Highline princess brings awareness of domestic abuse

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Highline student Salome Munyaka recently became a princess and plans to use her royal status to help others.

Munyaka, of Federal Way, competed in the Miss Africa Washington pageant last month and won the title of First Princess of Washington state, as well as best natural beauty.

The pageant aimed to “promote, honor, and advance the status of African women by empowering...intelligent, powerful, and ambitious women to achieve their full potential via successful education and personal growth through leadership and constant involvement in community service,” according to the pageant website.

Fifteen women from various parts of Africa were featured in five different pageant segments.

The first was an ethnic open segment.

The women also had a platform presentation where they spoke about a global issue they are passionate about. In three and a half minutes, the women had to explain what the problem is, who the population at risk is, and why the issue is of such importance, Munyaka said.

Munyaka moved to Washington last December to escape the abuse she faced in Kenya, she said.

“I am a victim of domestic abuse, that’s an issue very close to my heart,” Munyaka said.

See Princess, page 12

Enrollment down, but Running Start numbers soar

By Mike Simpson
Staff Reporter

Running Start enrollment numbers for Fall Quarter are up, but not enough to offset a steep decline in enrollment of full-time students that has the college officials casting a wary eye at the Highline budget.

The enrollment decline was not unexpected given improvements in the King County economy. Generally, a healthy economic climate reflects weakened enrollment patterns as wage-earners find employment and postpone higher education.

The college measures its enrollment in full-time equivalents. FTEs are not a headcount, but the number of credits taken college-wide that equals full-time enrollment. This quarter, the number of FTEs fell to 3,465, as of Oct. 4. That’s down from 3,631 on Oct. 4, 2015 and 3942 on Oct. 4, 2012.

This is a trend across all Washington state community colleges, said Dr. Lisa Skari, Highline vice president of Institutional Advancement.

State funding, which counts for 57 percent of Highline’s budget, would decrease if FTE numbers fall too low, she said.

College administrators have been aware of the potential of declining FTEs and have budgeted accordingly. “Our budget for this year is extremely conservative,” Dr. Skari said.

During high employment periods, community college enrollments tend to fall.

See Enrollment, page 12

Monday deadline for online voter registration

By Cris Romero
Staff Reporter

The presidential election is Nov. 8 and for those not registered to vote, help is on the way. A voter registration drive will take place on Oct. 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Union Building, just outside the bookstore.

Volunteers from political science classes will be there to help students get registered.

For this event, you will need a government-issued ID and you need to be 18 or older before Nov. 8 to register.

“It’s important for people to voice their input officially on the ballot (in order) to begin making change,” said student Madison Hall-Lambert, who is involved in the project.

There are three ways to register to vote here in King County: Online, by mail, or in person. By mail, you will need to

ELECTIONS 2016

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Student hacks his way to second

By Joey Gomez
Staff Reporter

A Highline engineering student placed second in a software hacking competition on Sept. 17 - 18 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Emanuel Rujoni was part of a four-person delegation that competed with more than 1,000 students from across the nation and internationally who gathered to test their computer programming skills.

For 24 hours the competitors at HackMIT experimented with software and hardware to find a way to “make things easier” when using common technology, Rujoni said.

Although there aren’t the security ninjas who gain access to your laptop’s webcam, Rujoni said, these software gurus were able to create a normal violin into a mockup of the gaming sensation, Guitar Hero.

It was the first time these four students from Highline had attended a hackathon.

“It was quite the experience,” Rujoni said. “Aparaj [Walia], one of the group thought it would be a good idea.”

The groups were limited to a maximum of four students, he said.

“All four of us toured the MIT campus all day Friday,” Rujoni said.

That’s when they decided to network with others and try to diversify their teams. While networking, the students met hackers of different nationalities. Rujoni befriended two students from Scotland who became his teammates for the competition.

Rujoni’s team worked on an election data website, with which his team had to find the most efficient use for Wikipedia to explain topics of the U.S. presidential election.

It took a lot of work to do in just 24 hours,” Rujoni said. “My role was the front-end visuals of the website.”

Rujoni said there was an abundant supply of chips, granola bars, Red Bull, and other snacks for the 24 hours from 11 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday.

“I didn’t want to have an energy crash during the competition,” he said.

There were many sponsors at the HackMIT event such as Ford, Microsoft, Playstation, Postmates, Nasdaq, Facebook, Google, Walt Disney, GoDaddy, and the list goes on. The sponsors not only supplied a multitude of free items at their respective area, they also offered students the use of their APIs (application program interface), for which they would receive incentives. Rujoni and his team earned second place in their category, and received Raspbery Pi.

More sweet!

Not quite. Raspberry Pi is a small programmable computer. That was just one of the “$76,570 in prizes available to the participants,” Walia said.

Unlike Rujoni’s team, which consisted of three strangers, Walia’s team wasn’t so diverse.

Walia, who is now a computer science major at the University of Washington, had Mae McQuage, another Highline engineering student on her team. Also on their team was UW student Pooja Sethi, and Nina Yokumuth from the University of California, Irvine.

Also attending from Highline was Barinder Hunji.

“All participants had varying levels of experience and fields of expertise,” Walia said.

That created a more balanced environment for the competition, she said.

The sponsors represented at HackMIT also provided mentors who were “experts in their field,” Walia said.

Each member supplied individual perspectives to the team. “We all collaborated and contributed in our own ways to get to our final project,” Walia said.

Unfortunately, “no one on the team had used the Facebook Messenger Platform, so it took us some time to get familiar with” the program, she said.

Once the team had made themselves comfortable with the Messenger Platform and coding software Node.js, they ended up with a Facebook Messenger bot called Pous Chef, Walia said.

The bot aids in finding “recipes you can make using the ingredients you have,” Walia said.

Users provide a list of ingredients they already have in “natural language and Pous Chef will find relevant recipes,” Walia said.

