



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Irene Cruz and her daughter face eviction from the Firs Mobile Home Park within a year.

Mobile homeless: Development riles SeaTac trailer park residents

By Michael Simpson
Staff Reporter

Maria Guillermo built a life for herself and her family since she moved to the United States from Mexico City.

She works down the street in one of SeaTac's hotels, and her kids attend Madrona Elementary School around the corner.

Fifteen years ago, she bought her house for \$10,000.

She owns the manufactured home she lives in, but not the acreage it sits on in the Firs Mobile Home Park.

Guillermo and other residents pay around \$1,500 per month for rent.

Now she and her family have one year to leave before the land is turned into a hotel, one of a half dozen planned for SeaTac at the moment.

In a time of rapid urban growth, this is a reality for many mobile homeowners who are required to relocate.

Eight of Washington's 1,344 manufactured home communities are scheduled to close in 2017, which is a fast increase

from just two in 2016, and it is the highest number of closures since the early recession peak of 17 in 2008, according to the state Department of Commerce.

The new Angle Lake light rail station sits across the street from Firs. It's the end of the line, but not for long as there are plans to extend the light rail line to Highline, Federal Way and Tacoma.

As new tracks are built, cities tend to redevelop low income communities along the way.

This may be devastating for long-time residents.

On the other hand, redevelopments tend to strengthen a city's tax base and create more funds for police, education, city planning, parks and roads.

More than 60 households will be relocated and owners have created a Homeowners Association to fight through legal action, or buy the park.

Since the landowner is simply changing the land use, which is redeveloping and not selling, he is not required by law to give the Firs community an option to buy.

Homeowners have asked the City Council to help, but so far, they say there is nothing that can be done because the development follows the letter of the law.

Guillermo said she has no idea where she and family will end up if they are evicted.

A City of SeaTac notice posted at the entrance says they have one year to move.

Jong Park of Fife Motel, Inc. owns the property.

The homeowners have known for years that Park has intended to redevelop the property, he said.

He said he is open to selling the land to the current homeowners and if not, he will help in the relocation.

The Firs community could potentially buy the property with the help of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and Resident Owned Communities USA, a New Hampshire based organization. Both have

See Firs, page 19

Highline prepared for minimum wage hike

By Zico Dumo
Staff Reporter

Despite the minimum wage increase initiative approved by the voters on Nov. 8, Highline will not see any major changes in student or staff employment.

On this year's November ballot, Initiative 1433, also known as the Washington Minimum Wage Increase was approved 57.42 percent to 42.58 percent. This initiative states that the minimum wage will rise from \$9.47 to \$11 on Jan. 1, 2017. Subsequent raises will take effect each succeeding New Year's Day through 2020. In 2018 the rate will be

\$11.50; in 2019 it will be \$12; and on 2020 it will jump all the way to \$13.50. It also mandates employers offer paid sick leave.

With more money being pulled out of the school to pay employees, Highline employees may be concerned for their jobs or if the college's budget will be able to take the change.

Highline has an estimated amount of 400 student employees, according to Sue Paulson, the Payroll Coordinator.

Cathy Cartwright, Highline's budget director said that when the budget was formulated, staff made sure they had

See Wage, page 20



Bao Tran/THUNDERWORD

Student workers at Highline will earn \$11 an hour starting in Jan.

Holiday plans vary for diverse enrollment

By Thunderword Staff

Due to Highline's diverse population, Christmas time brings a multitude of different holiday celebrations. In a survey, students shared their not-so-traditional holiday traditions.

Student Mi-Seon Lee said although her Christmas plans aren't far off from most others, she comes from Korea, where the traditions are much different.

"Christmas is not a traditional thing for Koreans, but I am Christian and it's a nation-

al holiday," she said.

"In Korea, unlike America, most stores, restaurants and

See Holidays, page 20

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Holiday shows spread Christmas cheer to all



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Blast from the past for Highline's 55th anniversary



Page 13
Men's basketball team wins first game of the season

New traffic camera may snap student scofflaws

By Kori Spencer
Staff Reporter

Students frustrated by the heavy traffic and tempted to be the last vehicle to sneak through the signal at the Kent-Des Moines Road and Pacific Highway South intersection might want to remember to smile for the camera beginning next week.

The City of Des Moines is expanding its traffic safety cameras on Dec 15. to include the heavily travelled intersection just north of the Highline campus.

They will join two other recently cameraed intersections at Pacific Highway South/South 216th and at Marine View Drive/South 216th Street.

“Studies that were collected were speed and collision data. These locations were chosen because more incidents occurred at these specific locations than anywhere else in the city,” said Master Sgt. Dough Jenkins of the

Des Moines Police Department.

Plans to install these cameras have been kicked around for some time since the contractor, Automated Traffic Solutions, was permitted in 2011 to install school zone cameras at Woodmont Elementary School on 16th Avenue South in the southern part of the city and at Midway Elementary School on 24th Avenue South on the eastern edge part of the city’s core.

According to City of Des Moines documentation Midway Elementary School there has been an 82 percent violation reduction at Woodmont Elementary School.

At Midway Elementary there has been a 90 percent reduction since these photo enforcement cameras were installed.

The school zone cameras only operate when school is in session. These red light cameras that have recently been installed at these three new locations will run 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

ATS maintains the cameras under contract with the city.

“The city does not pay for these cameras. Automated Traffic Solutions installs these cameras and we pay a monthly fee for each location and the fee is paid out of the money that is generated by the violations,” MSgt. Jenkins said.

Fewer collisions have been happening at the other two recently installed locations, but that doesn’t seem to stop drivers from other violations.

“At South 216th Street and Pacific Highway South there have been at least 500 violations in less than a month, but no collisions since the cameras have been installed,” MSgt. Jenkins said.

The basic fine is at least \$136 for running one of the lights.

Money from the fines is used to first to pay the contractor for the system and for the city’s costs to operate the system. Any money left over can only be used for public safety purposes.



Des Moines has installed red light enforcement cameras at three intersections throughout the city, including the heavily traveled north approach to the college at Kent-Des Moines Road and Pacific Highway South.



By Kori Spencer
Staff Reporter

Car prowling in the South Lot

A car prowler was spotted by a student who reported the suspect had been pulling on door handles in the lower South Parking Lot on Dec. 1. Officers were alerted but could not locate the individual.

Missing phone reported Monday

A cell phone was reported stolen from Building 26 on Dec. 5 There are no suspects as to who took the phone and officers do not know if the phone has been recovered since there was nothing turned into lost and found.

Another hit and run incident

A student reported a hit and run incident on Dec 5. A 2007 Ford 500 was hit in the lower South Parking lot. Officers responded, and there was no suspects or other vehicle that may be responsible.

Lost and found Items unclaimed

Items that are reported found anywhere on campus are logged and kept in the Public Safety office on the bottom floor of Building 6.

After 60 days of unclaimed items are destroyed or donated.

If you are missing something contact Public Safety at 206-592-3218 for assistance.



Conference applications due

The 27th annual Students of Color Conference will be Thursday, April 6 to Saturday, April 8 in Yakima and applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

The conference brings together students from higher education institutions from across Washington state and provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and strategies to empower themselves personally, culturally, and academically.

This year’s conference theme is “Cultivate OUR Truth With Unity & Resilience.”

The Multicultural Affairs Office has the opportunity to send 40 students to the conference every year.

Requirements to apply include having at least a 2.5 GPA and being currently enrolled as a student in the spring.

Applications are available in the Center for Leadership and Service and in the Intercultural Center, both of which are located in Building 8.

Student can turn the application in, in person in the CLS office or via email to [http://daustin@highline.edu](mailto:daustin@highline.edu)

For further information, contact Dominique Austin at 206-592-3256.

Des Moines food drive still going

Donation barrels for the Highline Classified Staff and Foundation food drive have been placed around campus.

The food received will benefit the Des Moines Food Bank.

In previous years Highline

staff and faculty have donated an average of 1,000 pounds of non-perishable foods.

Donation barrels are located in the following buildings: 1 (Testing and Placement Center), 6, 16 (Print Shop), 25 (Library), 29, 30 and 99.

Food donations for this drive will be accepted until Dec. 16. But the print shop collects Des Moines Food Bank donations year round.

For more information contact the Print Shop Manager Dave Weber at daweber@highline.edu

Change 4 Change raises food funds

The Change 4 Change bake sale hosted by Highline’s Political Science students raised \$853 for the Des Moines Foodbank.

The money more specifically goes to the Weekend Backpack program which is organized through Des Moines Foodbank and helps provide at home weekend meals for low-income students in the Highline School District.

This is the fifth year of the annual bake sale where Highline students, staff and faculty purchase sweet treats to benefit the Backpack program.

Applications for CLS retreat due

Applications are due tomorrow, Dec. 9, for the Center for Leadership and Services’ 2017 Winter Leadership Retreat.

From Jan. 27 to Jan. 28 students can attend the event titled Daring to be Different, at the Islandwood Retreat Center in Bainbridge Island.

Applications can be found in the CLS office on the third floor of Building 8.

To be considered for the retreat, you must be able to attend the entire event.

For more information, call

Iesha Valencia at 206-592-3918 or stop by the CLS office.

Highline holiday campus hours

The last day of school for Fall Quarter is Dec. 16.

If students need assistance over break campus will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m-5 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

On Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 all offices will be closed.

Friday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 30 campus will close early at 4 p.m.

School will begin again Jan. 9.

MaST Center: fish and ships

The MaST Center will be open to the public this holiday when the Argosy Christmas Ship Festival arrives on Dec. 15, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The ship itself will arrive at 9 p.m.

The festival will feature a flotilla of decorated ships and a performance by an on- board choir.

Attendees will also enjoy a

beach bon fire and access to the aquarium.

The MaST Center is located along Beach Drive South.

ICC Fiesta takes worries away

Students can take a break from studying by dancing in the Intercultural Center.

The ICC is hosting a fiesta today from 12:30 until 2 p.m. in Building 8, room 204.

Students can cast their worries away in an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to Latin music and learn how to dance to Latin rhythms.

Correction

In the Nov. 23 edition of the Thunderword, Public Safety officer Frances “Frankie” Mckeever should have been quoted as saying that her daughter was born very healthy.

“My daughter was born 110 percent perfectly healthy,” she said. “I actually had a 30 percent chance of conceiving.”

Be a journalist

--or just look like one

Take Journalism 101 Fall Quarter and write for the

Thunderword

and earn that all-important second writing credit

Beginning Newswriting: Item no. 4216, 11am

News photography: Item no. 4218 1:30 pm

Saechao promoted to associate dean

By Mary Gasper
Staff Reporter

Ay Saechao is climbing up the career ladder.

The director of Highline's TRiO program and founding co-chair of the Southeast Asian Education Coalition is now taking on an administrative role as associate dean for student development, retention and conduct at Highline College.

"The promotion to associate dean was unexpected," Saechao said.

His attention had been focused on supporting our TRiO population and other underrepresented students.

"As the student conduct officer I will be working with the judicial process at Highline, which includes students who may have made poor judgment and violated a conduct code," Saechao said.

"I am here to help ensure students that they are supported and that they have a safe learning environment," He said.

"My goal is to be of service for the staff and administrators, to help coach and guide them if they encounter any incident or



Wangari Muranga/THINDERWORD
Ay Saechao takes on student conflict officer position at Highline.

concern in their classroom with students or any others on campus," Saechao said.

"I will work very closely to connect with staff and administrators and inform them of what options they have, if an incident were to arise," He said.

"When I was offered the position, I was very honored and very humbled," he said. "The reason why I accepted was so we can im-

pact more students than the ones who can just join TRiO."

Saechao says he is staying with TriO and the Southeast Asian Education Coalition and will be juggling all three positions.

"It's a wonderful challenge to have," he said "My students are juggling with their work, family, and home life and what I do is just a small blurb of that. They're struggling and this is the least I could do. I'm up for the challenge," Saechao said.

Saechao plans on using his promotion to provide additional opportunities to empower the community.

"I will make sure our students and our community's voices are heard and factored in the decision making process," he said.

One of the main goals of the TRiO program is to help students from traditionally underrepresented groups in postsecondary education improve their chances of graduating from college.

