films weren't intended to be holiday films.

"The classic holiday films that get watched over and over again weren't really intended to be Christmas films. They became that way organically," he said.

Dr. Kim said that one of the most popular holiday films of all time wasn't popular at all when it originally came out.

"*It's a Wonderful Life*, which is the one that gets watched the most, was a commercial flop when it came out but over the years it kept getting played on TV every Christmas and people were really drawn to it," he said.

He said that people watch holiday films because it just becomes a habit.

"My personal favorite and the one that I watch regularly is *Love, Actually*," Dr. Kim said.

"It's a decent movie but the real reason I watch it every year is that it's become a habit, part of a ritual, and I imagine that's what holiday movies are for most people."



There's plenty to do as Christmas approaches

By Jessica Strand and Karina Abramchuk
Staff Reporters

Christmas is on the water and in the air, sometimes quite literally as various activities indicate in advance of the Big Day. And whether you celebrate religiously or secularly, there is something on tap for you.

Christmas ships light up MaST Center open house

The Marine Science and Technology Center's annual holiday open house in conjunction of the visitation of Argosy Cruises' Christmas Ship is next Thursday.

On Dec. 17, it will make a stop at Redondo Beach for a community-sponsored bonfire that will light up the beach while the center organizes tours of its classrooms and the aquarium.

Argosy Cruises hosts the traditional Pacific Northwest Christmas Ship festival and performance by the Rainier Youth Choir.

The ships will arrive at 9 p.m. for a 20-minute choral performance by the Rainier Youth Choir.

Neighboring Salty's restaurant will join the celebration, offering hot chocolate, blankets, heat lamps, and Northwest holiday cuisine.

The open house begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m.

The MaST Center is at 28203 Beach Drive S. in Des Moines.

Santa visits Museum of Flight Saturday

Santa flies in style to the Museum of Flight for Santa's Landing Party Dec. 12 to listen to wish lists and party with plane lovers.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will arrive at 11:45 a.m. via a 1930s biplane.

"Inside we'll be having music by the Boeving Band and the Boeving Concert Orchestra," said Ted Huetter, public relations manager.

The outdoor events are free and the indoor events are free with admission to the museum. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$12 for youth age 5-17.

The Museum of Flight is at 9404 E. Marginal Way S. in Tukwila.

Pioneer Square host Howlidays this Saturday

Have a howling good time with your four legged friend at Pioneer Square's fourth annual Howlidays event.

Whether you have a canine companion or just love being around furry friends, Occidental Park at Pioneer Square will have fun for the whole family on Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can shop the Bark Market for canine Christmas gifts, and have fun in the on-site pop-up dog park.

"We recommend families bring their kids and dogs," said Pioneer Square Office Manager Nikki Somers. "You can come without a dog as well. It's for people who don't have dogs who like to be around dogs as well as people who have their dogs and really go all out and dress their dogs up."

You can pre-register your pup at pioneersquare.org for the costume contest, and bring them dressed to impress for a chance to win one of three gift baskets for you and your furry friend. The first-prize winner will also be named Pioneer Square's Dog of the Year for 2016.

Local church offers Drive-thru Christmas Story

Enjoy nativity scenes acted out by live people and animals from the warmth of your car this rainy weekend at the Des Moines' Normandy Christian Church's 15 annual Drive-thru Christmas Story.

"We take our parking lot and make the parameter of it different scenes from the Christmas story," Pastor Kyle Moffitt said. "Cars drive through ... the path and look at the Christmas scenes. We have live actors and animals and everything."

It's a free event that takes about 5 to 10 minutes to drive through, Moffitt said. The event takes place rain or shine on Dec. 12-13 from 6-8:30 p.m. at 908 S. 200th St.

Toy N' Joy Drive brings joy to needy families

Bartell Drugs and Salvation Army are teaming up for their 12th annual Toy N' Joy drive.

Drop by participating Bartell Drug stores between now and Dec. 13 to drop off toys and bring joy to needy families.

T-Birds’ win streak at four

By Charles Prater
Staff Reporter

The men’s basketball team is on a roll, having won their last four games, including two games on the road.

The T-Birds, (4-1), have rebounded from a season-opening loss in great fashion by going undefeated since that loss.

Their first game was last Wednesday against Skagit Valley, (3-3). The Cardinals were averaging over 100 points a game, but only managed 82 points, as the T-Birds went on to win 93-82.

A majority of the damage by Highline was done in the first half with 54 points scored, compared to Skagit’s 34.

Highline shot 62 percent from the field and 66 percent from the three-point line. They cooled off in the second half, shooting 40 percent.

The Cardinals struggled shooting the ball in the first half, which led to the large deficit, hitting only 35 percent from the field.

“I’m not going to say we are ‘great’ defensively, yet,” said Highline Head Coach Che Dawson. “We can be, but we have to work a lot harder and be more consistent.”

The T-Birds also did a great job defending the boards, grabbing 47 rebounds, as oppose to Skagit’s 22.

Freshman Jamie Orme had a monster game and a hefty stat line for the T-Birds, scoring 39 points.

Orme went 6-of-9 from three-point range, nabbed a total of 13 rebounds, includ-



Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD

Highline’s Jalen McGruder takes on two Shoreline defenders in an attempt to penetrate their defense.

ing five offensive, and had two blocks and a steal.

Highline’s Jared Murphy scored 12 points, while teammate Alec Meyerhoffer netted 15.

Leading scorer for the Cardinals was Ben Ayre with 17 points, along with Cody Starr and Emanuel Siale, who both scored 16.

The next game for the T-Birds was an away game against Shoreline. This game was a bit closer than the last one, but Highline was able to close the Dolphins out, 80-73.

A recurring theme for the

Thunderbirds is finding and making good shots.

That was the case in this game as they finished over 50 percent from the field.

Highline also went 53 percent from beyond the arc and outrebounded the ‘Phins, 43-31.

“We are taking smarter, better shots and shooting the ball with a lot more confidence,” said Coach Dawson.

Another recurring theme for the T-Birds is Jamie Orme once again leading the charge in scoring and rebounding.

Orme registered 21 points

and 11 rebounds in the game. He is averaging 23 points and 9 rebounds a game, along with hitting 50 percent from the field this season.

Highline’s bench was big in this game with Coby Myles and Nick Edens both scoring in double figures.

Edens scored 18 points and Myles tallied 15 for the game.

Top scorer for Shoreline was Will Luckett with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Now with the NWAC basketball season in full swing, the first Coaches Poll of the season has come out, with the T-Birds

tied for fourth place with 24 points.

With an entirely new starting lineup from last year and a team full of freshmen, Highline has nowhere to go but up.

The T-Birds will get almost a week off before they travel to Bellevue and play in the Bulldog Classic Tourney.

As is the case with most of their games this season, the Thunderbirds only have two back-to-back games, giving them the chance for practice and rest.

“We always tell the guys that we will pace them with how we arrange our practices,” Coach Dawson said. “They shouldn’t pace themselves.”

“We try to keep them fresh mentally and physically for games and balance that with the necessary preparation and work ethic.”

After the tournament, Highline will be on a two-week bye for the holiday break before they get back to business.

Coach Dawson says that the team will go through a lot of team building and will be refining things during the break.

After the break, the T-Birds have two home games on Jan. 4 against Bellevue, (3-3), at 7 p.m. and on Jan. 9 against Centralia, (0-5), at 2 p.m.

Highline will then go back on the road Jan. 13 to take on the No. 1 team in the west, South Puget Sound, (5-1), at 8 p.m. and then Grays Harbor, (0-4), on Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.