Our team was very proud of the fact we had a finished product,” Walia said. “We hadn’t expected our idea to work, much less complete!”

“With a fully functioning product, the team aims to enable their audience to order groceries via Pous Chef.”

Weekly Seminar that happens every Friday from 1:30 to 2:25 p.m. in building 3, room 102.

Tips for Success Tuesdays

The Career and Student Employment Center is hosting a weekly workshop every Tuesday to teach students how to succeed in the workforce.

Different employers and staff members will present the workshop each week.

They will teach skills for creating resumes, how to interview successfully, networking tips, benefits of social media such as LinkedIn, professionalism and mock interviews.

Registration is required. You can Register at: https://student-employment.highline.edu/workshops.php

The next workshop is Oct. 11 from 1-2 p.m.
Dr. Helen Burn wants to build a dialogue between colleges on racial inclusion

By Olivia Sullivan

Staff Reporter

One Highline professor understands that students need a little TLC.

Dr. Helen Burn, a math professor at Highline, is now also the director of a curriculum research group after she was awarded a grant of $320,742 from the National Science Foundation.

The grant will be used to research strategies to increase the amount of underrepresented students in science and math fields, but mainly focused on calculus, Dr. Burn said.

“The grant is titled Transitioning Learners to Calculus in Community College, or TLC, like tender loving care,” Dr. Burn said.

One of the goals for the grant is to create a network of colleges that are committed to improvement, Dr. Burn said. She hopes to have 50 colleges connected by the end of the three years.

The research-based goal of the project is to develop an institutional self-assessment, commonly referred to as a change tool, she said.

“This grant is about transitioning learners,” Dr. Burn said.

“But what we’re really focused on is people who have been historically undererved.”

Students of color and women are among some groups of underrepresented individuals in the math world, said Dr. Burn.

The technical term used to describe these students is URMs – underrepresented racial minorities.

“None of us are fond of that because you look around Highline – these students are not underrepresented,” Dr. Burn said.

“They’re underserved.”

As a student, the transition to calculus can be a long sequence, said Dr. Burn.

The change tool will specifically outline areas where institutions are doing well and areas that could use improvement, and provide strategies to remedy some of the barriers that hinder success in the classroom, Dr. Burn said.

The development of the tool will come from a combination of the data collected via surveys and campus visits to exemplary institutions, she said.

Dr. Burn and her team plan to analyze institutions that are classified as Minority-Serving Institutions. The designations for this include serving certain groups of students, such as Hispanic, Native American, Black, or Asian American.

“We want to connect institutions to each other,” Dr. Burn said.

“That [way], the ideas get shared and promoted and built upon…to build momentum.”

“I don’t think anyone’s ever done something like this,” she said.

“I think it’s going to blossom in ways we can’t even envision yet.”

Dr. Burn said she would like to see numbers go up in areas such as students graduating in science and math fields.

“If you look at where students start, especially for certain groups, like Latino students, they tend to overwhelmingly start in community colleges,” Dr. Burn said.

“If we have any hope of creating more Latino scientists, it has to come through the community colleges.

I’m hoping this grant gives ways for faculty to improve the situation without feeling like they’re reverse discriminating.”

Highline has predominantly white faculty and predominant students of color, Dr. Burn said.

“Dr. Burn said. “All three of them want to play in my band”?

Eboni Zamani-Gallaher, a professor of the department of education at San Diego State University; and Dr. Eboni Zamani-Gallaher, a professor of the department of education policy, organization, and leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“This work is special about this grant is our unique research team,” Dr. Burn said.

“Vilma and I are both in math,” Dr. Burn said.

“Luke and Eboni are specialists in community college student success – they’re not in math.”

By creating a diverse team of various specialists, she said this will help offer multiple perspectives to solve barriers.

“Eboni understands student transition, so she has many theoretical ideas about transition points and barriers,” Dr. Burn said.

“Luke has developed a sociological ecological model based on his work in California, and we’re going to extract ideas from that.”

“All of us are on the team,” Dr. Burn said.

“Kind of like calling Mick Jagger and asking ‘Hey, you want to play in my band?” Dr. Burn said.

“All three of them are rock stars in their field.”

Dr. Burn has worked at Highline for 22 years and has participated in several smaller grants before. This grant is the first one where she will be the principal investigator.

Due to the data collection, research, and training that will not be teaching as much in the next three years, but said she is incredibly thankful for Highline’s support.

“It’s not that unusual for faculty to be involved in national projects,” Dr. Burn said.

“We have a history of supporting that and encouraging that. This is just the latest example that’s in my area. Highline is a complex organization and it attracts faculty that are talented in many areas in addition to classroom teaching.​
Voter registration drive here Oct. 10

Your vote is your voice. Voting is a right that every U.S. citizen has.
Your vote does not count more or less than anyone else’s. Your vote always counts as much as anyone else’s, no matter if you’re rich or poor.

Your vote counts to the point where it can make a difference between winning or losing. Elections in Washington have been decided by as few as 20 votes.

Voting allows you to participate in elections. Voicing your opinion impacts others, not just yourself.

A well-known example is immigration laws. Some candidates might think that the immigration laws aren’t strict enough and others might think otherwise.

Donald Trump is known for saying that he wants to throw out all immigrants. This could affect a chunk of the Highline student population. So who becomes president is important.

There are plenty of important things to vote for on the ballot, not just the presidency. Other things to consider to vote for are Sound Transit, Washington state government, legislators for your district specifically, judges and the governor.

 Plenty of people complain about the government. However, those same people are often the people who don’t participate when it comes to voting.

If you can vote and are complaining about the government, take the time to complain to the right people by voting. Voting is the way to complain about what most concerns you as a citizen of the United States.

Remember that your vote will always count. Despite all the outcry, the United States has very little voter fraud -- except when governments try to keep people from voting. We have to fight for our right, and exercise it.