He directed the grant team in earning a renewal of Highline's \$1.1 million federal grant for TRiO through 2020.

This grant means Highline students will benefit from TRiO services, including a mentor and TRiO instructor available for tutoring.

"Our students will get the guidance and resources they need to succeed," Saechao said.

Saechao also is the founding co-chair of the Southeast Asian Education Coalition, a nonprofit community organization that addresses legislative policy, achievement gaps and other educational concerns of the Southeast Asian American community.

In the summer of 2015, Saechao was invited to the White House to showcase the work of the Coalition in Washington D.C.

"We were able to champion the work done here in Washington State regarding segregation of our Southeast Asian population and how we were able to mobilize our community to influence policy and legislation," Saechao said.

"As the new student conduct officer, I plan to continue the great work from my predecessor and collaborate with campus staff, faculty, students and administrators to ensure we foster a supportive and safe learning environment," Saechao said.

New Highline program aims to support at-risk youth

By Zico Dumo
Staff Reporter

Highline is the first college to provide a program that offers wrap-around support for students who are involved or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

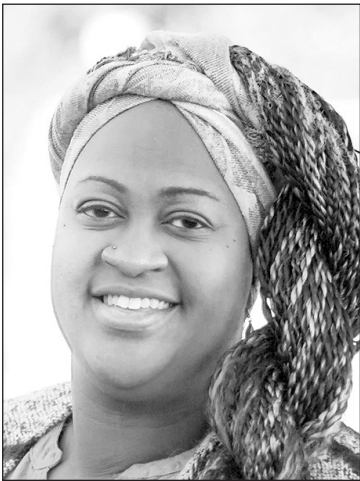
Students Creating Optimal Performance Education Program, is a community partnership created this year.

It's between Highline, Teamchild, Neighborhood House and the Highline School District. Together, the organizations work to divert students from aged 16-21 from going into the criminal justice system.

The program is funded by the Highline School District, averaging around \$160,000 a year. It pays for Teamchild services that give students access to attorneys and social service, tuition for classes at Highline and case workers from Neighborhood House.

"Our goal is to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by channeling youth to positive pathways," said Almetta Pitts, founder of the S.C.O.P.E. program.

She said that there's a pipeline for success for children K-12 to and a pipeline into the criminal system for children



Almetta Pitts

who live in poverty, are in an abusive home circumstance, or have a chemical dependency.

"We want to reach out to students who are lacking resources or need extra support to be college bound," Pitts said.

The program offers a Teamchild attorney, if the students are facing any legal issues and a case worker, whom they have to meet with twice a quarter to help guide and mentor them. Also multiple resources that help with financial aid/funding information, information on graduation, careers and scholarships.

Pitts said the program aims to help set students up for a professional future. Students will first earn high school credits from taking classes at the college. Then, they can choose to

go back to their high school, but still work with their case manager, or continue knocking out high school credits at the college while earning higher education credits when taking 100+ level classes.

She said that 75 students a year can be accepted into the program.

Students first must receive a referral from their high school counselor, teacher or parent. Then they take a placement test and have their transcripts reviewed by Highline advisers.

If they don't meet the qualifications, they can be sent to other programs that help with earning their high school diplomas such as Pathways to College or the High School 21+ program.

Pitts said that the program is student directed, which means students need to choose to take the resources and support they're offering.

She said she hopes that the program will help students with broadening their knowledge of how the educational system works and their rights as human beings, allowing them to be pipelined into the world instead of the jail cell.

Martin Luther King Jr. 2017 at Highline College

By Jessica Strand
Staff Reporter

Highline will be observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day next month with its annual week-long celebration.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Jan. 16, 2017. Highline's MLK week follows the holiday and will run from Jan. 17 to Jan. 20. This year's theme is Fear, Falsehood and Freedom: Where Do We Go From Here?



Dr. King

The schedule is as follows:

- Fear, Falsehood and Freedom: Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Maxine Mimms, a founding member of The Evergreen State College system and a leader in social justice will kick off the week's events with discussion on Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 7. The event will be followed by a reception from noon-1 p.m. in Mt. Constance and Mt. Olympus rooms in the Student Union.

- LGBTQIA Safe Zone.

The LGBTQIA Taskforce regularly hosts Safe Zone training events to educate the Highline community. The event will take place on Jan. 17 from 1-3 p.m. in Building 2.

- You Are My Other Me: A Racial Empathy Story.

Luis Ortega, a motivational speaker and founder of Storytellers for Change will be the speaker at this event that takes place on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 7.

- Mothering the Movement: Women of the Black Freedom Movement, 1930-1980.

Dr. Derrick Broome will talk about the role of black women in the modern black freedom movement. This talk will be on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 1:30-3 p.m. in Building 7.

- Generation Return: The Art and Justice of Anida Yoeu Ali.

This event will take place on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 7.

- Empty Applause, A Conversation On Maintaining Your Faith in Social Justice Activism.

This event will take place on Thursday, Jan. 19 from 1:30-3 p.m. in Building 7.

More should be done to help prison inmates

Our society has a hard time accepting felons once they get out of prison.

Prison inmates are not given the tools to live a livable life again. Life after prison is limited. Felons are defined by their orange state ID card saying “I’m a felon.”

Society has trouble trusting felons because of their history. As a society we should analyze how effective is our prison system. Is it really effective?

If someone committed a crime like driving while drunk and killed someone, by all means yes give the person a sentence in prison. But also give the person tools to survive if the person will be released from prison. The person should be put through specialized classes that educate them on the dangers that arise when driving while drunk.

Often a lot of felons have mental illness that go uncured because the system ignores them and just looks at the crime.

Society wants the criminal to pay for their crime but ignores the fact that the criminal is not going to get any better after finishing their long sentence.

Felons and anyone that has been in the system, according to experts, are more likely to return into the system without some training, so they can make a living when they get out.

So in reality once again, is putting someone in the system really effective?

A felon most likely doesn’t have the education to go do a high paying job.

Several prisons offer certificate and degree programs, and every prison offers anger management class and job-search.

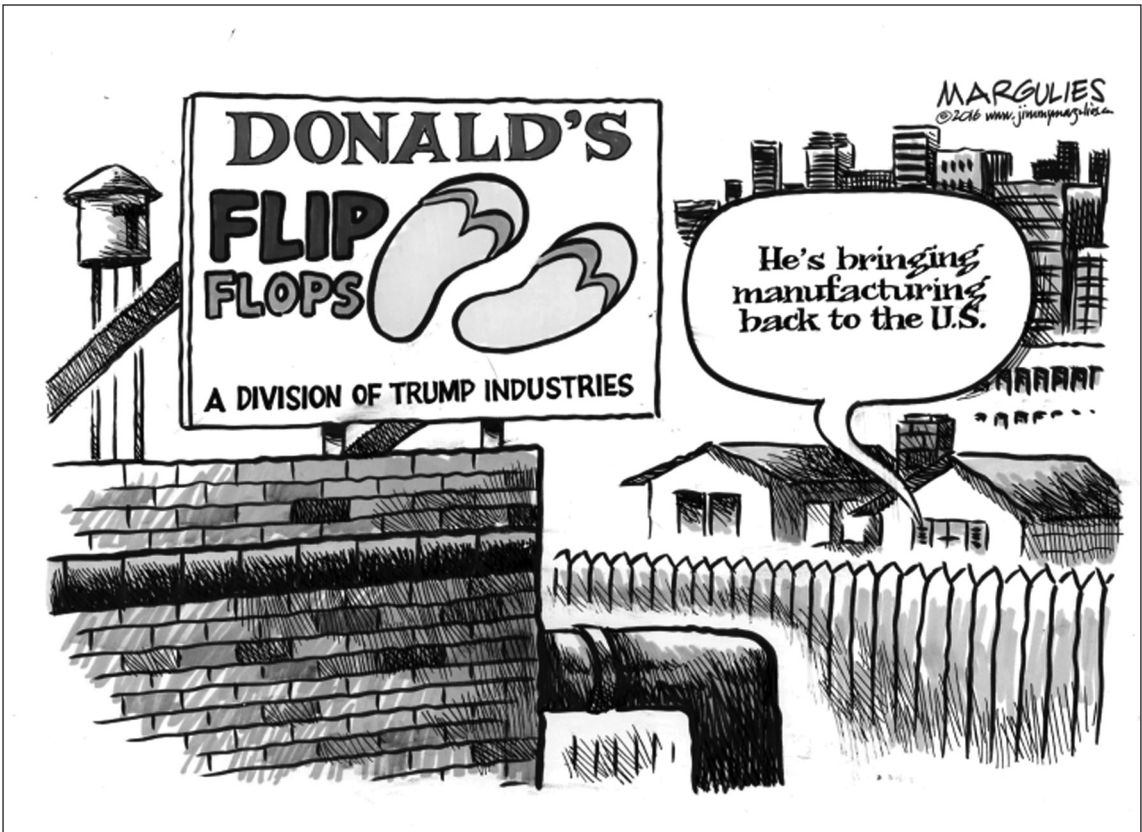
However, job-search isn’t all that helpful if the prison doesn’t have some sort of education or training program set in place.

Experts say that the more education you have the more likely you are to stay out of the system. A lot of inmates don’t even have a high school education. Again only several prisons offer high school for 21 and over.

King County prosecutor, Dan Satterberg said in last week’s Thunderword that placing educational programs for inmate will greatly benefit the inmates and their communities, once the inmates get out of prison.

Giving felons the tools to come back into society is important because once they are released from prison they are able to be productive in society, instead of going back to committing more crime.

In the long run providing help for inmates would do more good than harm.



Kim says farewell to Highline

Noory Kim will be missed and remembered as a leader in the Highline community.

Kim started at Highline as a Running Start student. She was first interested in Pre-med. She shifted interests after working with students as a student at Highline. She interned at Highline for a year at the short-lived campus business center.

As a student, Kim didn’t have it easy.

She at one point worked three jobs while being a part time student. But it was through Highline that she learned she was a “gem as a student.” As a Highline student she learned to value diversity and community.

Kim finished her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Seattle University with the help of Highline.

“Cherish every moment here [at Highline],” said Kim. “Make connections, build relationships.”

Doris Martinez and Kim were both students at Highline at the same time. They both eventually ended up working together. Your classmates are your future co-workers, said Kim.

Kim found Highline to be a safe space.



Yo hablo CVR
Cinthia Velez-Regalado

“I came out in so many different things, in being who I am in general, not just in my sexuality,” she said.

It’s always important as a student to take care of yourself.

“Carve some of your life out for you, yourself,” Kim said. “Often I see students carry the weight of the world on their shoulders.”

“Don’t live your life as if it’ll come tomorrow or in the future. Live your life now,” she said.

Often students postpone their lives because they are invested in school or in their families and they forget to live their life, said Kim.

“Students have power, you are the sleeping giants,” she said. “It’s not about what we think is right for the student, it’s about the student telling us what’s right for them.”

Kim leaves advice for faculty and staff also. “Students are your priority,” she said. “Don’t forget you were once a student.”

She wanted faculty and staff to reflect.

“Sometimes you’re the ones getting in the way of the students’ success,” said Kim.

As a whole, Highline needs to be diverse and needs more social justice focus she said.

Kim worked at Highline for six years, as a leadership adviser. She also was the chair for Thunderweek and is one of the co-founders for the Queer I Am student conference.

Kim was on the Highline LGBTIA task force, she also was a co-adviser for Student Government, she did leadership programing, and she oversaw the design team, which included graphic designers and a marketing outreach social media tech.

“One of my main takeaways from Highline is how to love,” said Kim. “Y’all were my inspiration.”

Kim explained that students were what helped her get through some of her tough times.

Kim was inspired by students to go back to school and start her master’s in counseling.

“I thought if they could do it, I can do it,” she said.

Cinthia Velez-Regalado is opinion editor of the Thunderword.

Have something to say?
Write to us!

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.

the Staff

“ It smells like white chili and disappointment in here. ”

E-Mail: tword@highline.edu

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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1. FOOD & DRINK: What is another name for the filbert nut?
2. TELEVISION: What was Chandler's last name on the comedy series *Friends*?
3. ARCHITECTURE: Who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.?
4. LANGUAGE: Where did the term "the blind leading the blind" originate?
5. MYTHOLOGY: In one of Hercules' fabled labors, he had to slay a beast that kept sprouting new heads. What was its name?
6. U.S. CITIES: What city carries the nickname Iron

City?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: The direction of starboard on a boat means what?
8. LITERATURE: What famous Latin American author wrote the novel *The General in his Labyrinth*?
9. MUSIC: Where did the Rolling Stones get their name?
10. MONEY: Prior to the euro, what was the name of Greece's currency?