The team will then play at home against Lower Columbia, (4-4), on Jan. 20 at 8 p.m.

T-Birds’ McGruder makes best of opportunities

By Amin Shifow
Staff Reporter

With his college offers from Western Washington and Columbia University not coming through, Jalen McGruder took on the opportunity to attend Highline.

As an in-state product from Garfield High School, McGruder found himself playing less than an hour away from home.

McGruder, who plays point guard for Highline, believed his basketball career was finished, until Head Coach Che Dawson gave him a phone call that changed his life.

“Out of high school all of

my potential offers fizzled out and Dawson called me one afternoon with my last chance to play at the next level,” said McGruder.

In his second year with the T-Birds, McGruder decided the best decision for him was to redshirt.

“I redshirted last year because, I wanted to test my chances at transferring to a four-year university with the three years of athletic eligibility,” McGruder said. “I felt like I needed more time to mature as a player and learn the offense more so that I could be more efficient.”

After redshirting last year, McGruder is now starting this

season. He is currently averaging 11 points a game, along with four rebounds and shooting 43 percent from beyond the arc.

McGruder said he is grateful for the opportunity that’s been given to him by Coach Dawson. Whether it was playing at a community college level or university level, McGruder was going to make the most of his opportunities to play the game he loves.

McGruder said sitting out last year and getting a chance to learn Coach Dawson’s scheme has paid off huge for him this season.

“I feel like there is an enormous difference. I’m a lot more

confident and deliberate with my plays on the court,” said McGruder.

“I feel that I have matured in my knowledge of the schemes and the game has slowed down for me and also I’m being more patient,” he said.

“Last year I felt like we had a lot of cliques on the team and fragment off the court that eventually hurt our performance.”

Despite the distractions on and off the court, McGruder believes him and his teammates have come together as a whole and have big expectations this season.

“I honestly haven’t been with

a more cohesive and selfless team since before high school. We collectively believe and expect to be the team to hoist up the trophy,” McGruder said.

The T-Birds are on the right path right now, having won four out of their first five games of the season with a 4-1 record and rank fourth overall in the NWAC Coaches Poll.

“I have no idea what the future after the season holds in store, I just want to focus on winning a ring and let the rest take care of itself,” said McGruder.

“In all honestly I have no preference of where I go I’d just be elated to play at the next level.”

Ladies struggle in tournament

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Highline women's basketball team went 1-2 in the Bellevue Bulldog Classic Tournament over the weekend.

On Dec. 4, the Lady T-Birds beat Everett 68-62.

Sophomore Chardonae Miller put 13 points on the board, shooting 86 percent from the field, along with three rebounds and one assist.

Freshman Jasmine Hansgen scored 11 points, hitting 57 percent from the field. Hansgen also had three rebounds and a block.

Freshmen Chantal Hill and sophomore Linae MyHand put up nine points each. MyHand pulled down two rebounds, along with her two steals and four assists.

Freshman Alicia Westbrook and sophomore team captain Alyson Rippingham both scored eight points and sophomore team captain Jasmyne Holmes put up seven points.

Starting off the tournament with a win, the ladies then advanced to play North Idaho on Dec. 5.

The North Idaho roster is full of players from around the world and several players at 6'0" or above.

"I was ready to play," said Miller. "We had a good win on Friday against Everett and I wanted to get the win again."

Unfortunately, there was no mercy in the game against Highline as North Idaho won 91-46.

Miller had another successful game scoring 12 points while also managing eight rebounds, two steals, and an assist.

Westbrook added 13 points



Jack Harton Photo

T-Bird Chantal Hill (12) works around an Everett defender to pass to an open Holly Suggs (3).

to the board and Holmes put up nine points.

North Idaho went on to win the entire tournament.

Highline lost their final game of the weekend on Dec. 6 to Bellevue, 78-52.

Although the weekend was winding down, Miller was not as she scored 14 points and pulled down another eight rebounds.

"My personal goals for the season are to have at least six rebounds a game and play consistently," Miller said. "I want to give each game my all so I can contribute what [is needed] for

the team to succeed."

MyHand also added eight points.

Rippingham and freshmen Holly Suggs, Vanessa Roueche, and Alicia Westbrook all contributed five points.

The Highline Lady T-Birds finished fifth overall out of eight teams. Highline now has a record of 2-5.

"We learned a lot about what we need to focus on and what we need to start doing in order for the team to be successful," said Miller.

The Lady T-Birds played last night at Olympic with results

unavailable at press time.

The coaches say there is still plenty of time in the season for the team to improve.

Players said the team's main strength is rebounding, but they still need to work on communication and consistency.

The Lady T-Birds will be playing in two holiday tournaments over the break, before the league play begins in January 2016.

The first is the Walla Walla WBB Crossover Tournament from Dec. 17-19. Highline will play Chemeketa at 5 p.m. on Dec. 17.

Then Highline heads into

the Chemeketa Holiday Tournament on Dec. 28-30. Highline is scheduled to start off the tournament playing Chemeketa on Dec. 28 at 6 p.m.

League play begins in January with the league opener being a home game for Highline on Jan. 9 at noon against Centralia.

The ladies hit the road as they take on South Puget Sound on Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. and then play Grays Harbor on Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

The Lady T-Birds return to their home court with a game against Lower Columbia on Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.

Golf ready to tee-off for Spring Quarter

By Charles Prater
Staff Reporter

After much time and wait, Highline's golf team will finally begin its inaugural season in the spring quarter of 2016.

This is the first golf team Highline has put together and will act as a replacement for cross country.

For now, this is a women's only team, but with success in the future, it might expand into a men's team.

"Right now the focus is to try to get the women's program off the ground," said Highline Head Golf Coach Steve Turcotte.

"Make them competitive

and maybe in the near future, we can take a look at a men's team."

Jasmine Hangsen, Megan Martin and newcomer Hailey Johnson make up the team and have experience in the game.

Hansgen is a two-sport athlete for the T-Birds, currently a starting forward for the women's basketball team.

Martin is starting her first year of golf as a freshman. She previously played golf at Kennedy High School.

Johnson is also coming into her first year of college golf, having played at Auburn Riverside High School.

For the season, the women had two tournaments in the Fall

Quarter and will play in five tournaments in the spring.

"Megan and Jasmine were able to participate in the fall season," said Coach Turcotte. "So far this season Jasmine only played in one and Megan has played in both tournaments."

"Stats weren't kept because for the NWAC you need three players and so they played as individuals, but now that we do have three players, we will be able to post team scores when we play in the spring."

Regardless of the games not counting, Coach Turcotte said these weren't practice games and should serve as great experience for the women.

"This was a chance for the women to get an experience at what they will go through at the college level," he said.

"We are going to play when the weather allows and we will practice as much as possible."

The spring tournaments will be played on March 31 and May 1 at the Gold Mountain golf course in Bremerton.

With almost three months before the next match, this team by no means is full.

Coach Turcotte said he is always looking for players, whether they come to him or he finds them.

"We could still use more players on the team, there are still spots open," said Tur-

cotte.

"Experience-wise, they need to have played high school golf and be fairly proficient at golf and wanting to go to school and class."

"For the people out there, if you have a good golf background and are interested in playing college golf we would like to hear from you. At this level we probably won't look at beginners, but just someone who has a couple years of experience," he said.

Any female students interested in trying out for the team may contact Turcotte through email at sdturcotte@comcast.net or on his phone: 206-240-9029.