Women and people of color were long prevented from voting. Women had to fight for their right to vote and so did people of color. Honor those that fought for your right to vote by voting.

Voting is not all that hard. Some people may wonder what should be done in order to vote. Here are steps for Washington state residents:

• Must register to vote. There are three options to register to vote:
  • Have a valid Washington state identification card or driver’s license.
  • Must register to vote. There are three options to register to vote one option is online with the deadline of Oct. 10, another option is by mail with the deadline of Oct. 8, and if you’re registering in person the deadline is Oct. 31.
  • Must meet the registration requirements:
    • Must be a U.S. citizen
    • Must be 18 years old by Nov. 8
    • Live in a Washington state address by Oct. 9

Voter Registration will be happening in the Student Union, second floor, on Oct. 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a valid ID or driver’s license.

To see if you’re registered to vote, check online at https://voter. SOS.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login.

We all have our own opinions and sharing different opinions is one way to relate to try and understand other people who don’t quite see the world as we do.

That’s generally a good thing. However, what I don’t think is acceptable is to start attacking each other personally. Or to show your beliefs down someone’s throat.

Having a different opinion from other people can create a valuable experience when talking with someone. Different opinions bring a piece of knowledge from the other person that perhaps might help them and you understand each other better.

Personally I have seen this a lot when it comes to religion.

I used to go to a Christian church. I never liked how the pastor would always talk bad about other religions, implying that Christianity is the only true religion.

There is no right or wrong religion, even though I do find that most Christians I have encountered have their mind set on Christianity being the only religion that counts. Thinking that your religion is the best religion for everyone is a little close-minded.

Remember that your vote will always count. Despite all the outcry, the United States has very little voter fraud -- except when governments try to keep people from voting. We have to fight for our right, and exercise it.

We can disagree and not be disagreeable

Yo hablo CVR

Cinthia Velez-Regalado

We can always disagree with people’s perspective. But don’t make it a cause of argument among you and the other person.

I commonly see people arguing about subjects for which there is no right or wrong way of thinking about the topic.

Respecting boundaries, is important to maintain a good communication with other people. Some topics such as religion and politics are sensitive topics that are hard for people to agree on. Problems surface when people don’t respect what others think and try to convince people that their thoughts are wrong.

In reality, everyone’s thoughts have value.

People should be able to get along with each other regardless if they agree on certain topics. If this means not talking about certain topics with certain people to get along, then just respect those wishes.

I think people should be able to compromise in order to get along. I also think something to keep in mind is being mature enough to accept that someone can disagree with your thoughts or opinions.

Maturity can be a life saver. Especially if someone starts to attack your personal beliefs. Don’t engage, instead calmly change the topic or ask politely to move if the person could move away from the topic.

In the end we all have different opinions, and we have to understand that sometimes we might not agree with what someone is saying. But that doesn’t mean we attack the person’s beliefs.

Cinthia Velez-Regalado is the Opinion Editor of the Thunderword.
The Seattle Symphony will present a free community concert at a park on the Des Moines waterfront.

On Oct. 23, the Seattle Symphony will make a rare visit to Des Moines Beach Park, just north of the Des Moines Marina.

“We are very excited about performing in Des Moines,” said Pablo Broseta, conductor for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. “A live concert is an incomparable experience and we love to attract more of an audience and the communities to enjoy it. When we take the orchestra out of our beloved Benaroya Hall it’s always a great initiative.”

The Seattle Symphony participates in a remote program one to two times per year where they choose a location to perform a free community show. Broseta will guide the ensemble for the performance.

He said his goal when performing with the symphony is to connect as much as possible and to tell a story to the audience.

“Broseta aims to revitalize concert experiences through the eclectic programming of music from different eras and with diverse aesthetics,” said a Seattle Symphony Orchestra spokesman.

The concert is open to the public and all ages are welcome. At 11 a.m., there will be children’s music crafts as well as instrument exploration.

“The pre-concert activities are geared towards children and teaching them to be more musical,” said Shannon Kirkberg, with the city of Des Moines Parks, Recreation and Senior Services.

The concert will feature Mozart’s symphony No. 29 and Symphony in D major. The performance begins at noon, but pre-concert activities will begin at 11 a.m. The event is at the Des Moines Beach Park Auditorium, 22030 Cliff Ave. S.

By Kelsey Par
Staff Reporter

The Seattle Symphony will be conducting the Seattle Symphony Orchestra at Des Moines Beach Park.

Pablo Broseta will be conducting the Seattle Symphony Orchestra at Des Moines Beach Park.

SYMPHONY TO MAKE RARE VISIT

By John Van de Ven
Staff Reporter

Burien has a new hero: Toxic, a.k.a. The Toxic Avenger, has come to clean up the pollution, bullies and corrupt politicians that compromise his hometown of Tromaville.

The fictional New Jersey town is the self-proclaimed toxic waste capital of the world. This setting is key for The Toxic Avenger musical, running now until the Oct. 30.

Taking several cues from the 1984 science fiction cult classic film, it stays faithful to the original story while bringing in new elements of its own.

Melvin Ferd the Third (or Melvin played by Lance Zierlinski) is the poster child of the same name, The Toxic Avenger musical embodies nearly every element that made the original film so great to its fans. A plethora of jokes, both childhood and adult oriented, are layered heavily in between scenes of violence and gore. The musical also has a handful of surprises that will catch the audience off guard.

The story centers around Melvin Ferd the Third (or Melvin Ferd the Turd when spoken with a New Jersey accent), and his relationship with the sexy blind librarian, Sarah.

Melvin (played by Lance Zierlinski) isn’t the best looking guy or the most physically desirable in any way. He finds out how much Sarah loves Tromaville (probably because she’s blind) and how she wishes that someone would clean it up, he begins a crusade to clean up the town.