10. The drachma
9. From a Muddy Waters blues song
8. Gabriel Garcia Marquez
7. The right side of a boat when looking forward
6. Pittsburgh
5. Hydra
4. Hindu texts, the Upanishads. The phrase also appears in the Bible.
3. Architect Maya Lin
2. Bing
1. Hazelnut

Answers

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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Timber wolf
- 5 U.K. television option
- 8 Lily variety
- 12 Opposed to, slangily
- 13 Always, in verse
- 14 Mimicked
- 15 Get bigger
- 16 Banner
- 18 "— Street"
- 20 Leads
- 21 Edges
- 23 Adam's mate
- 24 Recklessly
- 28 Book after Joel
- 31 Sphere
- 32 "SNL" alumna Cheri

- 34 Debt notice
- 35 Seniors' dance
- 37 Vexing situation
- 39 By way of
- 41 Use scissors
- 42 Offering a nice view
- 45 Illegal steroid use, e.g.
- 49 Vertical space
- 51 Birthright barterer
- 52 Not working
- 53 Genetic stuff (Abbr.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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55					56				57			

- 54 Matterhorn's range
- 55 Pinochle ploy
- 56 Affirmative
- 57 For fear that

DOWN

- 1 Trails behind
- 2 Shrek is one
- 3 Life stories, for short
- 4 Ahead
- 5 Huge monster
- 6 Spelling contest
- 7 Rugged cliff

- 8 Digestive aid
- 9 Widespread illness
- 10 Kelly or Hackman
- 11 Rhyming tributes
- 17 Payable
- 19 Venus de —
- 22 Old daggers
- 24 Bounce
- 25 Blunder
- 26 Especially
- 27 Baby-sitters, often
- 29 Partner of aah

- 30 Take to court
- 33 Personal (Pref.)
- 36 Paid heed to
- 38 Attraction
- 40 Atmosphere
- 42 Thin wedge
- 43 Relinquish
- 44 Buffalo Bill's last name
- 46 Capri, e.g.
- 47 Siestas
- 48 Sudden rush of wind
- 50 Individual

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportuni-



ties loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian

is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

Puzzle answers
on Page 20

Got news? Thunderword@highline.edu

Try some ham for the holidays

My mother and I were talking recently about our plans for the holidays. The women of the family usually prepare dinner for about 25 to 30 people. We take turns each year hosting the celebration at a different family member's house.

This year, it was my husband's family's turn to host, but my daughter and granddaughter, and several other family members are going out of town. And my brother and his family are spending the holiday with his in-laws. What's a holiday dinner if no one can come? So, we decided to move our family celebration to another, more convenient day.

I can't tell you the tremendous sense of relief and freedom that this simple decision gave us. After all, the whole point of any designated holiday is to provide a time to get together with the people you love.

From now on, our family isn't going to conform to or be stressed out by the date of a holiday or standard traditions. We've decided from now on to celebrate the holidays on a day that works best for all of us.

I'm bringing my special Sugar and Spice Ham to our family gathering. It's a recipe that everyone loves. Pre-packaged hams that are brined, glazed with brown sugar and honey, spiral cut and baked are expensive. For a ham that's much



more budget-friendly, I suggest that you try this delicious recipe that uses the shank or picnic portion of the ham.

And, if your family has a difficult time gathering together during the "designated" holidays this season, select your own time to celebrate. It's liberating and lots of fun!

SUGAR AND SPICE HAM

- 1 (7 pound) smoked ham, half-cut, shank end, picnic or shoulder portion (bone in or out)
- 2 quarts cold water
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 (6 ounce) can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 tablespoons whole cloves

To prepare the ham: Trim off some of the fat, leaving a 1/4-inch layer. Score the remaining layer of fat into a diamond pat-



Phil Curry photo

Sugar and spice ham is a delicious and affordable holiday meal option.

tern by cutting 1/4- to 1/2-inch deep into the meat, forming 1 inch to 2 inch squares. Not only does scoring look nice, it allows any remaining fat to render from the ham and provides a greater surface area for the glaze to stick to.

•To brine the ham: Cut cross-wise slits all around the ham, about 1/2 inch apart, halfway through ham to where knife touches bone, if any. Place the water in a deep bowl, a large pot or a large, re-sealable food-safe plastic bag. Stir in the sug-

ar. Soak the ham in the brining liquid for at least 2 days in the refrigerator, turning the ham once or twice each day. Drain off the brining liquid.

•To glaze the ham: Place the ham in a roasting pan lined with enough foil overlapping the edges to wrap it completely. Mix together the honey, brown sugar, orange juice, ginger and dry mustard in a small bowl. Pour the mixture all over the pork and rub the glaze evenly over the ham. Stick the cloves in the diamond-shaped slits on

the top of the ham. Wrap tightly with the foil. After glazing, it's best to allow the ham to sit at room temperature for 1-2 hours before cooking.

•To bake the ham: Heat oven to 200 F. Bake the ham for 6 to 7 hours or until done, occasionally unwrapping and basting the ham with the glaze and any liquids that may have accumulated in the foil. For a slightly crisper skin, unwrap the ham and bake at 450 F, about 15 minutes.

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Fruit treats will sweeten Christmas

The perfect holiday sweets for an old-fashioned swap with friends.

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (packed) dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 2 cups toasted rice cereal
- 1 cup walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cups red candied cherries, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cups green candied cherries, coarsely chopped
- 1 1/2 cups white chocolate chips

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Grease large cookie sheet.
2. On waxed paper, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat butter and sugars until creamy, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Beat in vanilla, then eggs, 1 at a time. At low speed, gradually add flour mixture; beat just until blended, occasionally

Good Housekeeping

scraping bowl. With spoon, stir in cereal, walnuts, cherries and 1 cup chocolate chips.

3. Drop dough by rounded teaspoons, 1 inch apart, onto cookie sheet. Bake cookies 10 to 11 minutes or until golden. Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool. Repeat with remaining dough.

4. Place remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips in small microwave-safe-bowl; heat in microwave on Medium (50 percent power) about 2 minutes or until chocolate melts, stirring once. Stir until smooth. Place cookies on waxed paper; drizzle with melted chocolate. When chocolate is set, store cookies, with waxed paper between layers, in tightly covered container at room temperature up to 1 week, or in freezer up to 3 months. Makes 6 dozen cookies.

- Tutti-Frutti Surprises
- 2 large eggs
- 1 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 1 cup pitted dates, finely

- chopped
- 3/4 cup finely chopped, mixed candied fruit
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons vegetable shortening, melted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Heat oven to 300 F. Grease an 8-by-8-inch metal baking pan. Line pan with foil; grease foil.

2. In large bowl, with mixer at medium-high speed, beat eggs with 1 cup confectioners' sugar until pale yellow and foamy, about 2 minutes. Reduce speed to low; add walnuts and remaining ingredients and beat just until blended, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. (Mixture will be very wet.)

3. Spread mixture evenly in pan. Bake 45 minutes or until lightly golden and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.

4. When cool, cut into 8 strips, then cut each strip crosswise into 4 pieces. Place remaining 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar in small bowl; roll each cookie in sugar to coat. Store cookies in tightly covered container up to 2 weeks.

Eggnog smoothie turns cool drink into a holiday delight

Eggnog Smoothie Santa and his elves would enjoy this after a busy day making toys!

Normally, a smoothie is a chilled blend featuring yogurt or ice cream with fruits. This recipe substitutes fruits with sugar-free Jello-O and pudding.

- 1 (4-serving) package Jell-O sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 cups fat-free milk
- 1 cup sugar- and fat-free vanilla ice cream
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

In a blender container, combine dry pudding mix and milk. Cover and process on BLEND for 20 seconds. Add ice cream, rum extract and nutmeg. Re-cover and process on BLEND for 15 seconds or until mixture is smooth. Pour into 4 glasses. Serve at once.

* Each serving equals: 108 calories, 0g fat, 6g protein, 21g carb., 418mg sodium, 0g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1/2 Fat-Free Milk, 1/2 Carb.

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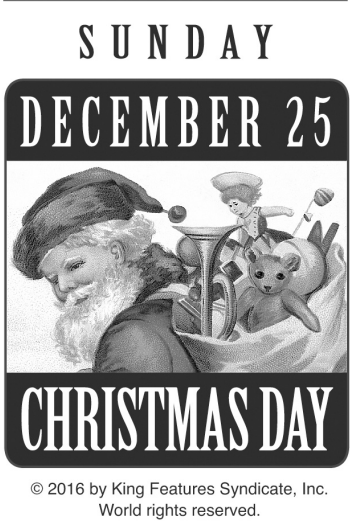


by Healthy Exchanges

Christmas customs trace to Druids

Many Christmas customs are carryovers from pre-Christian celebrations. Hanging gifts on trees is supposed to stem from tree worship of the Druids and the belief that the tree was the giver of all good things. In the eighth century, Saint Boniface is said to have substituted a fir tree for the pagan oak as a symbol of faith.

Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, fostered the Christmas tree cult in the 16th century by using a candlelit tree as a symbol of Christ's heavenly home. It's said he was so taken with the Christmas night sky that he wished to bring "the lights of the stars" into the home of his family. Trees decorated with candles, fruit and paper flowers were introduced into Britain soon after Queen Victoria's marriage, leading to



our customs today.

The Druids also are partly responsible for the use of mistletoe at Christmastime. They regarded mistletoe as sacred because it stayed green even during winter. On the sixth day of the new moon, a Druid priest would cut mistletoe from an oak tree with a sacred sickle. A passing virgin was called upon to catch the falling plant, which was not allowed to touch the ground. The Druids dedicated the plant to the Goddess of Love, which explains the kissing that goes on under it. Originally, when a boy kissed a girl, he plucked a berry from the cluster and presented it to her. When the berries were gone, so

were the kisses.

A wreath with holly, red berries and other decorations dates from at least the 17th century. Holly, with its sharply pointed leaves, symbolized the thorns in Christ's crown-of-thorns. Red berries symbolized the drops of Christ's blood. A wreath at Christmas signified a home that celebrated the birth of Christ.

Tinsel on the Christmas tree is attributed to a woman whose husband died. She was left to bring up a large family of children herself, and she was determined to make a happy time for them at Christmas. She prepared a Christmas tree to surprise them on Christmas Day. Unfortunately, spiders

visited the tree, and crawled from branch to branch, making webs all over it. The Christ Child saw the tree and knew she would be devastated to find this on Christmas morning. He changed the spiders' webs to shining silver.

In Christmas tree decorations, angels are usually portrayed as wimpy blondes in girl's blouses and sandals. In the Bible, however, angels are muscular bullies who frequently goad humans into fistfights. Life isn't all harps and heavenly choirs for angels; there's a strict career structure. The only angels mentioned by name in the Bible are archangels, the eighth-ranking order of angels.

Get a handle on holiday depression

The holidays can be stressful for anyone, but for people with depression, the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's can destabilize and sometimes debilitate.

Stress-related events, such as the holidays, may trigger half of all depressive episodes. The good news is that knowing how to avoid common triggers can prevent an episode from occurring.

"A relapse-prevention plan is key," said Dr. John Langlow, M.D., medical director of New Directions Behavioral Health. "You can do a lot to lower the risk of relapse if you plan ahead."



Depositphotos.com

You can take several steps to battle holiday depression.