3835
3745
2114

Scoreboard

MEN'S BASKETBALL		
Team	League	Season
	W-L	W-L
West Division		
S. Puget Sound	0-0	5-1
Highline	0-0	4-1
Lower Columbia	0-0	4-4
Green River	0-0	4-5
Tacoma	0-0	3-4
Pierce	0-0	1-5
Grays Harbor	0-0	0-4
Centralia	0-0	0-5
South Division		
Clark	0-0	4-0
Lane	0-0	4-0
Umpqua	0-0	3-0
Chemeketa	0-0	4-2
Clackamas	0-0	4-2
SW Oregon	0-0	5-3
Portland	0-0	3-2
Mt.Hood	0-0	2-4
Linn-Benton	0-0	1-2
North Division		
Edmonds	0-0	4-1
Everett	0-0	6-2
Whatcom	0-0	5-2
Bellevue	0-0	3-3
Skagit Valley	0-0	3-3
Shoreline	0-0	2-2
Peninsula	0-0	3-4
Olympic	0-0	1-4
East Division		
Spokane	0-0	7-1
Blue Mountain	0-0	5-2
Yakima Valley	0-0	4-3
Columbia Basin	0-0	4-4
Big Bend	0-0	3-4
Walla Walla	0-0	1-3
Treasure Valley	0-0	0-6
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	0-6

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		
Team	League	Season
	W-L	W-L
West Division		
S. Puget Sound	0-0	6-2
Grays Harbor	0-0	5-2
Centralia	0-0	3-3
Lower Columbia	0-0	3-3
Green River	0-0	2-4
Highline	0-0	2-5
Pierce	0-0	2-5
Tacoma	0-0	1-4
South Division		
Lane	0-0	4-0
Umpqua	0-0	7-1
Clackamas	0-0	5-1
Clark	0-0	4-2
Linn-Benton	0-0	4-2
Mt.Hood	0-0	3-2
SW Oregon	0-0	4-3
Chemeketa	0-0	1-5
Portland	0-0	1-5
North Division		
Peninsula	0-0	6-1
Bellevue	0-0	2-1
Skagit Valley	0-0	3-4
Everett	0-0	2-3
Olympic	0-0	2-3
Shoreline	0-0	1-2
Edmonds	0-0	0-5
Whatcom	0-0	0-5
East Division		
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	5-0
Big Bend	0-0	3-1
Treasure Valley	0-0	6-3
Spokane	0-0	4-2
Walla Walla	0-0	4-2
Columbia Basin	0-0	2-3
Yakima Valley	0-0	2-4

Wrestlers outmatched at Clackamas

Olivia Jollimore
Staff Reporter

The Clackamas Cougars pinned a big loss on the Highline Thunderbird wrestling team last Saturday, 30-12.

Highline still managed to pick up a couple of wins in the meet.

Andres Tereza, 125 pounds, ranked No. 4, won by decision, 5-3, avenging an earlier loss to Clackamas' Dorian Sapien.

Volodymyr Kalinin, 165 pounds, received a forfeit.

Following him, Taylor Johnson, 174 pounds, also won by decision, 7-2.

The matches in-between were very rough, as some of the wrestlers were ahead before losing.

Josh Smith, 157 pounds, had control until he was reversed, getting pinned.

The pin though, really upset the crowd, as both his shoulders did not appear to be on the mat.

He was instead posted up on his elbows.

Highline Head Coach Scott



Olivia Jollimore/THUNDERWORD
Taylor Johnson works against opponent in match last Saturday against the Clackamas Cougars.

Norton did not look happy about it, but didn't want to say anything to upset the referee.

Tyler Noon, 184 pounds, had an extremely tense match.

He was ahead by points, only to give up a reverse.

Highline coaches and refs were in a headlock as well during his match.

Near the end, Noon's body

was contorted weirdly, with Highline coaches yelling to have a potentially dangerous hold called.

The match left everyone in the Highline crowd nearly dead silent, upset by what they regarded as the unfair calls made by the referee.

Elias Mason, 197 pounds, also ranked No. 4, was down

by a point with 20 seconds left in the match to John Morin, ranked No. 1.

Mason went for a throw, only for it to backfire, and Morin got the takedown.

Clackamas is ranked No. 4, and Highline ranked No. 17.

Next Sunday, Dec. 13, Highline will be wrestling Southwestern Oregon at noon.

Player of the year to play in California next

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Although the Highline men's soccer season is over, sophomore Isidro Prado-Huerta is still winning.

The Highline midfielder was recently awarded the NWAC Baden Soccer Player of the Year 2015 for his excellent season playing for the T-Birds.

Prado-Huerta was a key player on Highline's offense this season. He finished the season with a total of eight goals and 11 assists.

Previously this year in November, Prado-Huerta won the MVP title for the West Division.

In 2013, he won the 4A MVP award from the Washington State Soccer Coaches Association.

On Nov. 30, Prado-Huerta announced he has verbally committed to play soccer for University of California Santa Barbara.

"The deciding factor was that this is the team that will help me reach the next level," Prado-Huerta said. "The team and the fans make it a great atmosphere to play in."

Prado-Huerta hopes that playing for UCSB will help him achieve his goal of becoming a professional soccer player.

Recent figures (2014) show that UCSB has earned the NCAA Division I Annual Home Attendance Championship title for the eighth consecutive year.

In October of this year, the UC Santa Barbara game against Cal-Poly brought in just fewer than 15,000 fans to witness the

"The most important thing I learned at Highline is how to manage school and playing at the same time."

— Isidro Prado-Huerta
NWAC Baden Soccer Player of the Year



rivalry in action, which is the second largest attendance in NCAA history.

Prado-Huerta said he plays best under pressure.

The UCSB men's soccer team ended their season on Nov. 29, with a record of 14-7-2 after making it to the NCAA Division I sweet sixteen tournament for the seventh time.

Although Prado-Huerta usually plays midfield, the new team may switch him to a new position depending on how the coaches want to use his talents on the field.

The school aspect of college is time consuming enough, so he will have a full plate by playing for a Division I college soccer team as well.

"The most important thing I learned at Highline is how to manage school and playing at the same time," he said.

Legacy isn't the only thing left on the Highline team with

Prado-Huerta's name. His younger brother, Jamie Pra-

do-Huerta, is a freshman at Highline and played alongside Isidro this year. Jamie will be returning in the fall.

"Isidro is a great person in addition to his talent on the soccer field," said head coach Steve Mohn. "He is well deserving of the accolades he has received. I hope his success continues at UCSB and beyond."

Coach Mohn said it was a pleasure to coach [Isidro] over the past two years and wishes him the best of luck.

"I wouldn't have been here without my coaches and teammates," Prado-Huerta said. "They pushed me and made me play my best. Big thanks to them."

New Winter PE Class!

PE132 (Item #3175)
Introduction to Swimming

An introductory level swim class primarily for beginners that focuses on basic water safety and swim techniques that will enhance fitness and build confidence and enjoyment for aquatic activities. Get 1 PE credit and learn how to swim!

Class meets 12:30 - 1:20 PM
Mondays/Wednesdays off-campus
@ Mt. Rainier Pool

Contact instructor Natalie Hughes
(nhughs@highline.edu) for more information.

By Luke Field
Staff Reporter

Do you have a credit card? You may need one eventually.

Credit cards are used to start building credit now so you can eventually borrow money via loans, such as auto and home loans Manager of Public Relations for the (BECU), Todd Pietzsch said.

"All of us start off having no credit," he said, "and it's important to get some credit history established."

Many Highline students who don't have credit cards said the reason is that they are under age. Eighteen is the legal age to qualify with a credit card. Until you're 18 you can only be an "authorized user" on a credit card account managed by your legal guardian.

Being an authorized user does nothing toward establishing credit; what's being reported is how the parent or guardians



Smajlovic

a credit card account by having a job and sufficient income. If

are managing the account, Pietzsch said.