He quickly uncovers a conspiracy between Tromaville’s mayor (played by Britt Boyd) and corrupt businesses who are using the town as a toxic waste dumping ground.

Following a brief confrontation with the mayor, the mayor offers her henchmen (played by Rico Lastrapes and John Lynch, who also play a number of roles) to teach Melvin a lesson. After dishing out a beating, the bullies accidentally drop him into a large vat of toxic waste.

Melvin then emerges as the high powered mutant, The Toxic Avenger, a.k.a. Toxic. While Melvin gains new strength, he finds that he has transformed into a hideously deformed mutant, with a face that no mother would love (including his own). Although some elements of the story differ from the original film, it stays faithful to the origin of Toxic and his relationship with his blind love interest Sarah (played by Kya Roberts). The musical does take its liberties, but die-hard fans shouldn’t worry too much about the finer details.

The acting is on (stage direction by Marc “Mok” Moser), and it’s one of the more interesting things about this show because of its relatively small cast compared to the amount of characters that in the story. Five actors play the majority of the characters in the story, so frequent and quick costume changes lead to a ridiculous scene that has one actor playing two characters, on stage, simultaneously.

A large vat of toxic waste, lined with bright green toxic sludge and illuminated by black light, bubbles away on stage (design by Albie Clementi and lighting by Rob Falk). Old oil barrels with skeletons creeping out of them and graffiti covered sheet metal help complete the look and feel of the toxic waste capital of the world (props by Cyndi Baumgardner).

The costumes are spot on, making it easy to differentiate the characters and understand what kind of role they play in the story.

The songs are catchy (music direction by Paul Linnies), the singing is done well and the lyrics are clever, often taking jabs at the poor quality of the New Jersey environment. If ever there was a case for reducing pollution, Tromaville would be the poster child.

The actors singing is accompanied by a live band on stage (sound by Tony Cochran and Eric Dickman), who provide all of the music, and some of the humor.

Overall, The Toxic Avenger is a hilarious musical, encompassing both clever and crude humor. The cast is talented enough to pull off the over-the-top elements of the story and keep up the pace from scene to scene and character to character. The singing at times could use a little work, but that’s the least of our worries in comparison to the state New Jersey is in, especially in Tromaville.

But in all seriousness, if you enjoy fun and crude humor at all, and don’t mind a little bit of toxic waste, consider spending an evening in Tromaville. You might find that you love it (or you might just be blind).

By Kelsey Par
Staff Reporter

Seattle Symphony photo

THE LAUGHS ARE LETAL TO THE TOXIC AVENGER

By Kelsey Par
Staff Reporter

• Sentimental Journey Oct. 30, Joan Baez Diedre and Laurie Clauser on a musical trip down memory lane with the Purple Phoenix Orchestra as they pay tribute to the iconic singers of the 40s and 50s. Tickets are $35 for adults, $30 for seniors and military, $15 for youth (25 and under), and $10 for VIP. The show begins at 2:30 p.m. and takes place at Centerstage! In Federal Way, located at 3200 SW Dash Point Road. Additional information can be found at centerstagetheatre.com.

• Little Red Riding Hood Nov. 26 – Dec. 22, a musical appropriation for all ages “a sparkling holiday show filled with songs, jokes and pantomime routines.” Tickets are $35 for adults, $30 for seniors and military, $15 for youth 25 and under, and $10 for VIP. Show times are 3 p.m. Friday and Saturdays with the final two performances happening on the last weekend of the month. The event is at the Des Moines Beach Park Auditorium, 22030 Cliff Ave. S.

• Kaleo Oct. 25, an Icelandic rock band is touring, making their rounds to Seattle. Tickets vary and are available through Ticketmaster.com. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Neptune Theatre, 1303 NE 45th St, Seattle. For additional information, visit stippresents.org or call 206-682-1414.

• The Complete History of America: Election Edition Oct. 15, “Who will be our next President – Donald Trump / Hilary Clinton? Kim Kardashian? A comical show about the 2016 Presidential Election about American History. “It’s a ninety-minute roller coaster ride through the glorious quagmire that is American History” General admission is $28, $25 for seniors, and $15 for youth. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10002 SE 256th St. For additional information, visit kentwa.gov or call 253-866-0000.

• Seattle Symphony Community Concert Oct. 23, A free concert performed by members of the Seattle Symphony at Des Moines Beach Park Auditorium. Tickets for the event will feature conductor Pablo Broseta orchestrating a select number of pieces. Tickets begin at 11 a.m. with pre-concert activities such as guided instrument exploration and a children’s musical crafts. At Des Moines Beach Park Auditorium, 22030 Cliff Ave. S., Des Moines.

• Comfort, a musical tribute to the iconic singers of the 40s and 50s. “Tickets are $35 for adults, $30 for seniors and military, $15 for youth (25 and under), and $10 for VIP. The show begins at 2:30 p.m. and takes place at Centerstage! In Federal Way, located at 3200 SW Dash Point Road. Additional information can be found at centerstagetheatre.com.
Inky times
MaST Center mixes art with marine biology

By Kelsey Par
Staff Reporter

The squid will be running and the artists will be coming. Squid-A-Rama, a joint arts and science event, will be held at the Highline Marine Science and Technology Center and will include the dissection of live squid for a different reason than one might expect.

“The multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of families together to enjoy activities,” Dunn said. “We worked with many partners in the community to put this on, such as King County Library System, Sea Mar, Burien Arts, Highline Historical Society and lots of volunteers,” she said.

Dia de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is commonly celebrated in particular central and south regions of Mexico.

Day of the Dead is also celebrated in other places by people of Mexican ancestry, particularly the United States. “The multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of families and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journeys,” said Kristy Dunn, reception supervisor with the City of Burien.

Day of the Dead is recognized in many other cultures worldwide. Dia de los Muertos festivities traditionally begin Nov. 1 and end Nov. 2 and concurs with the holiday called All Saints’ and Soul’s days.