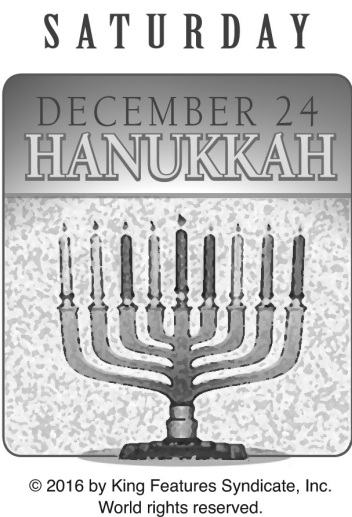
- Here are some tips to help prevent depression during the holiday season:
1. Know your limits
Delegate what you can't handle. Hosting parties, attending events and buying presents can overload nerves. It's OK to ask for help or forgo a festivity.
 2. Stay connected
If you don't feel well, you might be tempted to isolate yourself. Being alone can make you feel worse. Socializing raises the oxytocin levels in your brain, which improves your mood.
 3. Remember your meds
Schedules often go out the

4. Reduce or skip the holiday toasts
Drink too much and your medication stops working. Downing more than two drinks a day can prevent your meds from helping you.
5. Get out in nature
Fresh air, sunshine and exercise are nature's medication. Serotonin and dopamine are chemicals produced in the

6. Program your speed dial
Talking to someone you trust is key to taming holiday stress. Whether it's your therapist, best friend or loving family member, reach out during the holidays. A calming, confident voice is your biggest ally when you feel yourself unraveling.
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Spice up holiday with crispy ginger scallion latkes

- Your family will want to eat our Asian-inspired feast for all eight days and nights of Hanukkah.
- 1/3 cup matzo meal
3 large eggs
4 teaspoons grated peeled fresh ginger
1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
3 pounds Idaho or russet potatoes
1 quart canola or vegetable oil
Applesauce, sour cream or Sriracha hot sauce, optional



1. In large bowl, combine matzo meal, eggs, ginger, green onions and 3/4 teaspoon salt; set aside. Peel and shred potatoes.
2. Wrap one-quarter of shredded potatoes in clean kitchen towel; firmly squeeze all liquid from potatoes into medium bowl. Place squeezed potatoes in bowl with matzo meal mixture. Repeat with remaining potatoes.
3. Pour off liquid from medium bowl. Scrape starch collected on bottom of bowl into bowl with potatoes. Toss potato-and-matzo-meal mixture until well-combined. Place large wire rack over large sheet foil.
4. In 12-inch heavy skillet,

heat oil on medium-high until shimmering and hot but not smoking. By packed 1/4-cup-fuls, scoop potato mixture and carefully scrape into hot oil to form mounds, pressing on tops to flatten slightly (do not crowd pan). Reduce heat to medium. Fry 4 to 5 minutes or until bottoms are golden brown. Turn latkes over and fry 4 to 5 minutes or until other sides are golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer latkes to wire rack to drain; sprinkle with pinch salt. Repeat scooping, frying and draining with remaining potato mixture.

5. Serve hot or at room temperature with applesauce, sour cream or Sriracha. Serves 16.



Good Housekeeping photo

Ginger scallion latkes are a delicious midwinter treat.

2016 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES				
	Coast to Coast	Cutting It Close	Where To Take It	Contact
U.S. Postal Service	Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 20; Dec. 15 for parcel post.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 21 Express Overnight by Dec. 23	Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services..	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 14 , check transit times on website or at drop-off location.	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 22.	UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.	www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 16 for all FedEx Ground packages.	Overnight by Dec. 22; 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 for delivery Dec. 23; big spenders can utilize priority overnight or same-day delivery on Friday, Dec. 23 for Christmas Eve delivery (in some areas).	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX



PRNewsFoto/CareerCast

Experts expect a healthy holiday job market this year.

High demand expected for holiday workers

The holiday season brings a temporary employment boost every autumn, and 2016 is no exception. Whether you're unemployed and seeking a full-time job or just looking to earn some extra spending money over the holidays, now is a good time to apply for one of the many seasonal jobs available.

According to CareerCast.com, jobs needed to meet the holiday rush include customer-service representatives, parcel deliverers, retail sales and distribution warehouse staff. Restaurants also become busier to meet the demands of office holiday parties and hungry shoppers.

Retailers are expected to add hundreds of thousands of jobs to their payrolls from October through December, according to Challenger, Gray & Christmas. Online retailer Amazon.com intends to hire 100,000 seasonal employees. While Americans increasingly shift their shopping focus to online distribution, traditional brick-and-mortar business still need extra hands at the holidays. Retail salespersons are always in demand this time of year. And, with Amazon, the largest online retailer bulking up to process orders, people are needed to help handle the influx of deliveries.

Parcel deliverer is a great holiday job with plenty of opportunities. Industry-leader UPS expects to hire tens of thousands of employees in November to handle the holiday crunch.

Retail and food service are obvious cornerstones of holiday employment, but this time of year is a boon for entertainers, as well. We all

grew up with Santa Claus at malls, department stores and pop-up outlets, but the traditional Santa Claus is just one of many in-demand performers at the holiday season.

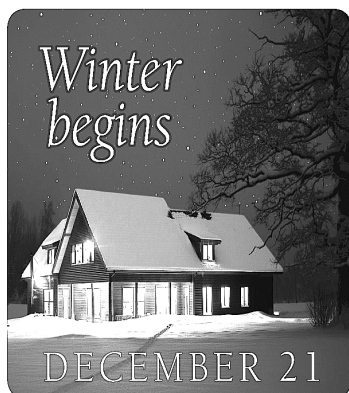
And, as many seasonal job seekers pursue long-term employment at the end of the holiday season, part-time gigs can turn into more opportunities for the future. But whether your goal in finding seasonal employment is a longer-term deal or just the chance to make some additional spending money, know what is expected of you up front. Holiday jobs don't always end on Dec 24. Many continue beyond throughout the return and price-cut season.

Here are some of the best options for seasonal employment in 2016:

- Chef
- Customer Service Representative
- Material Moving Machine Operator
- Material Recording Clerk
- Parcel Deliverer
- Performer
- Photographer
- Retail Salesperson

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W E D N E S D A Y



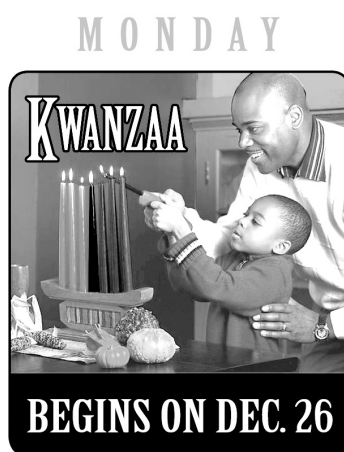
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After 50 years, Kwanzaa continues to be special

The holiday of Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga as a way to preserve, revitalize and promote African-American culture. Its origins are in the first harvest celebrations in Africa, and the name is derived from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits."

The five basic activities of African "first fruits" celebrations -- ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment and celebration -- are the foundation of today's Kwanzaa. During Kwanzaa, people gather to reaffirm the bonds between them; give special thanks to the creator for the bounty of the earth; remember the past and honor ancestors; renew their commitment to high African cultural ideals; and celebrate family community and culture.

The celebration lasts seven days, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.



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officialkwanzaawebsite.org photo

Kwanzaa continues to be a celebration of family, commitment and commemoration.

The holiday begins by placing the Kwanzaa set in a prominent place in the home. A table is spread with a piece of African cloth, and a mat is laid on top of it. On the mat is set a special candleholder, and seven candles are placed in it -- one black, three red and three green. The black candle represents unity; the red candles represent the principles of self-determination, cooperative economics and creativity; and the green candles represent the principles of collective work and responsibility, purpose and faith.

Placed next to the candleholder are fruits and vegetables (symbolic of crops), ears of corn

(symbolic of children and the future), a unity cup (used to pour a libation to ancestry) and works of African art or books on African culture.

Each evening, the family gathers to light the candles, starting with the black one and adding one candle each day until the end of the holiday. As each candle is lighted, the principle for that day is discussed, and then each member of the family makes a commitment to practice that principle throughout the year.

To learn more about Kwanzaa, visit www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org.

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Stir up African peanut stew

By Donna Erickson

The year I graduated from college, I worked as a teacher in a secondary school in the Republic of Congo. The village where I lived was in a rain forest right on the equator, where poinsettia plants were as large as trees and delicious exotic foods grew everywhere. Papayas, mangoes and groundnuts (peanuts) were among my favorites!

This peanut-stew recipe is an adaptation of a tasty dish that was often prepared for celebrations. Families would sit around a table with a large cooking pot in the center filled with the steaming stew. They ate together, telling stories of their past. And now, when we make it in our home, my family does the same.

Share this recipe and your stories with family and friends as you celebrate Kwanzaa and other special events in the coming new year.

African Peanut Stew

- 1 3-to-3-1/2-pound fryer chicken, cut up
- 1/2 cup flour



recipes.wikia.com

African peanut stew is flavorful and easy to prepare.

- 2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 1 14-ounce can stewed tomatoes, drained
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup canned chopped chilies, mild or hot to taste (optional)
- 2 cups chicken broth, canned or fresh
- 1/2 cup chopped peanuts
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- 1. Heat oven to 350 F.
- 2. Dust the chicken with flour and fry the pieces in oil for several minutes in a large

frying pan, until golden brown. The chicken doesn't need to be cooked through at this stage.

3. Place the chicken in a large ovenproof casserole dish and add the tomatoes, salt, sweet potato, onion and chilies. Pour the chicken broth over the chicken and sprinkle with the chopped peanuts. Cover and place in the oven for one hour.

4. When the stew is finished cooking, slice the hard-boiled eggs in half and arrange them around the edge of the casserole. Place on the table and serve with a big spoon.

Arts Round up



Alive She Cried: The Ultimate Doors Experience

Auburn Avenue Theater celebrates the 50th anniversary of the iconic rock band, the Doors' 1967 self-titled debut album. Alive She Cried, the Doors tribute band, will perform at the Auburn Ave on Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available through Brown Paper Tickets or at the theater's box office. The show is at 10 Auburn Ave. For more information, visit auburnwa.gov.

Trip to the North Pole - Allegro's Holiday Showcase

Auburn Performing Arts Center will host a special holiday show featuring a variety of traditions, religions and ethnicities. Dancers from the Allegro Performing Arts Academy will perform their annual holiday show on Dec. 17 and Dec. 18. Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$17 at the door and show times are 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. The performance is at 702 4th St. N.E. For more information, visit allegrodance.com.

Christmas Rush Fun Run and Walk

Kent Parks and Recreation will host its 10th annual 5k and 10k run and walk at Hogan Park. The 10k starts at 9:50 a.m. and the 5k starts at 10 p.m. Registration is \$20 and \$35 with a shirt. The Christmas Rush is at 24400 Russell Rd., Kent. For more information, visit kentwa.gov.

Third Thursday Art Night

On the third Thursday of each month local artists are invited to Kent's historical Downtown to share their works and socialize. From 4-7 p.m. there will be food, art, live music and activities. The event welcomes all ages and is free to the public. It is at Rusty Raven Studio, 212 First Ave. S. Additional information can be found at visitkent.com.

Sounds of the Season - Rainier Symphony

The Rainier Symphony will perform a holiday concert for the community at Foster Performing Arts Center on Dec. 18. The performance will feature *The Nutcracker*, *A Christmas Festival*, *Silent Night*, *O Holy Night*, *Jingle Bells* and more. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors and free for ages 12 and younger. The show runs from 3-5 p.m. at 4242 S., 144th St., Tukwila. For more information, visit rainiersymphony.org.

Shows offer festive entertainment

By Kelsey Par
Staff Reporter

Both theater and musical lovers have an array of festive Christmas and holiday-themed show and musicals to help them get into the holiday spirit this season.

Auburn

Auburn Avenue Theater is hosting a Christmas-themed musical based on the 1983 film *A Christmas Story*, through Dec. 18.

This musical received rave reviews on its Broadway run and is appropriate for all musical lovers and families. Showings are at various times through Dec. 18. General admission is \$15 and \$13 for students and seniors.

The show is at 10 Auburn Ave. For more information, visit auburnwa.gov.

Also on tap, Auburn Ave will host a holiday musical featuring the work of **The Carpenters**, who are known for their top hits and Christmas Celebrations.

Lisa Rock and her six band members will perform selections of Karen and Richard Carpenters' two holiday albums and Christmas variety shows, *A Carpenters Christmas* featuring *Merry Christmas Darling* and *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*.

Tickets are \$18 for students and seniors and \$20 for general admission. The show is on Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit auburnwa.gov.