At the age of 18 you can open

you're in school and unable to work or otherwise don't qualify for a credit card, you can co-sign with a parent or guardian to start building credit. The cosigner would become liable if debt accumulated and is unpaid.

Cosigning and taking out small loans are alternatives if you don't want the responsibility and stress associated with a credit card, said Adnan Smajlovic, Metro District manager for US Bank in Washington.

The banks associated with the credit cards collect data on how you use and manage your credit

card account and this helps form your credit score he said.

"This shows your payment history and is also how you build it [credit]," Smajlovic said. "Traditionally you want a credit score over 700. The higher the score the lower the rate [of interest]."

This is why building credit is important. Banks rely on credit scores to determine the risk.

"Having a higher score lowers the risk for the bank that they'll lose money," said Smajlovic.

He also recommended ac-

quiring a credit card if you have a part-time job and are going to school.

"[Age] 18 is a good time to start," said Pietzsch. "You can build good credit pretty fast."

Some students at Highline don't have a credit card, but even those who do don't seem to know a lot about them. Four of the 17 people interviewed had a credit card, but only one knew the interest rate on the card.

Cathy Cooper, marketing and communications manager at Washington Federal Bank, said students should avoid high-inter-

CREDIT CRUNCH



Students can build credit but must walk carefully in the house of cards

est credit cards, and avoid paying interest whenever possible.

"Don't pay interest unless you can't pay off the balance each month. And the interest rate should be below 14 percent."

But credit cards just don't fit the lifestyles of some students.

"I don't like the idea of paying for things I don't have the money for," said student Sukhi Samra.

Garret San Luis said he doesn't have enough financial security yet and thought maybe once he had a career he might desire a credit card.

Another alternative is the prepaid credit card, but these cards can't be used to build credit.

"It works a lot like a credit card, but has to be named different because it isn't [a credit card]," said Becky House, education director of American Financial Solutions, a Seattle-based consumer credit counseling organization.

She said prepaid credit cards could be helpful if you're experiencing trouble getting a bank account.

Smajlovic said those considering prepaid credit cards should check to see if they carry any maintenance fees.



Cooper

It's never too early to start saving, experts say

By Luke Field
Staff Reporter

It's probably the last thing on their minds, but students can benefit greatly from beginning as soon as possible to save for retirement, experts say.

"The sooner you start, the less money it'll take because of compounding," said Nancy Almond, the senior vice president and program manager of CB Financial Services for Columbia Bank.

Compounding is the key. Almond said compounding is the accumulation of interest on invested money. That interest then accumulates interest itself, significantly increasing the amount of money you will have available by the time that you retire.

By dividing your goal by the years it'll take you to get to retirement and calculating the compounding, that determines the amount you will have to save each year.

Almond stressed that even if you don't know how much money you want for retirement, it's important to start saving now so you don't have to contribute as much yearly later on.

"The sooner you start, the less money it'll take because of compounding."

– Nancy Almond, senior vice president, CB Financial Services



Many students simply haven't thought about saving for retirement yet.

"I haven't thought about it," said Pawandeep Kochhar. "I'm saving for college, not for retirement."

Some students thought they were too young (17 and younger) to worry about retirement, while others said they weren't saving because they didn't have a job.

"You should start saving for retirement as soon as you have a job, even if you might have to have a parent sign," Almond said.

She said that businesses and

corporations provide 401k, Simple and SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) plans. Individuals can choose deferred compensation plans (set up by small businesses) and Individual Retirement Accounts in the form of a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA.

All of these retirement plans involve the same principle of saving a certain amount of money each paycheck or period of time.

The 401k option has you invest in the stock market with your contributions, for instance, and your savings not only grow with your contribution(s), but

with the success of your investment.

A traditional IRA is taxed at the time that you withdraw funds as opposed to a Roth IRA in which you pay the tax upfront.

Usually those with traditional IRAs are in a higher income tax bracket and need all the deductions they can get, Almond said.

"Someone in a higher income tax bracket can virtually save money with a traditional IRA as it reduces taxable income."

"I can't say what's right for

everyone without a personal consultation," said Almond.

Students who said they do have retirement plans agreed with Almond that the sooner you start to save, the better.

"You should start saving as soon as you are able to pay bills and have extra money to put away," My Nguyen said.

Starting an IRA is relatively easy, experts say.

"Pretty much any bank and/or financial institution can help you open an IRA," said Todd Pietzsch, manager of Public Relations for BECU.

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By dividing your goal by the years it'll take you to get to retirement and calculating the compounding, that determines the amount you will have to save each year.

Almond stressed that even if you don't know how much money you want for retirement, it's important to start saving now so you don't have to contribute as much yearly later on.

"The sooner you start, the less money it'll take because of compounding."

– Nancy Almond, senior vice president, CB Financial Services



Many students simply haven't thought about saving for retirement yet.

"I haven't thought about it," said Pawandeep Kochhar. "I'm saving for college, not for retirement."

Some students thought they were too young (17 and younger) to worry about retirement, while others said they weren't saving because they didn't have a job.

"You should start saving for retirement as soon as you have a job, even if you might have to have a parent sign," Almond said.

She said that businesses and

corporations provide 401k, Simple and SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) plans. Individuals can choose deferred compensation plans (set up by small businesses) and Individual Retirement Accounts in the form of a Roth IRA or a traditional IRA.

All of these retirement plans involve the same principle of saving a certain amount of money each paycheck or period of time.

The 401k option has you invest in the stock market with your contributions, for instance, and your savings not only grow with your contribution(s), but

with the success of your investment.

A traditional IRA is taxed at the time that you withdraw funds as opposed to a Roth IRA in which you pay the tax upfront.

Usually those with traditional IRAs are in a higher income tax bracket and need all the deductions they can get, Almond said.

"Someone in a higher income tax bracket can virtually save money with a traditional IRA as it reduces taxable income."

"I can't say what's right for

everyone without a personal consultation," said Almond.

Students who said they do have retirement plans agreed with Almond that the sooner you start to save, the better.

"You should start saving as soon as you are able to pay bills and have extra money to put away," My Nguyen said.

Starting an IRA is relatively easy, experts say.

"Pretty much any bank and/or financial institution can help you open an IRA," said Todd Pietzsch, manager of Public Relations for BECU.

"Pretty much any bank and/or financial institution can help you open an IRA."

– Todd Pietzsch, BECU





Jessica Strand/THUNDERWORD
 Jancinta Andera works at her desk on a new project. She started her business with help from Highline’s StartZone program.

Highline student excels in fashion business after starting company

By Z. Greene
 Staff Reporter

Designing clothing has been a passion since the age of 5 for Jacinta Andera as she was growing up in Uganda. But it took coming to America to make that passion a business. She migrated to the United States in 2000 with just \$20 in her pocket. But with the help of Highline’s StartZone Initiative program, she’s been able to substantially grow that nestegg with the launching of Jacinta’s African Apparels. After attending business school the sin-

gle mom took a hospital job to make ends meet, but she wanted something more out of life than a 9-to-5 job. “I wanted to do something different than everybody else,” Andera said. She decided to attend the International School of Design and Technology in Tukwila to refine her sewing skills. After graduating in 2011, Andera then turned to StartZone to pursue her dream of becoming a business owner. “When I was a kid in Uganda I was given a sewing machine and I helped make clothes,” Andera said. She established retail space for her line

of clothing last year and began doing fashion shows that reflect Ugandan culture. Although Jacinta’s African Apparels experienced early success, Andera decided she would like to create a stronger on-line presence. Highline’s Interior Design program and StartZone answered Andera’s call for help, donating time and help with creating a functional space and a stronger on-line presence. “I give the volunteers free fabrics. It’s the way I show my appreciation,” Andera said. The store is at 15201 Military Road S. in SeaTac.