It is believed that the gates of heaven open Oct. 31 at midnight, and the spirits of children who have passed away are allowed to reunite with their loved ones for 24 hours. On the following day, spirits of adults who have passed away come down and reunite with their families and enjoy the festivities that have been arranged for them.

Day of the Dead is becoming very popular in the United States and continues to allow people to honor the dead. “The Day of the Dead in the USA is providing cultural awakenings as the tradition is embraced by the mainstream,” according the Burien Community Center website.

A familiar symbol of Dia de los Muertos are skulls, often called sugar skulls. Sugar skulls get their name because they are made out of clay sugar, and decorated with icing. Sugar skulls are used to decorate gravestones of the dead.

“We have a large Hispanic population in Burien. We are helping them celebrate the tradition of honoring and remembering their ancestors and families,” Dunn said.

The event will offer face painting, bingo, arts and crafts, a food booth, mask making, storytelling, music, dance, and more. There will also be performances, art, dance, and art exhibits. This celebration is open to all ages. Children and adults are encouraged to dress up and join the procession.

“El Dia de los Muertos has enjoyed renewed popularity since the 1970s when Latino activists and artists in the United States began expanding Day of the Dead north of the border with celebrations of performance art, Aztec danza (dance), art exhibits, and other public expressions,” the website said.

“Ofrendas” are a crucial part of the Day of the Dead celebration. In Spanish, the word ofrenda means offering. An ofrenda is a combination of Spanish elements and former Hispanic traditions.

To honor the dead, most homes are decorated with candles, flowers, fruit, plates of turkey, and Day of the Dead breads called “pan de muerto.”

Dia de los Muertos is a very expensive holiday for most families, and many spend over two months of income to commemorate the dead.

“The altars that are put together by various community groups are phenomenal. Ofrendas are works of art,” Dunn said. It is believed that by preparing these festivities it will bring happy spirits, protection, wisdom, and good luck.

This event hopes to bring families together to enjoy activities, while learning about and celebrating Dia de los Muertos, Dunn said.

The celebration is on Friday, Oct. 28, from 6-9 p.m. The event is free and will take place at the Burien Community Center, at 14700 6th Ave. S.W. For more information, visit www.BurienWA.gov/DDLM or call 206-988-3700.
T-Birds to face Titans in soccer showdown

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

The Highline women’s soccer team is second in the Northwest Athletic Conference West Division due to a recent upset, however they can reclaim the top spot this Saturday.

On Oct. 8, Highline plays the first place 6-0-1 Tacoma Titans. A victory there would result in the Lady T-Birds moving back up to first.

Highline has already played Tacoma this season once before. On Sept. 21, Highline took on the Titans winning 4-2.

The team plans on doing more of the same the next time they face Tacoma, said woman’s soccer head coach Thomas Moore.

“I feel like we’re moving in the right direction, I’m excited for the next week of games,” said Moore.

This past week the Lady T-Birds played two games, one on Sept. 28, against Centralia and another on Sept. 24, against Green River.

Highline won against Centralia in a 3-0 shutout victory, with all three goals being scored in the last 20 minutes of the game.

Goals were scored by fresh man forward Tea Lopes, soph more defender May Gray and sophomore defender Chantay Warnes.

Highline’s goalkeeper, Rachel Thompson, allowed nothing ing to get past her with five saves on the game.

However, facing Green River at home, the Lady T-Birds lost their first place spot in the West Division by playing a scoreless game, losing 2-0.

After the team’s first loss of the season, the players stayed positive and looked to the games ahead, Moore said.

“It was a good chance for us to be reminded that we are not invincible. Everyone gives you their best game, we have to be prepared to give just as much back,” he said.

There are a couple things that needed to be changed in order to reverse the outcome of the entire game, Moore said.

If Moore could go back and change things, “it would be our approach to the game. It definitely needs to be different. Our mentality has to be stronger, need to be more focused, and play as if it means something,” he said.

Results from Wednesday’s 1 p.m. home game against the 3-2-1 Pierce Raiders were unavailable at press time.

The team’s next opponent is an away game against the Ta coma Titans on Oct. 8, at noon and 2 p.m. The Lady Thunderbirds quick ly regained their focus and took the match in the fourth set, 25-10.

Middle blocker Megan Van Marter and libero Pumehana Nidley also contributed a big part in the victory over the Gators. MArtier had eight kills and Nidley had 24 digs.

It was not the first outstanding performance recognized for this team. On Sept. 28, Taylor Alicuben was named NWAC Volleyball Player of the Week after compiling 31 assists, eight kills, five serve aces and seven blocks.

Coach Littleman attributes the team’s success so far to his individualizing approach to his players after getting to know their personalities.

“The girls respond with sugar, some respond with spice and some respond with a little combination. But every year is different,” Littleman said.

After coaching a total of 15 years — six years at Highline as head coach — Littleman says: “The longer you coach the more you learn that different players learn from different things, you learn to adapt and to the girls you have that year.”

“Just do your best to work with what you have, and give the best effort that you have,” Littleman said.

The women met Lower Co lumbia last night at Highline. Results were unavailable at press time.

Highline is at South Puget Sound on Friday and at Grays Harbor on Oct. 12.
T-Bird flies in from afar

Maharero leads Highline in assists

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

Highline is assisting soccer player Jandja Maharero in his pursuit of tougher competition.

Maharero currently leads the Northwest Athletic Conference in assists and is among the top 25 players in goals scored.

Maharero, 19, is an international student from Namibia, Africa who has been pursuing his dream of becoming a professional soccer player almost his whole life.

Maharero started playing soccer as a young child. He played outside with his older brothers and other boys in his neighborhood.

“I started playing soccer on the streets with my older brothers and older guys and I remember I was only four years old,” Maharero said.