The Evergreen City Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker* (1-hour version) at the Auburn Performing Arts Center on Dec. 10.

This traditional holiday show will feature Clara and The Nutcracker as they venture into the Land of the Sweets. On their journey they will encounter a battle between toy soldiers and rats and dance with the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Ticket prices vary and start at \$16. The show is at 1:30-2:30 p.m. at 702 Fourth St., N.E. For more information, visit info@evergreencityballet.org.

Auburn Dance Academy



Michael Brunk photo

From left to right, Beth Davis, Kris Hambrick and Anna Richardson performing the pageant in spirit.

will host its 19th annual holiday production, *The Grinch*, on Dec. 15 and Dec. 16.

The show is loosely based on New York's popular Broadway hit. Ticket prices vary and range from \$15-\$17. Show times are 7-9 p.m. at 702 Fourth St. N.E. For more information, visit info@auburndanceacademy.com.

Federal Way

Centerstage! in Federal Way is hosting through Dec. 22, its pantomime presentation of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

The stage production is a comedy appropriate for all ages. This holiday-themed show features songs, jokes, and panto routines.

An English pantomime is a musical that's part of a Holiday tradition in Great Britain. It typically involves a man dressed in drag, slapstick comedy, and local references all integrated into a classic story.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and military, \$15 for youth 25 and younger, and \$50 for VIP. The show will be at 3200 S.W. Dash Point Road.

Additional Information can be found at centerstagetheatre.com.

Northwest Boy Choir, Northwest Sinfonia and Vocalpoint! Seattle from Dec. 10 to Dec. 23, will perform the story of the Nativity in their *A Festival of*

Lessons and Carols.

Conductor Joseph Crnko will guide the choirs as the story is told through reading, chorale and orchestra. The choirs are performing at various churches and cathedrals through Dec. 23.

Ticket prices vary and start at \$5. For more information on location, hours and ticket prices, visit nwchoirs.org.

Burien

Burien Actors Theatre is hosting a Christmas-themed comedy by Martin and Austin Tinchener.

The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged) is much different than any typical Christmas Carol or Miracle on 34th Street production. The show features three actors presenting every thinkable Christmas show. The show runs through Dec. 18 at various times.

Ticket prices vary and discounts are available on specific dates. The theater is at 14501 4th Ave. S.W. For more information, visit burienlittletheatre.org.

Music lovers can get in the holiday spirit with a night full of festive music by the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Brass Quintet and internationally renowned soloist, Natalie Dungey when Burien Actors Theatre presents a Holiday Concert featuring the brass quintet in chamber-music style.

The Northwest Symphony Orchestra will perform on Dec. 11 from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$12 for seniors and \$15 for general admission.

Burien Actors Theatre is at 14051 Fourth Ave. S.W. For more information, visit burienactorstheatre.org or call 206-242-5180.

ChoralSounds Northwest performs *Winterlight*, a concert featuring a night full of holiday-themed music at the Highline Performing Arts Center on Dec. 11.

Artistic Director Ryan El-

lis has chosen several holiday works including *Keep Your Lamps, True Light, Glow*, and Disney's *World of Color: Winter Dreams* performed by the choir.

The concert will also include a medley from *Elf: The Musical*, *Twelve Days After Christmas*, and *Little Drummer Boy*.

The show begins at 2 p.m. at 401 S. 152nd St., Burien. Ticket prices vary and start at \$20. For more information, visit nwassociatedarts.org.

Northwest Associated Arts' youngest singers present *Christmas Treats* a holiday-themed musical. KidSounds, YouthSounds and TeenSounds are back with their annual holiday tradition, also at Highline Performing Arts Center.

Artistic Director Colleen Thomas-Reitsma and Kerstin Shaffer programmed the concert with many of the familiar and favorite holiday sounds of the season.

The concert is on Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. General admission is \$15 and the show is free for youth ages 17 and younger. It is at 401 S. 152nd St., in Burien.

Kent

Kent-Meridian High School Performing Arts Center hosts its 30th anniversary concert, **Windham Hill Winter Solstice**, on Dec. 9. This holiday show celebrates the winter solstice and its traditions with a concert of acoustic music.

The concert is led by Will Ackerman, founder of Windham Hill and Grammy-winning guitarist; Grammy Award-nominated singer, fiddler, pianist and songwriter Barbara Higbie; Alex de Grassi, Grammy-nominated guitarist and composer; and bassist Todd Boston.

Tickets are \$32 for general admission, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for youth. Showings are at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. at 10020 S.E. 256th St. For more information, visit kentwa.gov.



Centerstage Theatre photo

Little Red Riding Hood celebrating a traditional English Holiday.

College celebrates its double nickel of service to Southwest King County

By Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Although Highline long was a two-year college, a few people have decided to stay for more than 30 years. While over the years students have graduated and trends have changed, one thing remains constant – the sense of community among Highline’s staff, faculty, administration and students. It’s the reason people want to stay around the campus for decades, long-time faculty say. Several faculty and staff members have built long careers at Highline and still work at the college today. Highline was founded in 1961 and was the first community college in King County. Now with 17,000 students at Highline and a picturesque 80-acre campus, it is hard to believe Highline began as a 14-portable campus with less than 400 students.

“The particular staff and faculty community is very supportive,” said Linda Quick, the senior secretary of the Pure & Applied Sciences Division. “I shouldn’t say more than the UW [staff] but I can because I’m a WSU graduate.”

Quick graduated from Washington State University in 1973 with a teaching degree. She worked at the University of Washington school of public health and community medicine until 1976, then she started working at Highline.

“I came to Highline in ‘76 and I’ve been here ever since,” she said. “I’ve always said the flexibility one is offered and that you’re working with supportive colleagues has been the drawing card.”

For 40 years, Quick has been a secretary for Highline faculty and administration.

“When I started, we were support personnel for the faculty,” she said. “We did all their tests and each quarter at finals time, that consisted of probably 75 to 80 exams on a mimeograph machine. Literally we were putting in 12 to 14 hour days to get everything done in time.”

After years of doing most things by hand, the introduction of computers was a huge leap forward.

“In the late ‘80s, we had computers, so then faculty shifted the focus to doing their own course materials,” Quick said. “We [the secretaries] started changing our focus to more of administrative and division kind of responsibilities.”

The first copier on campus was in Building 6, she said. There was one copier for the entire campus until the mid-nineties.

“The early copiers did nothing but make single sided copies – no staples, no back-to-back. That was still all manually processed,” Quick said. “In terms of how things have progressed, certainly from the electric typewriter to the computer to copiers ... it’s made an impact in the sense that faculty do most of their own course material and they have websites now, which was certainly not the case [in the past].”

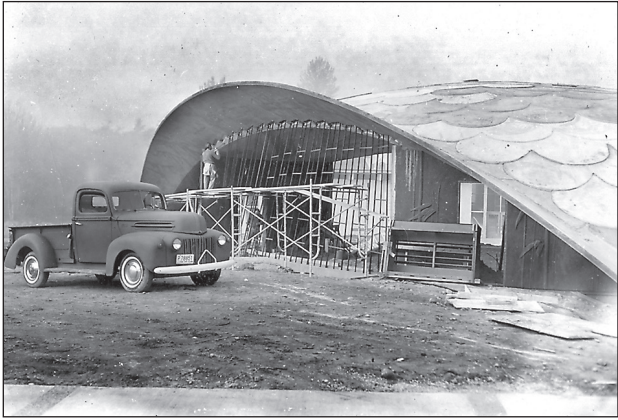
The technological advances also allowed classes to reach more students.

“We started with all face-to-face classes,” she said. “Hybrids were not even introduced until the late ‘90s to early 2000s.”

Highline used to have several technical programs offered on campus, she said.

“We had machining and welding in Building 16 and we had a diving technology program, which was at the current MaST facility,” Quick said. “We had printing which was sustained That was the only technical program not eradicated in the early ‘90s. We had manufacturing engineering technology and computerized drafting.”

Students in the manufacturing program often got hired by Boeing immediately after graduating from



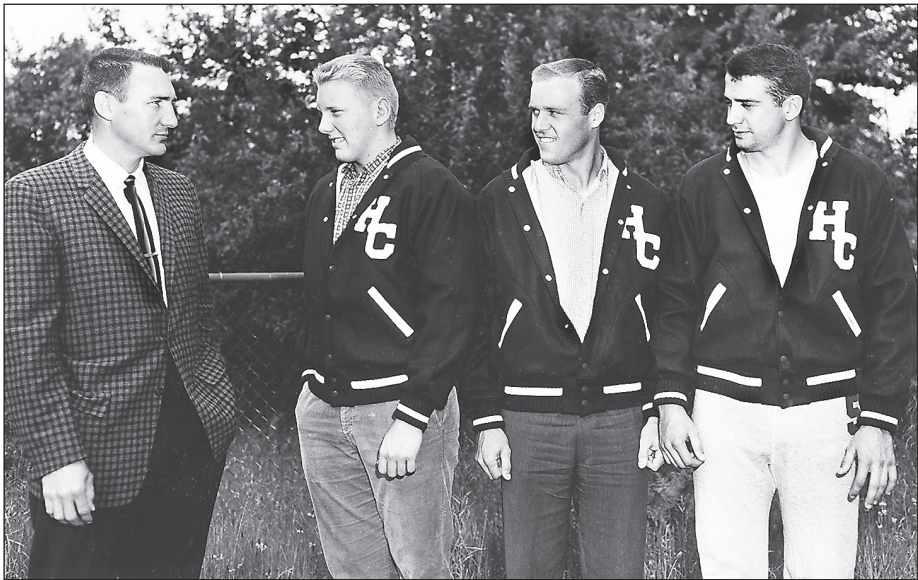
Building 7’s unique features made it stand out against the tilt-up style of construction employed elsewhere.



Highline, she said. Many of the deep sea diving students were employed by oil companies to do offshore work. Over the years, the campus has expanded to more than 30 buildings. “The MaST facility has been rebuilt twice,” Quick said. “We’re unique in that regard. I think outside of the University of Washington we are the only facility that has the opportunity to offer classes in a marine environment like that.” Along with the expansion of campus structures, the college also serves a much larger and more diverse population than ever before. “[My favorite thing is] probably moving forward and providing opportunities to a more diverse population,” Quick said. “The student interaction is probably what I enjoy the most.”



Most of the original buildings (above) still form the nucleus of the campus, although the library (lower left) no longer occupies Building 6. Lettermen jackets were prominent on T-Bird athletes in the early days (below) and a substantial choral group decked out in matching apparel was the pride of the Music Department (right).



Math professor Allan Walton says students are one of his favorite part of the Highline experience. “The thing I enjoy most is walking into the classroom,” Walton said. “The increase in diversity has certainly affected what goes on on-campus, and I think in a good way. Our campus is all the better for it.” Highline is the starting place for many refugees and the student body population is often a reflection of what is going on in current events, he said. “It’s been interesting to see the different waves of change; you can trace [the student body population] to what’s going on in the world,” Walton said. In 2003 amidst the Iraqi war, the number of Iraqi students on campus increased. Similar to when the Soviet Union fell in 1991, there was an influx of Russian students, Walton said. “The complexion of the student body has changed,” he said. “When I started in 1981, I’m guessing half to two-thirds of my class would’ve been Caucasian, and now, I just counted in my eight a.m. class, out of 27 students, nine of them were Caucasian and a big mix of other ethnicities.” Walton has been teaching full-time at Highline for 35 years as of this fall. He graduated from the University of Oregon and earned his master’s degree at the University of Virginia. Over the years, Highline has been awarded as the most diverse community college in the state. Aside from the diversity, the campus surroundings are also unbeatable. “One of the nice constants is that [Highline] is still a gorgeous campus,” Walton said. “If you visit some of the other colleges in the state, Highline really sticks



out. We’ve got a great view, the groundskeepers do a great job of keeping it pretty. That hasn’t changed.” Businesses along Pacific Highway have changed over the years though, Walton said. “When I first came here in the early ‘80s, there was a drive-in movie theater across the corner, where Lowe’s is now,” He said. “You could watch part of the movie when you stopped at a stoplight on your way home.” The social atmosphere is just as great as the physical, Walton said. “It’s a nice place to work. The admin gives a lot of responsibility to faculty. They’re very supportive,” Walton said. “My colleagues in the Math Department in particular have been great to work with.” The Highline administration has had the biggest effect on all of the faculty overall, Walton said. “One of the nicest things that’s happened here is the arrival of people like Dr. Jack Bermingham and Jeff Wagnitz,” Walton said. “They’ve had a really big effect. Yes, there’s new buildings and the student population is changing, and we notice those things, but one of the most profound things in my time here is that the campus has become a really good place to work. It was good when I got here because of people like Jack, Jeff, Sue Williamson and so on.”