StartZone gives budding business owners a boost

By Z. Greene
 Staff Reporter

Students and members of the general public who want to start their own business need look no farther than Highline. StartZone is a free resource located in Building 99, which assists local entrepreneurs who want to be their own boss. Over the course of eight years StartZone has helped launch several small businesses, everything from catering service to graphic design firms.

The nuts and bolts of starting a business consist of writing a business plan, getting a new business loan, and developing strategies to keep the business in tact. StartZone provides mentoring and training to establish a beginning foundation for these objectives. “We help people turn their business ideas into something they can grow,” said Mark Talbert, program support. The application process consists of answering preliminary questions and assignment of an account representative to will help guide clients through from start to end. Workshops are held throughout the process to inform and promote sound decision making and operational direction.

As the client progresses through the program they are assigned a loan representative to assist with finding the best financial product that fits the needs of the business. “It doesn’t matter if the business is new or existing and the money can be used for start-up, or inventory cost,” said Phon Sivongxay, program manager. The StartZone project is funded by a grant from King County and a Federal Way Community Development Block Grant. For more information or applications, apply on-line through the Highline home page, www.highline.edu, or stopping by Building 99.

U.S. veterans eye starting small businesses

By Freddy Groves

Is there a veteran-owned small business in your New Year? If you’ve thought about owning a business, where you open it might have something

to do with your ease of working with the local authorities. Thumbtack, a survey organization, recently completed its annual Small Business Friendliness survey, in which it asked 18,000 small-business owners to rate their cities and states in more than a dozen categories, including ease of hiring, licensing and tax regulations. Among those responding were 1,794 veterans who own small businesses. Here, in order, are the top 10 cities friendliest cities for small businesses: Dallas, Austin and Fort Worth, Texas; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Atlanta; San Antonio; Houston; Washington, D.C.; Phoenix; and Raleigh, North Carolina. Veterans own 9 percent of

VETERANS POST
 businesses, according to the Small Business Administration, and we’re 45 percent more likely to become entrepreneurs than civilians. Here are the things veterans wanted most in trying to set up a small business ... things that help identify a city as business-friendly:
 • Training and networking opportunities in translating military skills into civilian ones.
 • Government websites full of local information and resources,
 • Friendly licensing rules.
 In the survey, the top careers for veterans were event DJ, personal trainer, handyman and

computer-repair specialist. In the overall (including civilian) population, 42 percent of private investigators were veterans. If a small business might be in your future, start gathering information now. Go online to the Small Business Administration website [www.sba.gov] and review the files on writing a business plan, estimating startup costs, hiring employees, finding a business mentor and much more. Especially see the links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers and Office of Veterans Business Development. If you want to read the whole survey, go online to www.thumbtack.com/blog/veterans.

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top ten

Most Popular Gift Cards

1. Visa
2. Amazon
3. American Express
4. iTunes
5. Walmart

6. Target
7. Starbucks
8. Netflix
9. eBay
10. Google Play

GiftCard

Source: CardHub

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Thunderword@highline.edu

The THUNDERWORD

Fido made Santa's nice list!

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Pancakes and policy

Students share breakfast, wish lists with state legislators

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

Highline students told visiting legislators they want progress on climate change, free tuition, inmate education and cheaper textbooks.

Students gave speeches to State Rep. Tina Orwall, D-Des Moines; State Rep. Linda Kochmar, R-Federal Way; State Rep. Mark Hargrove, R-Covington; State Sen. Bob Hasegawa, D-Seattle; and State Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, at the Center for Leadership and Service’s annual Legislative Breakfast on Dec. 2.

Students also met in groups with legislators, sharing breakfast and table space in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union.

The Legislature begins its next session on Jan. 11, 2016.

Student Jacobi Boudreux asked the legislators to consider bills supporting open educational resources and proposed that the Legislature provide a fund to incentivize their production.

Open educational resources are teaching materials that are available online free for anyone to use.

Boudreux said students spend too much on textbooks, citing an annual cost of \$1,200.

“We cannot afford to send people to college,” Boudreux said.

According to The College Board, the average student at two-year commuter schools like Highline will on average spend \$1,374 on textbooks this year.

Boudreux said he had taken an English 101 course at Highline where the professor had used open-source materials, and that it was one of the his favorite courses to date.

Student Ariana Thomas spoke to the possibility of tuition-free two-year college.

Thomas is a student employee in the Highline Admissions



Johnathan Brown photo

Students discuss issues such as free tuition and climate change with state Sen. Bob Hasegawa, D-Seattle, at the Legislative Breakfast.

department.

Tuition is something that affects people of all income levels, Thomas said.

“There are many students on campus that struggle to pay for college,” Thomas said.

At Highline and all other two-year colleges in Washington, 15 credits costs \$1,282 per quarter. Students taking at least 12 credits are considered full-time students.

The Legislature included a 5 percent tuition cut for students at two-year colleges in last year’s budget. In the 2014-2015 academic year, 15 credits cost \$1,333.35.

“It would be very expensive,” said Rep. Mark Hargrove on free two-year college and the potential for high taxes to pay for it.

Sen. Bob Hasegawa disagreed with the notion that taxes are the real enemy.

“The question isn’t are we are overtaxed. The question is what are we using it for,” Sen. Hasegawa said.

Sen. Hasegawa said corporations receive too many tax breaks, and that it was harming the state’s ability to fund necessary programs, such as education or transportation.

“We’re [Democrats] not going to cut anything further,” Sen. Hasegawa said.

Student James Jackson spoke of this experiences in the criminal justice system as an inmate, and on how access to education while in prison changed the direction his life was going.

“My story is one of incarceration and addiction,” Jackson said.

Jackson said he was selling drugs at the age of 12 and dropped out of school in his freshman year of high school.

“I never got any education. I didn’t know a trade,” Jackson said.

Jackson spoke about being sentenced to a 10-year mandatory minimum on a drug charge when he was 36 years old.

As an inmate, he had to get his GED degree. He took an interest in the subjects of marketing and anthropology, and achieved a 4.0 in his classes.

Jackson said he was transferred to a prison in California after getting in some fights. The prison in California had no education program available, and was a much rougher environment.

He said he became interested in personal fitness training during his time there after getting feedback from some fellow inmates.

Jackson is in personal fitness training program at Highline.

“I’m in my second year, and have a 3.9 GPA,” Jackson said. “I am thinking of going on to a bachelor’s [program].”

“The main problem is a loss of hope,” Jackson said on the toll of going to prison and the difficult task of re-entering society.

“Getting to the one-year [out of prison] mark [means] my chances of recidivism dropped to 75 percent.” Recidivism is a

relapse to criminal behaviors.

Jackson urged the legislators to support bills that develop education programs in prisons.

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges works with the Washington State Department of Corrections to provide education for inmates at the 15 prisons in the state.

Student Uuriintuya Batbayar encouraged legislators to be aware of the threat of climate change, and to do their best to support the development of environmentally-friendly energy production.

“I believe everything is connected,” Batbayar said. “Public health and the environment are intertwined.”

Batbayar is from Mongolia, which she described as a young democratic country where her people have an ancient lifestyle of living off the land.

She said before she left for the United States, she saw coal mining and oil production begin to pollute the land.

Batbayar said a lack of government environmental protection regulations is leading to an ecological disaster in Mongolia.