Once Maharero was enrolled in elementary school he started playing for the soccer team almost right away, joining the team in second grade and quickly becoming a solid player.

When Maharero turned 11 his coach at the time advised him to start playing for the local club team, Ramblers FC.

“I played for the Ramblers most of my life and every year you move up to the next age group. I started off in U-11, then U-12 and so on, once I moved up to U-15 I was asked to be team captain by my coaches,” he said.

Maharero was dedicated to keeping up in soccer and once he made the next age group he began in Namibia.

“When I was U-17 I went for regional tryouts for my local region, the Khomas Region,” Maharero said.

Maharero fit right in with the U-17 regional team, where he eventually got to play in a major tournament.

“We were preparing to play a tournament called the Skorpion Zinc tournament. In this tournament all 14 regions in the country participate. After I made the tryouts we went on to play the tournament and I was voted as second top goal scorer and player of the Tournament,” he said.

A few months later Maharero got called up to the U-17 national team and two weeks after that the national U-20 team called him up, then two months after that the U-23 national team called him up.

Within one year Maharero had played for three national soccer age groups and was playing for a team with men that were six years ahead of him in age.

Eventually he wanted to play on higher level, he pursued coming to America to find a team he could play for, where the competition was a bit heavier.

“I wanted to move from my country because the level of soccer there was a bit low and I told my brother [who lives in Washington] that I would maybe want to move here and he said he’d make a plan. So he got in contact with my coach and that is how I got to Highline,” Maharero said.

Last year Maharero started as a forward on the T-Bird soccer team, scoring 11 goals and four assists.

This season, about half way through, Maharero has notched four goals and five assists.

“Maharero has made several improvements over the last year. This year he has had a little more responsibility being one of the few returning players,” said Steve Mohn, head coach of the men’s soccer team.

“I’m glad I have the chance to coach Maharero and help him try to reach his goals,” he said. “I have no doubt he will be a successful student athlete and help improve someone’s soccer program when he moves on to a four-year university.”

“I see soccer as being a huge part in my future because I really want to become a professional soccer player and I cannot imagine myself not playing soccer. I would love to play in Europe one day,” Maharero said.

Men’s soccer team boots Bellevue, advances to 6-0 in league

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

The Highline men’s soccer team is undefeated and on top, eight points ahead of any other team in the Western Division.

The T-Birds improved their record to 6-0-0 with their most recent win on Oct. 1, 7-0 over the 1-1-4 Bellevue Bulldogs. Highline used seven players to score a division high of seven goals.

“Our goal is to win every game we play; we are going through the season one goal at a time. Going undefeated isn’t something we are thinking about, right now our goal is to win the Western Division,” said the Head Coach of the men’s soccer team, Steve Mohn.

Freshman forward Jason Rodriguez, sophomore forward Jandjamuje Maharero and freshman midfielder Mitchell Balmer all had a score and an assist. Freshman defender Gavin Mcleroy scored twice and freshman forward Rivanobsky Dubreus scored once.

“We have been slowly improving every game this year, as a group, but there is always room to improve. We still haven’t reached what I think we are capable of but if we peak at the right time of the season, it will be fun to watch,” said Mohn.

The T-Birds also played against the 1-0-5 South Puget Sound Clippers, smoking them 5-1.

Brandon Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Maharero each tallied a goal and an assist. Freshman midfielder Mohamed Jeylan and sophomore forward Tino Lopez-Slish also scored goals for the T-Birds.

The team has been undefeated so far which is incredible, first in the division and ranked second in the NWAC coaches poll, said Mohn.

“It takes time for teams to come together and with a lot of new players this year, that is a testament to the hard work everyone is putting in,” he said.

Results from Wednesday’s 3 p.m. game against the 2-0-3 Pierce Raiders were unavailable at press time.

The T-Birds next opponent is away on Oct. 8, against the 3-1-1 Tacoma Titans at 2:15 p.m.

Highline has a bye on Oct. 12, before resuming play on Oct. 15 against South Puget Sound.
1. COMICS: What is the name of Batman’s butler?  
2. LITERATURE: Who is the leader of the wolves in The Jungle Book?  
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which two islands in the Mediterranean Sea are governed by Italy?  
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was president during World War I?  
5. HISTORY: What was the name of the airship that exploded over New Jersey in 1937?  
6. LANGUAGE: What is a baby’s pacifier called in Great Britain?  
7. EXPLORERS: What was the name of Christopher Columbus’ flagship?  
8. NICKNAMES: What U.S. city calls itself The Biggest Little City in the World?  
9. MEDICAL: What is the modern name for a disease once called consumption?  
10. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: What children’s author wrote, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose”?
Bachelor’s degrees now available

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Highline is not a place to earn just your associate’s degree anymore.

In recent years, Highline created four bachelor’s of applied science degrees in various career fields.

The first bachelor degree options ever available at Highline are in Respiratory Care, Youth Development, Global Trade and Logistics, and Cyber Security and Forensics.

The four-year completion degrees are entirely through the college and will serve as an accessible transition for students who have earned their associate’s degrees, said Tanya Powers, the director of baccalaureate and workforce education.

“We’re creating pathways for folks to meet their career goals with these degrees,” said Powers.

“Our society really tells us that in order to complete a four-year degree, you need to move away from college,” said Powers. “For a lot of our students, they don’t want to move. They would like to stay in their community and access education.”

It will be more affordable for students to earn their bachelor’s degrees at Highline, said Powers. It also allows students stay close to loved ones.

“For a lot of our communities, family is really important,” she said. “Being able to maintain those family ties while going to school is huge.”

Another benefit of the bachelor’s options is that it allows a student’s preparation for the workforce to be tailored to the demands of employers.

“We have the opportunity mold programs into what employers are looking for,” said Powers. “If you think about it, it sounds simple but it is brilliant.”