Even on a departmental level, support is a common theme throughout Highline, said art Professor Bob Stahl. “When I taught continuing education, [the department chairmen] would let me teach what I wanted to teach,” Stahl said. “That flexibility was nice.” Stahl has taught at Highline for nearly 40 years. The University of Washington grad earned two undergraduate degrees in history and philosophy. Stahl then went to Louisiana State University for his master’s degree in art history.

HIGHLINE THROUGH THE YEARS

1961 – Highline College is established. The early campus layout consists of 14 portables and less than 400 students. The college was initially in affiliation with Glacier High School and located on the grounds of the high school.

1964 – Highline moves from the high school to the college’s official and current campus location. Today’s 80-acre campus features more than 30 buildings.

1967 – Thanks to the Community College Act of 1967, Highline becomes an official community college, separate from the Highline School District, and the first community college in King County.

1970 – Highline students dance the night away at several events, such as the Halloween dance, Homecoming dance and Prom. Student groups hosted these events in the Pavilion until the early ‘70s.

1976 – Highline welcomes the college’s first woman president, Dr. Shirley B. Gordon. Prior to the presidential position, Dr. Gordon was one of the first three instructors to ever teach at Highline. She retired in 1990.

1986 – Highline institutes the Fashion Merchandising program. The professional training program focuses on fashion manufacturing instruction, fashion design and marketing, as well as poise and public speaking skills.

1991 - In the fall of 1991, the women’s soccer team begins at Highline. Since then, the team won the NWAC championship in 1995 and the team has been the championship runner-up four separate years.

1993 – The Running Start program is created by the Legislature. This program allows students in 11th and 12th grades to earn college credits while finishing their last two years of high school. Today, more than 1,500 Running Start students study at Highline.

2001 – Early on the morning of Dec. 1, Highline’s swimming pool burns down. Built in 1967, the pool allowed Highline to offer swimming classes and have a swim team. The fire was caused by arson and destroyed the building, which meant the end of all the associated programs.

2004 – Building 29 project is completed, built where the pool used to be. As the Higher Education Building, 29 is home to the Central Washington University Des Moines campus branch. Students can earn their bachelor’s and master’s degree from CWU while taking classes in Des Moines. Degrees options include accounting, psychology, and elementary education.

2005 - The new Student Union, Building 8 opens in winter. The old center is replaced by a three-story, 48,000 sq. ft. building that has cafes, the Bookstore, and conference rooms.

2006 – Dr. Jack Bermingham takes over as the president of Highline.

2008 – The Marine Science and Technology Center opens in June. Located at Redondo, the facility includes labs, research areas, and a 15-tank aquarium.

2014 – Students can now earn their bachelor’s degrees at Highline. The available options are in Global Trade and Logistics, Cybersecurity and Forensics, Youth Development, and Respiratory Care.

2014 – Due to budget cuts, Highline eliminates the Drama Department giving the hook to many wanna-be thespians.

2016 – Highline wins the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award for the fourth consecutive year.

2016 – Remodels are underway for Building 26. The facility will now feature a new fitness center, a student lounge, and updated laboratories specifically for life science classes.

2016 – A groundbreaking ceremony for student housing takes place in August. The housing is for international students and will be on the west side of Pacific Highway on South 236th street. The dorm-like complex will house approximately 160 students and is to be completed by Fall Quarter 2017.



See The Big 55, page 12

The big 55
continued from page 11

“This is the end of my 40th year,” he said. “I’d like to teach a few more.”

Thanks to Highline’s support, Stahl has had the opportunity to teach classes in mythology and philosophy, and he was also given the freedom to present lectures about his own photography.

“The people I’ve had as my bosses in this department are great,” Stahl said. “It used to be Jim Gardiner, now it’s Tammi Hilton and she’s been very good about being flexible on my hours I teach and very supportive of all her faculty members.”

The people at Highline make his long travels to work worth the trip, Stahl said.

“I commute 80 miles round-trip twice a week to get here,” he said. “To justify that long commute, it’s been the faculty people I’ve taught with and the students I’ve had,” he said.

“I’ve had more Running Start students than ever before and they tend to keep you young in mind and in spirit and in heart,” he said. “I think a major change has been the number of international students you see form all over the world, a lot of diversity. That’s been a major change since the ‘70s.”

Before students settle down in a place where they plan to make their career, Stahl says to make sure the work is satisfying to your soul.

“Take as much school as you can before you have to go out in



Student apparel in the ‘70s was nothing if not interesting.

the real world,” he said. “Find your passion as early as you can and stick with it, don’t be pushed aside by setbacks. That’s what’s kept me in teaching. Find something that engages your spirit and is a lifelong passion.”

Virg Staiger found his passion is Highline. Staiger, the former communications director at Highline, retired in 2006 after spending nearly five decades with the college.

“I worked for every president Highline has ever had,” Staiger said.

For the last 50 years, Staiger has been a part of the Highline community. He graduated from Highline in 1966 and began working at the college in 1975.

“After I graduated from Highline, I went to the University [of Washington],” Staiger said. “Then I was drafted into the Army and deployed to Vietnam.”

After he came back from the war, Staiger went to finish his degree at UW and has been at Highline since the college’s beginning.

“[The biggest difference over

the years has] been the diversity, the size, and the cost,” he said. “Cost and diversity are the two biggest things that changed. When I was there we had less than 1,300 students. The minorities were almost none; they were mainly athletes and a few foreign exchange students.”

A major change has been the college’s operations as well, he said.

“Technology wise, I can remember when the president of the college decided it was better to get some of those desktop computers and learn how to get on a computer,” Staiger said. “It progressed so rapidly. “

Highline was ahead of many other schools when it came to technological advancements and computers, Staiger said.

“One desktop weighed about 40 pounds,” he said. “Highline had one of the big computers... it did the computer cards and registration. Highline was one of the first colleges to get into that.”

The bachelor’s degree in cybersecurity Highline offers is proof of how far the college has

progressed, he said.

“Computers are fantastic,” he said. “Social media is unreal. I always look at kids and see them looking at their phone instead of talking, and I catch myself doing that sometimes, too.”

The college will always be much more than just a place of higher education, Staiger said.

“I really think the campus reflects the community,” he said. “It’s a wonderful second chance for people. I couldn’t afford university at the time so [Highline] was a life-changer and a life-saver. It allows you to spend time at not such a pricey cost. It gave me the will to succeed [as a student]. It really changed my life.”

Staiger was shocked at the class sizes when he transferred to UW.

“We have fantastic professors,” he said. “It really came to life when I had my first class at the UW and in one undergraduate class, I was sitting among 300 people. My largest class at Highline was probably 26.”

The professors Staiger had also left a lasting impression, he said.

“I can still remember lectures from a few Highline professors,” Staiger said. “They teach, that’s why they’re there.”

Staiger has seen the campus evolve over the years.

“Facility wise, the student center [was my favorite addition] because when I was student body president, we had a pretty tiny two-story building.”

As for the future, Highline’s development is only going to make the college better, he says.

“I think a more future thing that will benefit the college is the light rail,” he said. “It’ll be very interesting to see the international student center, too.”

It is the faces of Highline that make the experience what it is, he said.

“It’s just the people,” Staiger said. “As a student, I moved in Seattle area from a small town in South Dakota, so [the diversity] was a straight-up culture shock. It really extended my opportunity to see different people and cultures. Highline starts a lot of careers for all kinds of people.”

REFLECTIONS
55
OF
HIGHLINE

Holiday Daily Deals

Monday - December 12th	Tuesday - December 13th	Wednesday - December 14th	Thursday - December 15th	Friday - December 16th
20% off Art & School Supplies*	20% off Backpacks and Bags*	10% off Electronics (excluding calculators)*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*
Monday - December 19th	Tuesday - December 20th	Wednesday - December 21st	Thursday - December 22nd	Friday - December 23rd
25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*	25% off Clothing and Imprinted Merchandise*



*Discounts taken at the register, and cannot be combined with other offers.

Bookstore rentals are due back
no later than December 16th

Textbook Buyback Hours

December 13th 8:30am - 6:00pm
December 14th 8:30am - 4:30pm
December 15th 8:30am - 4:30pm

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14514

Scoreboard

Women’s Basketball

WEST

Team	League	Season
Tacoma	0-0	4-1
Centralia	0-0	3-1
Lower Columbia	0-0	3-1
Grays Harbor	0-0	4-4
Green River	0-0	3-4
S Puget Sound	0-0	2-4
Highline	0-0	1-4
Pierce	0-0	0-7

EAST

Team	League	Season
Walla Walla	0-0	5-0
Columbia Basin	0-0	4-0
Spokane	0-0	3-0
Big Bend	0-0	3-1
Treasure Valley	0-0	5-2
Yakima Valley	0-0	4-1
North Idaho	0-0	4-3
Blue Mountain	0-0	2-3
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	2-4

NORTH

Team	League	Season
Skagit Valley	0-0	5-1
Olympic	0-0	3-2
Peninsula	0-0	3-3
Bellevue	0-0	2-2
Shoreline	0-0	2-3
Whatcom	0-0	0-2
Everett	0-0	0-6

SOUTH

Team	League	Season
Lane	0-0	6-0
Umpqua	0-0	5-1
SW Oregon	0-0	4-2
Mt. Hood	0-0	4-3
Clackamas	0-0	3-2
Clark	0-0	2-3

Men’s Basketball

WEST

Team	League	Season
Pierce	0-0	6-1
Lower Columbia	0-0	4-2
S Puget Sound	0-0	3-2
Tacoma	0-0	2-2
Centralia	0-0	2-3
Grays Harbor	0-0	2-3
Highline	0-0	1-2
Green River	0-0	1-6

EAST

Team	League	Season
Spokane	0-0	5-1
North Idaho	0-0	4-1
Walla Walla	0-0	2-1
Big Bend	0-0	2-3
Treasure Valley	0-0	2-3
Blue Mountain	0-0	1-3

NORTH

Team	League	Season
Shoreline	0-0	3-0
Bellevue	0-0	4-1
Everett	0-0	4-2

SOUTH

Team	League	Season
SW Oregon	0-0	6-1
Clackamas	0-0	4-1
Mt. Hood	0-0	5-2

T-Birds soar with first win

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

The Highline men’s basketball team earned their first win after they defeated the Wenatchee Valley Knights, 70-59.

The 0-2 T-Birds went on the road to face the 0-3 Knights Last Sunday.

“The guys felt like we took a step in the right direction. We shared the ball much better and played harder defensively,” said Highline Head Coach Che Dawson.

The team got a lift from wing Jamie Orme, who led Highline with 24 points and 13 rebounds. Right behind him was wing Val Wilson with 15 points and four rebounds and then guard Jared Murphy with nine points and eight rebounds.

“Jamie [Orme] is very talented. He does not control that. Jamie has to put consistent focus into the things he does control; his sense of urgency, work ethic and demonstrating the necessary level of self-discipline on and off the court,” said Dawson.

Last year Orme was No. 9 in scoring for the Northwest Athletic Conference, and he averaging 19 points a game.

Orme was also a major force when it came to rebounds, as he was the fourth in the NWAC with 9.5 rebounds a game.

The Knights kept things interesting. The game was tied at



Freshman wing Val Wilson throws down in practice last Monday.

Bao Tran/ THUNDERWORD

half 28-28.

The Knights kept up early in the second half but the game slowly slipped away from their control, said Dawson.

The T-Birds next round of action is Dec. 9, 10 and 11 in the Bellevue tournament, where they will face three teams who were not determined by press

time. Last year, Highline went 2-1 in the tournament.

During winter break the T-Birds will be competing in several games.