According to The World Bank, Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, is one of the world’s most polluted cities.

Batbayar said she loves the clear skies of the Pacific Northwest and that she could not help but fear the same pollution she saw in Mongolia could happen

here.

Rep. Hargrove said green energy production was important, but that it is important to make sure that those technologies aren’t more wasteful or less efficient than traditional fossil fuel-based energy production

Go Figure! answers

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King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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B	R	E	D		A	N	D		S	A	I	D

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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



State Rep. Mark Hargrove

Fires cost the state millions, official says

By Adam Horner
Staff Reporter

Washington suffered its worst wildfire seasons in history due to an unusually dry year, said an official from the Washington state Department of Natural Resources. "[The year] 2014 saw the biggest fire we ever experienced in the state of Washington, called the Carlton Complex Fire," said Sandra Kaiser, communications director at the Department of Natural Resources. "We thought it couldn't get worse, but it actually did. This year, 2015, more than a million acres burned in our state." The majority of the 1,541 fires took place on the eastern side of the state, which is both higher and drier, hence, traditionally the more fire-prone, Kaiser said. Kaiser also said fires usually start toward the end of the summer when the landscape is dried out. The fires moved fast because of the conditions caused

by the unusually hot summer the state had, Kaiser said. "We've lost 3.2 percent of the entire state to wildfires this year," Kaiser said. "To put that in perspective, that's more than the state of Rhode Island." The fires were so extensive, the state exceeded the total number of firefighters they had available, and resorted to teams from other states, and even other countries. For the first time ever, civilian volunteers were called on to assist. The wildfires cost the state and federal government \$319 million. The Department of Natural Resources is lobbying the Legislature for increased funds to go toward wildfire prevention, as well as new equipment. "One of the problems when the three firefighters died is that all of the different organizations fighting the fire were on different radio frequencies," Kaiser said. Three firefighters died after their firetruck went off a cliff near Twisp.

Elwha River responded well after dams were removed, ecologist says

By Sam McCullough
Staff Reporter

The Elwha River is responding well to efforts to revitalize it following the removal of its dams, said an ecologist. The river is part of the Olympic National Park. The two dams were removed in 2011. In 1992, Congress signed an act to remove the dams. The dams were not removed until September 2011. "Unfortunately, it took another 20 years for them to actually be removed," said Sarah Morley, a research ecologist for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The dams needed to be removed because of their age. Both dams were built in 1910. "A lot of the dams that were built in the area are over 100 years old and are coming up for relicensing," Morley said. In addition to the relicensing issue, 21 million cubic kilometers of sediments had piled up on the upstream side of the Elwha dam. The Glines Canyon dam didn't have any sediment piled up. "To put it into perspective, imagine seven football stadiums; that's how much sediment there was," Morley said. Although experts hypothe-

sized that the sediments would be problematic, the sediments cleared with no problems. "Over 60 percent [of sediments] have been stored. The majority of sediment has gone out to the marine environment, which we predicted. We just didn't think it would happen this quickly." Morley said that the river itself has also changed. "The water level has risen because of the recent rainfalls, coupled with the fact that water can flow freely now," Morley said. The fish in the river have adapted as well. Before the dam was removed, the fish only had access to the lower 8 kilometers of the 72-kilometer river. "As soon as the dam came down, the fish were swimming upstream," Morley said. To protect the salmon and to allow them to continue to thrive, a five-year fishing ban has been put on the Elwha River. After five years, the river will be evaluated, and the ban could be extended. The next Science on the Sound seminar is on Jan. 9. Dr. Fritz Stahr will be talking about exploration of Puget Sound with remote operated vehicles. The seminar is hosted at the MaST Center, which is at 28203 Redondo Beach Dr. S., Des Moines.

Explore the sound with divers

By Karina Abramchuk
Staff Reporter

Scuba divers will take the public on a journey underwater to explore life beneath the surface at the Marine Science and Technology Center's Live Dive this Saturday. On Dec. 12, expert diver and former U.S. Coast Guard marine science technician Randy Williams will host an exploration of the marine life in the Redondo area. People will be able to observe by watching large screen monitors in the aquarium. Not only that, but they will also be able to ask questions through two-way microphone communication. Cori Hammock, a supervisor at the MaST Center, said that the Live Dive is a popular event open for everyone. "It's amazing to see how many people come down here," he said. "People just get a kick out of it." Williams said that the primary goal of the Live Dive is to educate the public, especially kids, about marine life. "We started about eight years back," he said. "We can help them understand the underwater world and get the kids fired up about marine science." He said that the general public and the City of Des

Moines usually don't realize the importance of the aquarium and that he hopes the city would invest a little more into the unique area. Hammock also said that the aquarium is important to the city. "It's a great investment for the public to have," Hammock said. However, the event does have costs, she said. To help with this issue, volunteer divers bring in some of their own equipment. "We have a great diving community here," she said. "Our divers are very generous." The divers will attempt to present the wide variety of sealife along local shores. Some animals that are commonly seen are squid, octopi, sea cucumbers, sea anemones, sea stars, schools of shiner perch, gunnels and more. Williams said that there are about five giant Pacific octopi that live in the Redondo area. Typically, divers do not collect animals during exploration, but the MaST Center does have permits for capturing certain animals, such as octopi, for research and observation purposes, Williams said. Divers are limited to exploring only about 400 feet away from the aquarium by the communication cables. However, Williams said that 60 feet near the aquarium is more than enough to observe marine life, because diving too

far from the shore will not have as many animals. Some future diving projects that the MaST Center is looking to develop are building artificial reefs and installing live camera feeds into the adjacent Salty's restaurant. Williams said that he has observed the success of artificial reefs in Puget Sound and now hopes to build an 80-foot big circle rock to enhance marine life and expand their habitat. He also said that he hopes to raise funds for installing a live camera feed of the sound into Salty's; Salty's is interested in the idea, Williams said. Williams and Hammock said the Live Dive should take place on Saturday, but there are concerns about weather that may delay the event. She said that a couple of weeks ago the MaST Center was closed because of too much ice. "The safety of our visitors is very important to us," she said. Other dives had to be delayed because of muddiness in the water. However, Williams said the Live Dive this week is most likely going to happen regardless. The event is on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Each dive has a duration of about 40 minutes each. Admission is free. The MaST Center is at 28203 Redondo Beach Dr. S. at Des Moines.

PRIVATE SECURITY ACADEMY

The Private Security Academy (PSA) is designed for individuals either currently employed or seeking employment in the private security field, loss prevention, assets protection and other police functions. Students who successfully complete the Private Security Academy will earn 8 college credits, applicable toward the Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice at Highline College. Students will also receive First Aid/CPR certification.

ACADEMY DATES AND TIMES FOR WINTER

QUARTER 2016

First day of class Tuesday, January 26 at 6 p.m.
(No class January 27–February 10)
End date March 24.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST?

- 100 hours state of the art instruction taught by industry professionals
- Course supplies and materials
- CPR/First Aid Certification
- FULL Gear Package

ACADEMY COSTS

\$1,150.00 per person*
(funding may be available—please see Workforce Education Service (WES) information)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 18 years old at the time of acceptance to the Academy
- Must complete and pass a Washington State Patrol (WSP) Background check
- Must commit to meeting the course attendance requirements

CAREER PATHWAYS

Upon completion of the Private Security Academy, students will be able to find potential career paths through a variety of private security companies that service:

- Retail Loss Prevention
- The Entertainment Industry
- County, City and State Fairs
- Maritime Infrastructure
- Casinos and Card Houses
- Trademark and Piracy Investigations
- Uniformed Static Posting
- Surveillance
- Loss Prevention Apprehension
- Internal Theft Investigations

CONTACT INFORMATION

To register for this course or to find out more information, please call Continuing Education at (206) 870-3785 or visit our website at ce.highline.edu.