Thanks to the professional—technical advisory committees, Highline officials are able to find exactly what skills are required by future employers.

“If the industry is asking for their employees to have bachelor’s degrees for employment, there needs to be a pathway for our students to consider in order to find employment,” said Powers. “We’re guided by industry.”

Employers commonly are looking at two things, Powers said, which are a student’s education and experience.

“Part of the reason the educational piece is so important is because it is a recognized credential that highlights a set of skills that are transferable,” she said.

Often times a bachelor’s degree is an entry-level requirement to some fields of work, said Highline. Highline is looking to equalize the chance for a student to obtain higher education.

“I think offering these degrees is an equity issue,” said Powers. “We support our community and improve access jobs so they can stay in the community.”

“I think industries demand the bachelor’s degrees and in terms of thinking about managing positions,” Powers said. “Really, the BA degree is the pathway into any management position.”

When developing the programs, Highline officials realized that many students have jobs and have other time-consuming responsibilities.

Classes generally are two hours in-instruction class with the remainder of the course work online, she said.

“It’s a really good opportunity to engage with the faculty in person and with the classmates, but also allows reasonable scheduling because a lot of folks are working full time,” she said.

“One of the things that is a totally new development is in respiratory care. Students now have an entirely online option,” said Powers. “It would primarily be for a student who has completed their first or second in respiratory care and is wanting to complete the last 60-70 credits to get their applied bachelors.”

Currently, respiratory care is the only program offered completely online. This past fall was also the first time the bachelor’s degree admissions applications were available online, Powers said.

“Last spring, we had our first set of students graduate from our cyber security, global trade and respiratory care programs,” said Powers. “This spring, we’re expecting our first set of graduates for youth development.”

Native American heritage and contributions to be honored at first-ever Indigenous People’s Day

By Mike Simpson
Staff Reporter

Indigenous People’s Day will be celebrated by students, staff and South King County community members at Highline for the first time and organizers want the event to become an annual affair.

Indigenous People’s Day, a celebration of the history, well-being and growth of Native Americans, was created in the early 1990s as an alternative to Columbus Day.

The celebration of Columbus Day is widely controversial in the United States because of the widespread deaths of native populations throughout the Americas that occurred during European colonization.

“Many of the speakers from the Muckleshoot and Yakama tribes is and organized by Highline Director of Workforce and Baccalaureate Education Tanya Powers and the Center for Leadership and Service.

The program runs from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 10 in Building 2-101.

The speakers are: Dr. Denise Bill, a Muckleshoot tribal member who manages a federal technology grant at the Muckleshoot Tribal College; and Dr. Mike Tulee, a Yakama tribal member, who is a lecturer at the University of Washington.

They will talk about the history of their tribe and perspectives on why people should celebrate Indigenous People’s Day.

Powers said.

Dr. Bill is the first Muckleshoot Tribe woman to earn a doctorate degree. She was superintendent of the Muckleshoot Tribal School for two years and a teacher and administrator in the public education system for 20 years.

Dr. Tulee was the first to teach at the University of Washington.

She said she wants students and members of Highline’s First Peoples / Indigenous Club to organize future celebrations.

“[Columbus] is what led to genocide,” said Powers. “Most indigenous people aren’t interested in that and Indigenous People’s Day is a way to reframe the day in a positive way,” said Powers.

The holiday was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas.

The state of Washington and Highline Schools does not officially recognize Indigenous People’s Day. But the Seattle City Council formally adopted a resolution to affirm that it is city policy to participate in the holiday, and encourage institutions to reframe the day.

“The City of Seattle recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial,” according to the resolution.

“This resolution values the many contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, labor, technology, culture, arts and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the city of Seattle.”

Olivia Sullivan/THUNDERWORD

Highline has long had an associate’s respiratory care program, but recently added a four-year option.

Denise Bill
College offers 4-year early learning degree

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Highline aims to diversify the teacher workforce with a new bachelor's degree option next fall. The new option will be a bachelor's of applied science in teaching and early learning, said Dr. Frank Kline, the program manager for baccalaureate teacher education.

"The idea is to develop a program that offers two tracks," Dr. Kline said. "One is a track for early childhood education; the other track would include teacher certification." The degree focuses mainly on early childhood education and elementary education, he said. The program is strictly through Highline, but in collaboration with local school districts, such as Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Tukwila, and Renton, he said.

The statement of need for the teaching and early learning bachelor's degree was approved early last week by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

"The goal is still in the early processes of approval, but the demand for diverse teachers is constantly growing," Dr. Kline said. "The goal is really a social justice goal," he said. "It will serve an important need since there is a shortage of teachers in the area." 

"More importantly in my mind, we know that especially in the teaching force, the current teacher workforce does not reflect the community in which they serve," Dr. Kline said.

For years, the teacher workforce has been prominently made up of white, female teachers and fails to reflect the community that is in the classroom, he said.

"We live in a community of incredible richness of diversity," Dr. Kline said. "It is a known fact that when there are teachers of color in the school, students of color do better. It's not that you have to have a teacher that looks like you to succeed, but it is important that there are models in your sight." Students who have earned their associate's degrees in early childhood education, para-education, or human services are likely candidates for the new program, he said.

"We're looking at those three programs as being some of the major pools that we recruit students from," Dr. Kline said. The bachelor's program will aim to bring students from the target school districts into this program, then send those students back into their district so that there is a tight pipeline of transferred knowledge and training, Dr. Kline said.

"We see tremendous value in those connections," Dr. Kline said. Highline also hopes that by implementing the BA teaching degree, it will make it easy for students to move into the professional field and maintain those rich community connections, he said.

"From a student perspective, we hope to help students find employment in the school districts while they are in their programs with us." Dr. Kline is from the area and started working for Highline last June. Previously, he was the dean of education and kinesiology at Pacific Lutheran University.