After the Bellevue tournament the team will be hosting the Highline Crossover where the T-Birds will face Peninsula on Dec. 16, 8 p.m., Chemeketa

on Dec. 17, 4 p.m. and then on Dec. 18 they will take on Yakima Valley at 2 p.m.

The team will then play Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. at Olympic; Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. at Skagit Valley; Dec. 30 at 4 p.m. at Whatcom; Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. against Everett at Highline; and finally Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. at Bellevue.

Highline men’s wrestling falls hard

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

The Highline men’s wrestling team got blown out, 43-0, on the road against Clackamas last Friday.

The T-Birds were 1-1 going into the Dec. 2 matchup against the 7-0 Clackamas Cougars.

The Cougars won all nine of the contested bouts and accepted a forfeit at 165 lbs.

Highline has lost several starters since the beginning of the year and that has a lot to do with the team’s struggles early this season, said Highline Head Coach Scott Norton.

“I think our team is going through some tough times with losing two starters to injuries and two going home, due to being homesick,” said Norton.

“We also had to remove one of our starters. So basically five of the potential starters are not in our lineup and most likely

will not be this year,” he said.

The wrestlers who came closest with winning their matches was Andrew Ramirez, 141, with a loss by decision, 13-8, and Mario Luevano, 184, also losing by decision, 3-2.

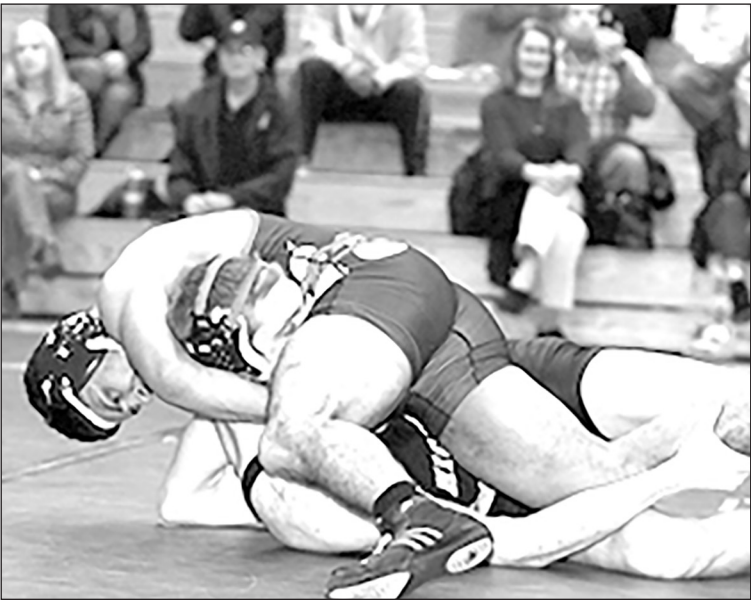
These guys will be heavily relied on by the team because of their skill and seniority, said Norton.

“I think a lot of our guys were their own worst enemy. We had a couple get caught on their back at the end of a match, which gave the other team six points instead of three or four,” he said.

Over winter break the team has a few tournaments and duals to compete in, starting with the team returning to Clackamas to compete in the Northwest/SWOCC tournament.

Then on Dec. 15 the T-Birds will host Pacific University at 7 p.m.

Lastly the team will cap off



Trisha Swisher photo

Clackamas’ Josh Reyes piles on top of Highline’s Andrew Ramirez.

winter break by heading to Coos Bay, Ore. for the Southwest Oregon Community College tournament.

“At this point, the wrestlers need to compete for themselves. I feel a lot of times the

coaches are more disappointed than the wrestlers are when they lose, which is certainly not good. Our wrestlers need to stick to the game plans that are set. and they will compete better,” Norton said.

Highline serves volleyballers well

By Aleyah Bennett
Staff Reporter

The Highline women's volleyball team is saying goodbye to five of its sophomores, several of whom are anticipating playing for four-year schools.

Lehua Keka, Kathleena Ly, Megn Van Marter, Pumehana Nedlic and Taylor Alicuben were all key members of the T-Birds team that took first place in league with a record of 12-2 and 30-5 overall. Each of them expressed appreciation for their time at Highline.

"My experience has been wonderful so far. I have gained so many skills and knowledge from the classes I have been taking and while working on campus," Ly said.

"It was a great experience. It was a great stepping stone to help me move on to the next part of my life," Alicuben said.

"Highline College was an experience for the books," Keka said. I met so many people that have brought great blessings to my life. I have also met many teachers who have pushed me and helped me achieve my goals."

Marter echoed those sentiments.

"I made a lot of close friends and met many awesome people," she said. "If I had to do it over again I wouldn't have changed anything. Coming to Highline I believe prepared me more for what I want to do in the future."

The future for Alicuben, Marter and Keka includes plans to play for four-year colleges.

Alicuben is headed for Hawaii Pacific University and in addition to roaming the courts will major in Physical Therapy.

"The assistant coach contacted me this past summer," she said.

Marter is getting her Associ-



Jack Harton photo

Graduating volleyball player Megan Van Marter (right) blocks a shot by a South Puget Sound player.

ate of Arts degree with an emphasis in American Sign Language and is awaiting possible offers for her volleyball skills.

"My coach received some emails from different coaches and some were able to watch me play at the NWAC tournament," Marter said.

Although Keka is awaiting offers, "I am planning to play for a four-year college.

"But if I do, I am probably going to look on my own," she said.

"I am majoring in education. I plan on becoming a kindergarten teacher, then after a cou-

ple years, go off to own my own daycare," Keka said.

Ly is majoring in Social Work, but may change her major to Business Administration to broaden her career.

"Key things that I have learned from being on the volleyball team at Highline is that it is important to have a connection with your teammates off the court as well," Ly said.

"Being able to get along and connect off the court allows for the team chemistry to grow," she said.

For Alicuben, the growing

has included maturing.

"I learned that right now is a very important time in our lives. We're learning how to grow up and be adults" she said. "I learned to never slack off in the first couple weeks of college because unlike high school, you'll be trying to catch up the whole quarter.

"Highline will always be the place I started my life into adulthood. It's bittersweet to be leaving after this quarter to go back home to Hawaii," Alicuben said.

But one of the things the group will be taking with them

will be the bonds created with their teammates.

"One key thing I learned was that bonding and making close friendships is an essential part of not only the team experience, but it also helps contribute so much to the play," Marter said.

"What I have learned from the volleyball team is working together is always going to be the goal. You can't do anything if no one is working together. I also learned that you are going to win some and lose some, but it's on you to get back up and fight to win," Keka said.

T-Bird basketball goes 1-2 in tournament

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

The Highline women's basketball team won their first game in the Bellevue tournament.

The lady T-Birds traveled to Bellevue on Dec. 2, 3 and 4 where they faced off against several teams.

The lady T-Birds first took on the 6-0 Lane Titans, losing 66-46. Then they won against the 0-4 Everett Trojans, 58-55. And their final game resulted in a loss against the 5-1 Skagit Valley Cardinals, 72-57.

"We had good intensity and effort but we still need to fix quite a few things and I think we can improve if we work," said Head Coach Amber Mosley.

The team led in several categories during their win against the Trojans.

Highline was led in scoring by wing Aileen Kaye, with 11 points and guard Alicia Westbrook who scored 10 points.

The T-Birds were also led in rebounding by forward Jasmine Hansgen with 12 rebounds.

However, in the two other games Highline struggled all around, said Mosley.

Against Lane, Highline earned no points off any turnovers and only seven points off turnovers when they faced Skagit Valley compared to their 22.

The T-Birds are usually solid on defense but they struggled. Highline will continue to improve our play, said Mosley.



Jack Harton photo

Anna Cook takes a 2-point shot in the game against Skagit Valley.

Anti-immigrant feelings go way back

By Dylan You
Staff Reporter

The laws that restrict undocumented Mexican immigration have been both a cause and effect of the rhetoric that paints immigrants as people to be feared, said the speaker at last Wednesday's History Seminar.

Political Science Professor, Dr. Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien said that the idea of the United States as a melting pot full of people from various countries has always been in conflict with the notion that the United States should be defined as an Anglo-Protestant nation.

As a result, Dr. Gonzalez was not surprised by Donald Trump's xenophobic comments toward undocumented Mexican immigrants.

"Most people I knew were shocked, but it was never new to me," he said. "Every immigrant group in the United States has at one point in time been painted as more criminal," he said. "One fear is the dilution of white blood."

He said that while Irish people were seen as drunken rabble-rousers, Chinese immigrants were stereotyped as operators of opium dens, and Italian people were considered susceptible to committing crimes of passion.

Many were also quick to paint Chinese men as predators who posed a racial threat to the United States by seducing white women.

Beliefs like this sparked laws that limited European immigration such as the Immigration Act of 1917 and the John-



Dr. Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien

son Reed Act of 1924.

Eventually, during the Great Depression, many Americans used undocumented Mexican immigrants as a scapegoat. They viewed Mexican immigration as a threat to the safety and economy of the United States. They feared Mexicans would take the jobs of Americans and commit crimes.

Because the federal govern-

ment wanted illegal immigrants to go back to Mexico, the Mexican Repatriation act of 1929 was proposed. The act required states to pass laws requiring employees to be citizens. The act also prompted American authorities to raid the homes of undocumented workers.

"Immigration raids were publicized in order to create fear," Dr. Gonzalez said.

He said that if people were caught, they were forced to pay for their deportation. Those who volunteered had their relocation costs paid by the government.

"If you feel like you're being threatened by the community, it incentivizes the need to stay here," Dr. Gonzalez said.

After the end of the Great Depression and beginning of World War II, the Bracero Program of 1942, a guest worker program, was started in response to the fact that U.S. agriculture still depended upon Mexican labor.

But the Bracero program spurred greater illegal immigration. It was cheaper and easier for employers to use undocumented labor and the program was allowed to expire in 1964.

Dr. Gonzalez said that undocumented immigrants continue to provide great help to the economy due to the fact that they perform the jobs that most Americans are not willing to do.

He also said that they do not come when the economy is suffering.

"People don't realize undocumented immigrants come in waves," he said.

Prejudice against undocumented immigrants rose again with the 1954 implementation of Operation Wetback. The law was designed to deport 1,000 undocumented immigrants per day and was justified under the rhetoric that Mexicans were prone to crime, theft and murder, similar to the rhetoric of Trump as he campaigned for president in 2016.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 brought attention once again to undocumented Mexican immigrants. The border was to be militarized and there was greater emphasis on deportation. This was justified by Rep Lamar Smith of Texas, who claimed that undocumented immigrants were 10 times more likely to commit crimes. Illegal immigration was then made a felony with the Sensenbrenner Bill of 2005.

And despite Trump's contention, Dr. Gonzalez said that the racist attitudes toward Mexican immigrants continue to this day despite the stereotypes being proven false.

"Donald Trump repeats the rhetoric labeling Mexicans as rapists and criminals," Gonzalez said.

Dr. Gonzalez said that sanctuary cities are not the issue either. He said that most people who claim immigrants are prone to committing crime are not looking at statistics but cherry-picking specific instances.

"One shooting by an undocumented immigrant and we blame the sanctuary cities," he said. "Many recent studies have found either no relationship or an inverse one when it comes to undocumented immigrants being criminals. Most Hispanics are arrested because of border violations."

Dr. Gonzalez said that people who see fences and walls as the solutions justify it around the notion that they need to be protected from something.

Turning Pacific Islander students into determined scholars

By Jacqueline Robinson
Staff Reporter

The Pacific Islander Club aims to create a sense of family and welcome within the student population.

The culturally-focused club was initiated during last Spring Quarter and has been a pillar for a group of students who needs an academically supportive atmosphere, the club president said.

"A lot of PI [Pacific Islander] students come to school and just drop out," said Fuifui Ah Kuoi, the president of the Pacific Islander Club.

Club members try to reach out and connect with its students who are not coming to school, she said.

"Some students have to take a break from school because of work or family responsibilities. They get caught up in other obligations and don't come back," Ah Kuoi said. "We want to stay



Fuifui Ah Kuoi

connected to them and make sure they come back when they can."

There are some common negative stereotypes about Pacific Islander students and the club is proving them wrong, she said.

"Some stereotypes about PI students are that they are drop outs, slackers or only good at sports. Some PI students lis-

ten to that and it brings them down," Ah Kuoi said. "But our club is about balance. It's not just about focusing on socializing; we help each other on academics."