Climate change can be costly, prof says

By Michael Muench
Staff Reporter

Climate change and the problems attributed to it will have a severe impact on the world's economy, a Highline professor said.

Climate change has an effect on all people and the entire infrastructure of our society, said professor of economics Dr. James Peyton.

It is the cause of a multitude of global problems today, many of which are immediate and will have a lasting impact and are very costly to remedy, he said. These problems worsen our economy and reduce habitability in certain areas.

"Basically, climate change is the change long term of precipitation, temperature, and the variability of those," said Dr. Eric Baer, a geology professor at Highline.

Climate change was originally referred to as global warming because the Earth's temperature has risen by 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit over the past century.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, changes in temperature are caused by large amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere from industrial processes.

The gases then trap energy into the atmosphere and cause it to warm up. This process is called the greenhouse effect. Although this process is natural and needed to support life, the large amount of gases being emitted can result in climate change.

The term climate change started to be used when scientists discovered that the Earth was not only heating, but it was facing extremes of cold temperatures as well.

The rising temperature of the atmosphere makes for a more habitable environment for pests, which infest farmland, fisheries and forestry around the world.

Pests such as aphids and moths require a minimum temperature to fly. Due to climate change they are now reaching their minimum flight temperature earlier, allowing for a wider dispersion and damage to crops for a longer period of time during the year.

Higher temperature means a higher rate of growth and reproduction for these herbivore insects.

It also means melting ice and heavier storms around the world.

Both the heavy storms and the melting ice contribute to rising sea levels, which cause a multitude of problems for the millions of people who live along the coasts of the world, Dr. Peyton said.

These problems include cyclones, widespread flooding, coastal erosion and the intrusion of salt water into the water table, which end up resulting in undrinkable water, displaced people, and property damage, according to a United Nations study.

Structures that are meant to last in and around fresh water will degrade much more rapidly around corrosive saltwater, Dr. Peyton said.

Solutions to these problems do exist but they could end up costing

trillions of dollars, he said.

For example, coastal settlements can build seawalls and relocate buildings. Farmers can develop costly irrigation systems and purchase drought resistant seeds in order to adapt to the lack of precipitation. Buildings can be relocated or reinforced.

These immediate problems are not the only ones we should be worrying about, Dr. Peyton said. "There are more, harder to predict changes that we need to try to avoid."

"The changes that we make today would make things better for people 40 to 50 years from now," Dr. Peyton said. By not doing we are making sure that things will be worse for future generations, he said.

Climate

continued from page 1

mate change.

The term climate change started to be used when scientists discovered that the Earth was not only heating, but it was facing extremes of cold temperatures as well.

"Basically, climate change is the change long term of precipitation, temperature, and the variability of those," said Dr. Eric Baer, a geology professor at Highline.

Dr. Baer said many things are causing climate change, including both natural and man-made actions.

"There are many things causing climate change. Humans

are changing the composition of the Earth's atmosphere," Dr. Baer said.

Dr. Baer went on to explain that, in addition to greenhouse gases, many things could be causing climate change, even the circulation of the oceans.

"There are so many factors," Dr. Baer said.

Dr. Baer said that climate change is fact, and cannot be logically disputed.

"It's like not believing the Earth goes around the sun, or not believing that the Earth is round. The scary thing is people still believe that the Earth is flat," Dr. Baer said.

"I think we've gotten hung up on if it's real, then if it's humans causing it, instead of what we can do about it," he said.

Dr. Baer said there are many possible consequences of climate change.

"Some of the consequences we forecast include changes in temperature, and that can change how much rain falls. Also, changes in storms and how big they are," Dr. Baer said.

Dr. Baer said that it could affect our water supply in local areas.

"As we saw this summer, it was very dry and we didn't have much rain. In addition, the mountains didn't have any snow. We rely on snow for our water. It's almost like a back-up because we don't get it until it's hot enough to start melting," he said.

Although ground water is an option, Dr. Baer advises against it.

"Most ground water is polluted. We need water that comes

from mountains, so we need to do something quickly."

Dr. Louis McKnight, a local environmentalist, said that the consequences of climate change could start a world war.

"Climate change can cause drinkable water to become sparse. Since we need water to live, I can see people stocking up on water and then fighting over it. To put it in perspective for college kids, that movie Mad Max: Fury Road might become a reality in the future," Dr. McKnight said.

Also, arctic sea ice will disappear, said Dr. Dennis Hartmann, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington.

Dr. Baer said that, while we cannot stop climate change, we

could reduce it.

"There are some ways that we can reduce the amount of climate change. I don't know if we can stop it," Dr. Baer said.

Currently people are not doing enough to reverse it, said Woody Moses, a life, ocean and general sciences professor at Highline.




According to EPA, there are a multitude of things we can do to reduce greenhouse gases. They suggest recycling and monitoring your water use while at home. Also, they suggest walking or taking public transportation to reduce emissions caused by burning gasoline.

Staff Reporters Bryce Sizemore, Sam McCullough and Michael Muench contributed to this story.

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HOLIDAY
SALE

Clothing, Imprinted gifts
and general merchandise

December 14th - 24th




December 15th - 17th

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY

8:30AM - 6:00PM
8:30AM - 4:30PM
8:30AM - 4:30PM

SELL YOUR

Books
for Cash



Assistance

continued from page 1

“Without the help I have no idea what I would do,” White said.

Sometimes even with the help she falls short. She has been late on bills and had services like her phone and even her lights turned off.

“My lights have been turned off twice before. It is one of the most horrible feelings in the world,” said White.

“The first it happened I sat on the floor crying for about 10 minutes before I grabbed my phone to call around for help. The worst part was my son asking me ‘What’s wrong mommy?’ I did not have a way to tell him the truth. I told him that I was fine and that everything was all right,” she said.

White met the father of her first child in her senior year of high school.

“He was older and I thought I was grown,” said White. “I was pregnant as I walked across the stage to get my high school diploma. Long story short I asked him for financial support and he disappeared.”

White met the father of her second child at a job about two years ago. They met as co-workers and she said they immediately had a connection.

“We worked together for about six months before we started dating. He was immature and not ready to be in a relationship. I found out he was cheating on me right after I found out I was pregnant,” said White.

By the time her daughter was born, White was a single mother of two. She receives child support from only her second child’s father.

“My daughter’s father does pay child support and he picks her up on some weekends. As for my son’s father, the last thing I heard is that he moved to California,” she said.

White is now in her third quarter at Highline. She said it’s all a challenge – getting back and forth between classes, her jobs, and dropping the kids off at school and child care.

“I do not have a car,” said White. “If we go anywhere we take the bus or get a ride from a friend. It’s stressful, when the kids are sick or there is an emergency, to not be able to just get up and go. It’s hard sometimes but I have to do what I have to do.”

White found a few non-government assistance programs that are designed to help families out. They helped her pay her past due electric bill to restore her lights within the day.

There have been other situations when White has been in a bind.

“I missed the re-certification deadline for my food stamps once, I did not realize it until my card was declined at the grocery store. We had to leave our stuff at

the counter and go home to figure things out,” said White.

She thinks people judge her for her situation.

“I know what people think of me when I pull out my WIC checks at the grocery store,” said White. “That I’m wasting their money. I heard someone whisper that under their breath as I checked out at the grocery store ‘oh, look my tax dollars,’” she said.

“People with money don’t know what it’s like to struggle for everything you have. They don’t know what it’s like to do without or just get by,” she said.