When the project is up and running, Dr. Kline said he will work as an administrator and also as an instructor, alongside Highline professors Patricia McDonald and Jodi White.

Highline officials plan to have the first set of students in classes in Fall Quarter of 2017.

National Coming Out Day is Tuesday, Oct. 11 and PFLAG will be hosting a discussion of the coming out process in Building 8 as a part of the LGBTQIA Month at Highline. PFLAG stands for: Parents and Family of Lesbians and Gays. Representatives will speak about having family members who identify within the queer community, the process of them coming out, and personal experiences. Anyone can come to this discussion and ask questions that can help broaden their knowledge of the LGBTQIA community.

LGBTQIA identities are always a touchy subject. Heterosexual individuals often don't know much about queer struggles, or how to connect with them without seeming rude. On the flip side, queer people often feel uncomfortable voicing their identities, or correcting when their lack of understanding creates awkward situations.

Highline strives to help bridge the gaps between queer students and allies during LGBTQIA month.

"Our goal is to humanize it," said Doris Martinez, director of Student Diversity and Inclusion. She said she envisions a school wide dialogue that can help pass on information about the LGBTQIA community and make the Highline community more aware.

During this month, topics such as transgender struggles, coming out, homeless queer youth, and how to help make the community a safe zone for fellow queer classmates will be addressed, and everyone is welcome to come and discuss.

The month of October is not the only time Highline makes an effort to make a queer safe community. An example would be the "Safe Zone" Triangles in front of some offices on campus. This is to indicate that the staff has gone through sensitivity training regarding the many identities of the LGBTQIA community.

A taste of this training will be brought to the students on Oct. 25, in Building 8. The event will be hosted by the LGBTQIA Taskforce, and will focus on how to be more inclusive towards the queer community.

One of the issues Highline will also be tackling this month is queer homelessness. On Oct. 26, there will be a documentary about the queer youth who were kicked out of their homes in New York, and how they lack the resources and knowledge to become independent. The documentary will be from 1:30-3 p.m.

Martinez has been in charge of setting up LGBTQIA month for the past few years. She said she has seen significant changes on how Highline has addressed queer issues since they first started.

The campus offers multiple programs that are LGBTQIA friendly, an LGBTQIA task force that helps set up queer events and safe places, and gender neutral bathrooms in Buildings 4, 11 and 30. Although Martinez said that the school has a lot more work to get done. She's positive that Highline does a fantastic job of staying active with the changes.

More gender neutral bathrooms are scheduled to be built, and Martinez said that her office is always open for any suggestions.

UW SEATTLE NURSING ADVISOR at Highline!

- An advisor from the UW Seattle School of NUR Sing will be on campus to give interested students a step-by-step overview of the entire application process.
- Find out about: required prerequisite courses and GPA, application deadlines, required healthcare hours, and some GREAT tips on being a successful applicant!
- Find out what the Nursing School is REALLY looking for!

By Zico Dumo
Staff Reporter

October 6, 2016 | Highline College | News

National Coming Out Day
Oct. 11, 2016

PLU to become the manager of the new baccalaureate teacher education program

Dr. Frank Kline has come from PLU to become the manager of Highline's new baccalaureate teacher education program.

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Enrollment
continued from page 1

3.9 percent in August, com-
pared to 4.9 percent in August 2014, according to a Wash-
ington State Employment Security Department analysis.

“The growth is widespread,” said Employment Security econ-
omist Lance Vance-Sher-
man. “What we’ve seen in the course of the recession and recovery is that the labor force retracted quite a bit... As the economy has opened up we’ve seen lower enrollments in all of the community colleges I’ve worked with.”

Nonfarm industry employ-
ment, which includes fields such as the natural resources industry, manufacturing and government, has added 97,700 jobs since August 2014, accord-
ing to the Labor Market and Performance Analysis.

Highline Director of Advis-
ing and High School Programs Jennifer Scanlon said that she doesn’t see any major institu-
tional changes that would ac-
count for the lower Highline enrollment.

“When the job market is re-
ally good, people prefer to go to work,” she said.

A common problem that leads to low enrollment is that students register for classes, but then don’t have the fund-
ing to pay, have a full-time job, or encounter parenting responsibilities that conflict, Scanlon said.

The college is attempting to strengthen awareness of the logistics of going to college by promoting its student leader and Highline adviser-led in-
formational workshops. These have been renamed as wayfind-
er workshops, and will be pro-
moted through posters and the Highline website, she said.

“We’ve done a lot of things to streamline the enrollment pro-
cess,” Scanlon said.

Economics Professor Dr. James Peyton said that fall-
ing tuition at the University of Washington may be re-
sponsible for lower enrollment at Highline.

Due to action by the Legis-
lature to curb college costs, the UW Seattle campus tuition for Washington state residents has fallen $1,641 since the 2014-2015 school year.

Often when the tuition drops, students go directly to UW, rather than transfer in from Highline, Dr. Peyton said.

Because Highline advisers work within various school districts to recruit students, the number of Running Start FTEs has soared to 1,375. That is up from 1,217 the pre-
vious year.

Students also have the op-
tion to take Highline cours-
es from their respective high school, which also increases Running Start numbers, Scan-
lon said.

Voting
continued from page 1

download and print a voter registration form and mail that to the King County Elections office. This form can be found at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/how-to-vote/register-to-vote.aspx

In-person, you could visit the Seattle or Renton King County Elections offices since the dead-
line for in-person registration is Oct. 31. The deadline for regi-
stration by mail or online is Oct. 10.

Washington votes by mail and ballots for instate voters will be mailed 20 days prior to the election, which is Oct. 19. Ballots must be post-marked by midnight, Nov. 8.

For those who prefer to drop off their ballots, 43 new drop boxes have been distributed throughout the county, includ-
ing one at Highline along the horsethrough drive just south of Building 1 off of South 240th Street.