White is one of many students at Highline who receive some kind of public assistance. Precise numbers are not available, but Women’s Programs helps 300 students a quarter to apply for various public assistance programs.

Deana Rader, director of Women’s Programs and Work-First Services at Highline, said people often unfairly judge people on government assistance.

“There are myths that people on assistance are lazy, that they don’t work for anything that they have,” Rader said. “The truth is that they usually work just as hard as people who work 40 hours a week.”

Rader said that Women’s Programs and WorkFirst are designed to help students out.

“If you are a single parent or low income we can assist you with basic skills, college skills, finding a job, getting your GED as well as other services,” said Rader.

If you need assistance, you can apply at a local service office.

“You can apply at your local community service office. After that there is an interview process where you are assessed and evaluated for what services you need. Then after you are referred to women’s programs or work force. Then you contact us and we will get you all set up with a plan,” she said.

Women’s Programs and WorkFirst will cover a student’s tuition, books and fees. They also provide students with educational and career-based workshops.

“Once students cross our threshold our goal is to support them in a meaningful way,” said Rader.

Katie White said she plans on talking with her social worker and teaming up with Women’s Programs next quarter. She said nothing will hold her back from her dreams.

“I have faith that I will graduate, have a good job and continue to make my kids happy and comfortable. I want to be an example for them. So they can look at their mom and see a happy successful person,” she said.

White said that she has people that want her to be successful.

“I am so thankful for my beautiful friends and family and the different assistance programs I have found,” she said. “They are the only reason I have a chance to not be stuck in this position forever.”

Grades

continued from page 1

“This quarter I love all my professors, so I’d definitely blame myself,” said Chris Crisostomo.

Student Jae Lee said that the blame depends on the clarity of the feedback given by the professor.

Another student shared similar views.

“It depends, because it is also my responsibility to put the effort that is needed and to ask for the comprehension in order to work effectively,” Llareysi Hernandez said. “But sometimes some teachers talk really fast on lectures and it just turns to a whole mess.”

However, she also said that it’s also the students’ responsibility to clarify things.

Some students said that other factors can cause bad grades.

“The biggest problem is sicknesses, especially in winter and fall quarters,” said Stark, who didn’t give his last name.

Whether they agree on who or what to blame for poor grades, the majority of students prepare for finals the same way.

Students said note cards, study groups, reviewing previous tests and quizzes, and rewriting notes are the most preferable way to study.

Josh Jones, who said he has straight As, stressed the importance of keeping up throughout the quarter.

Some students focus on simply passing a class and do the bare minimum.

“If you have the idea, like, I just want to pass, then you’ll be happy when you just get a job,” Nicole Vitelli said.

Other students said they could have done more.

“I could have done more, especially more reading,” Keva Horne said with regard to her study habits, even though she is receiving mainly As and Bs.

Students are casting their eyes toward next quarter and are seeing if they can do anything different.

Some students said they would not be making any real changes next quarter with regard to their study habits but others said they plan on taking fewer credits to help reduce the amount of work.

“I’ll stick with my routine better next quarter. I know from my grades that if I don’t stick to it, I get bad grades,” Shari Douglass said.

Thunderword reporters Karina Abramchuk, Luke Field, Brittany Jenkins, and Jacqueline Kemp contributed to this story.

Solidarity

continued from page 1

States and rumors of a white supremacist march in Seattle.

The event will be held in Building 2 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 a.m.

There will be time for attendees to make comments on the current political and local climate, a discussion on recent happenings and small group discussions.

There will also be a showing of the 2011 movie *Mooz-lum*, which tells the story of an African American Muslim family

whose lives are changed by the Sept. 11 attacks.

Highline has many students of the Muslim faith and its president, Dr. Jack Birmingham, has taken a strong stance against these recent events.

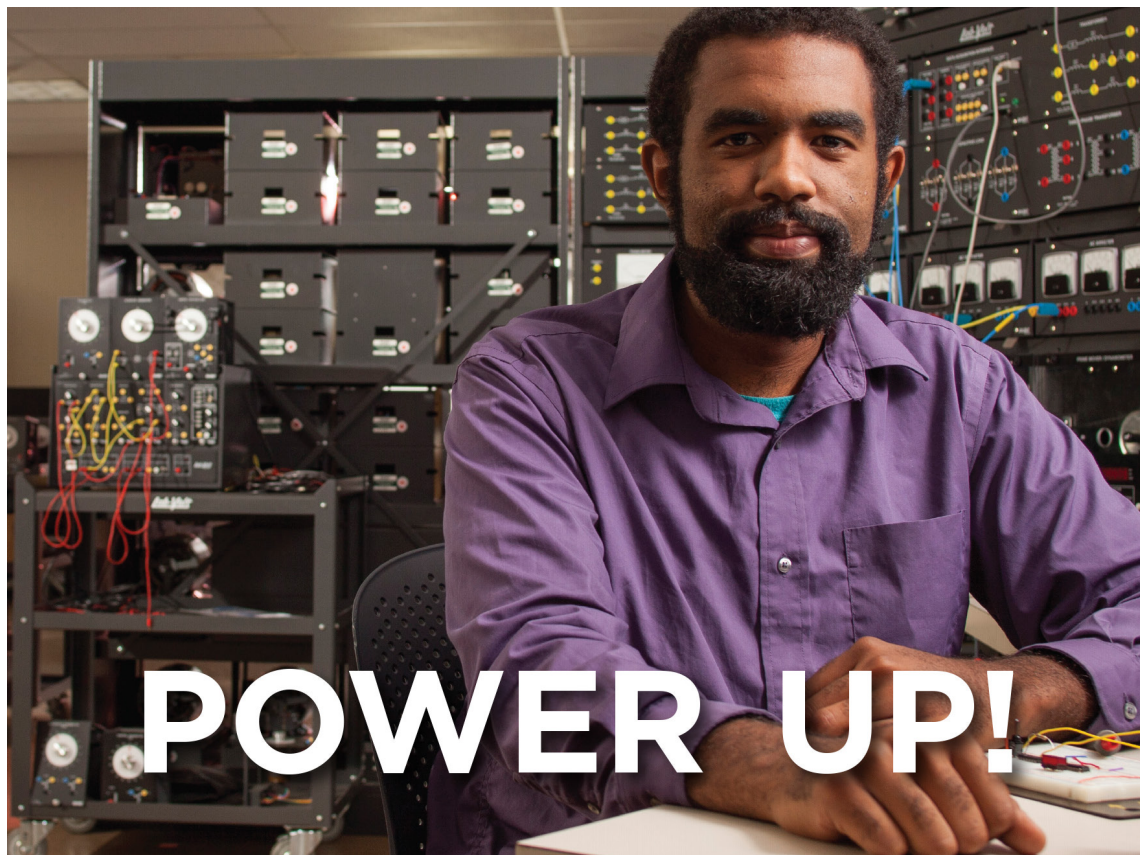
“Highline College is proud to be an educational home to many Muslims--- immigrant, American-born, and international students. We take pride in being an active partner with local communities where Islamic beliefs are embraced by many.” Dr. Birmingham said in a campuswide e-mail Wednesday afternoon.

“At Highline College, we are

one of democracy’s colleges in the best sense of the word. We believe that the richness of our cultural (including religious) and political differences strengthen our bonds of understanding and community,” said Dr. Birmingham.

Along with Inter-Cultural Center Leadership Coordinator Doris Martinez and assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service Iesha Valencia, the associate dean Brown helped to organize this event.

Threats to the Muslim community are not rumor, they are a fact, Brown said.



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