The premise of this club is to learn and share, she said.

"We learn about our culture together and share our passion for our culture with the campus and the community," Ah Kuoi said.

One of the ways the club is sharing its culture is through dance, she said.

"We perform island dances on campus. Next quarter we are performing at the Club Involvement Fair on Jan. 12," Ah Kuoi said.

During their weekly, meetings the club is focused on a variety of things.

"We have opening prayer, announcements for student resources, ice breakers, games, [and] study hall," she said. "Every week we have a presentation

about a different island. The last 30 minutes of the meeting we dance to practice for our performances. Sometimes we have potlucks, karaoke and birthday celebrations."

The club has big plans for the next few quarters, Ah Kuoi said.

"We are planning on having t-shirts for our club, having guest speakers come and speak to our students, crafts from our culture, fundraisers, bake sales and a talent show," she said.

The group is also planning volunteer projects, she said.

"We want to volunteer as a group with nursing homes, food banks and possibly do performances at different places," Ah Kuoi said.

The adviser for the club, Nestor Enguerra, who works as the Retention Specialist for the AANAPISI program, always supports the club members, Ah Kuoi said.

"He helps us connect with resources, updates us on scholar-

ship information, gives us ideas on how to expand the club, and advises us on how to transfer to a four-year college" she said. "And he always hooks us up with food."

The club currently has about 20 members and a number of students who come, but are not consistent members.

Ah Kuoi encourages everybody to join, not just Pacific Islander students.

"Everyone is welcome no matter what color skin you are. The club meetings are over for the quarter, but the Pacific Islander Club will start back up next quarter," she said.

The club is in the process of booking its future club location, Ah Kuoi said.

The club will meet next quarter on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., she said.

"The building and room may change so go to CLS [Center for Leadership and Service] for updates," Ah Kuoi said.

Highline gives credit for prior learning

By **Joey Gomez**
Staff Reporter

Getting a degree from Highline can take a lot less time for people who can leverage their work experience against certain academic requirements.

Students with work experience in a subject matter taught at Highline can possibly earn credit based on what they already know about that topic.

Different than the placement testing done on campus, the colleges Prior Learning Assessment procedure awards credit to those who demonstrate evidence that they already have the competencies taught in the class.

"This could be done by taking a challenge test for the class, or producing a portfolio of experience or work," said Jennifer Johnston, the Prior Learning Assessment coordinator.

The procedure is for any student and any program, however



Wangari Muranga/THUNDERWORD
Jennifer Johnston runs Highline's prior learning program.

it is more commonly utilized in the job-training programs.

"If a person already knows how to do certain skills, or has an industry certificate in that

field, they can show that to the instructor of that class and get the credit," Johnston said.

The English Department has a portfolio outline that students

could use to get prior learning credit for English 101.

However, with traditional college classes such as biology, chemistry, psychology, or engineering, it can be harder to demonstrate that you already have the knowledge of all the material taught at the college level.

"That's not to say it can't be done," Johnston said. "I just haven't seen it happen in the three years I've been coordinating PLA at Highline."

Highline also offers pre-assessed certificates, which allows an automatic number of credits for people that have certain certificates from their work experience. Examples are the Child Development Associate Certificate or Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

Education, Criminal Justice, Computer Science, Business and Hospitality and Tourism students are more likely to have success in receiving credit for their respective experience.

Highline's effort to give class credit to students who have the experience, or charging students at a discounted rate per credit, has become flexible.

"Highline [has] established a system for speakers of certain languages to take a STAMP test in that language at the Testing Center, and if they score at a certain level they can get credit for classes of that language," Johnston said.

According to The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, the use of prior learning assessment results in faster time to completion and a greater likelihood of completing a degree or certificate.

Students who wish to show their competency in a subject matter should meet with an instructor or PLA coordinator, Johnston (jjohnston@highline.edu). A prior learning contract will be established and signed, and then the process will be completed with the school cashier.

Classes available near White Center

By **Joey Gomez**
Staff Reporter

Classes in Early Childhood Development, Healthcare and Business pathways are available to Highline students in the White Center area at the YWCA's Greenbridge facility.

"People want access to education 10 minutes from home," said Tanya Powers, director of Worksource and Baccalaureate Degrees.

Highline has been working with community members and partner organizations to better serve various ethnic groups within the service area.

Organizations such as King County Library Association, YWCA Greenbridge and the King County Housing Authority try to bring higher education courses to economically depressed areas.

For a majority of those taking the classes, the initiative is often their first experience of college-level courses. Some courses are taught in Somali, and the college is considering offering classes in other languages as well.

The White Center community is also home to a large number of Latino, Vietnamese, and African families, as well as other immigrants and refugees.

"Fifty-two percent of adults in Seattle obtain a bachelor's degree, while there are only 26 percent of adults with a bachelor's degree in South King County," Powers said.

Classes offered through



Tanya Powers

Highline's White Center program can represent the initial building blocks towards full-fledged degrees.

Powers said she wants to link people to skills so that they remain in the community. "I really love my community," she said.

Promoting higher education in White Center has special meaning for Powers; she lives there.

YWCA Greenbridge is located at 9720 8th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. They offer a few orientation dates on location, but applications are completed through Highline. There will be a staff member at the Greenbridge location four days a week to aid those with questions or concerns.

The course cost is no different than the college's main campus, but many students may be eligible for Worksource Education Funding. For more information, contact Tanya Powers (tpowers@highline.edu), Mariela Barriga (mbarriga@highline.edu) and Nou Lee (nlee@highline.edu).

Researchers unsure of pot's long-term effects on older users

By **Kristen Wyatt**
Associated Press

DENVER — Surveys show a small but growing number of older adults are using marijuana — a trend that worries researchers who say not enough information exists about how pot affects older users.

Abundant research has been done on how the drug impacts developing brains, but little is known about the potential consequences on older users — even as recreation pot has been legalized in a number of states.

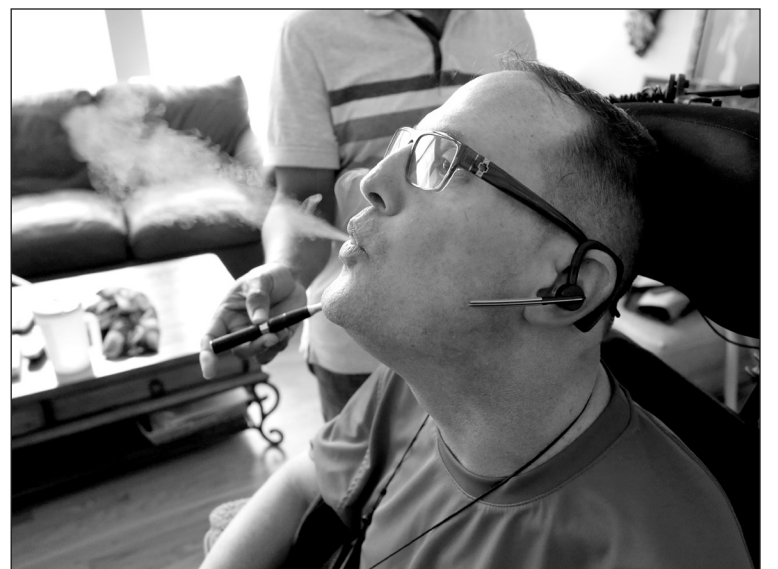
Researchers at New York University say pot could pose health challenges to older users ranging from memory loss to risk of falling.

The researchers reviewed data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and found a big increase in adults over 50 reporting they had used pot in the past year.

About 2.8 percent of those surveyed said they had used pot a decade ago. Six years later in 2013, the rate was about 4.8 percent — a 71 percent jump.

"Historically older people haven't had high rates of substance use, but this is changing," said Dr. Benjamin Han, a geriatrician at NYU who led the study published this week in the journal *Addiction*. "As baby boomers age, we're going to see more and more of this."

Older adults are still much



Brennan Linsley/AP photo
Author David Sloan, who suffers from MS, uses medical marijuana.

less likely than younger people to use pot. In the 2013 survey, about 19 percent of people 18 to 25 reported using marijuana in the previous month.

Doctors have little to go on when treating older people who use pot, Han said.

"When it comes to, for instance, alcohol, there have been a lot of studies about effects on older populations, guidelines on how much older people should be consuming," Han said. "But when it comes to marijuana, we have nothing."

The study drew no conclusions about whether older pot users are using the drug as medicine or for fun.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy said last year that marijuana can be helpful for treating certain ailments, but he

added that medical marijuana research is preliminary and he called for more research.

Federal drug law considers marijuana a drug with no medical use.

Marijuana legalization debates center on the drug's consequences for kids, perhaps leaving adults to think there's no downside to using it.

"Before the liberalization of marijuana policy, lots of young people used marijuana and then as they got jobs and kids and mortgages, they stopped," said Jonathan Caulkins, a professor of public policy at Carnegie-Mellon University who was not involved in the NYU study.

"It seems that as the social stigmatization has decreased, more users are continuing into adulthood."

Higher ed budgets face uncertain times

By Mike Simpson
and Olivia Sullivan
Staff Reporters

Six members of the Washington Legislature gave their solutions on how to fully fund public education at Highline last week.

The fate of Highline along with public higher education rests in uncertainty as lawmakers in a divided state House and Senate disagree on how to pay a looming \$3.5 billion bill.

This may cut funds to Highline, which relies on state money for roughly half its operating budget.

Highline President Dr. Jack Birmingham said in a meeting before the event that he wants college board members and students to be “advocates” and to get to know their legislators personally in order to maintain state capital funding levels.

The McCleary decision is a 2014 Washington Supreme Court order that obligates the state to meet its constitutional requirement to fully fund public K-12 education by 2018.

This includes school operational costs, teachers’ salaries, and supplies.

It is estimated that this will cost the state an additional \$3.5 billion every two years.

If revenue cannot be generated by taxes, higher education may be one of the next programs on the chopping block when it comes to budget cuts.

It may lead to a shortage of funds destined for higher education, legislators say.

From the 33rd District, State Rep. Mia Gregerson, State Rep. Tina Orwell, and State Sen. Karen Kaiser, all Democrats, visited.

State Sen. Mark Miloscia, R-30th District, state Sen. Sharon Nelson, D-34th District and state Sen. Bob Hasegawa, D-11th District, also talked with students.

Rep. Gregerson has served in the state House of Representatives since 2013.

Previously, she was the mayor of SeaTac.



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Members of the Washington state Legislature discuss strategies to protect higher education during a meeting at Highline last Tuesday.

She ran her campaigns on promises of improving public education and updates for public school facilities.

At Highline, she said she would fight regressive taxes, such as the sales tax, as a means of funding public education, as opposed to Republican legislators who have supported increased sales tax such as internet sales tax.

Washington needs to fully fund public education, but not by cutting funds for public higher education, Rep. Gregerson said.

Rep. Orwell, Speaker Pro Tempore, has served in the state House of Representatives since 2009 and has served on education committees.

“Our strategy needs to be how to invest in all education,” she said.

Tax loopholes need to be closed and capital gains taxes should be increased, she said.

State Sen. Karen Kaiser has served in both chambers of the state Legislature since 2001. In 2015, she was on the Ways and Means committee which is the Senate’s budget writing committee.

She has campaigned on goals of educational opportunities from preschool through college.

On meeting McCleary, she

said it would be tough to get the divided Legislature to agree.

“We’ve been chewing on this issue for three years,” Sen. Kaiser said.

Sen. Kaiser holds tight to her beliefs about the budget.

“I am adamant on the fact I don’t support any budget item that takes away from higher education or human services,” she said.

Most likely a levy swap will occur, she said.

This is a Republican-supported equalization of local property taxes across the state of Washington. The McCleary decision states that the public school budget has over-relied on local levies. Seattle would pay more because it has a stronger tax base than rural or impoverished areas, which currently pay more.

Critics say a levy swap would not generate additional money to make up the funding gap than currently exists.

“I think it’s a zero-sum game,” Sen. Kaiser said.

To create revenue, other sorts of taxes may need to be implemented.

“We may need to be creative on our taxes, such as a transaction tax on marijuana,” she said.

With all the financial talk, Sen. Kaiser said the focus is not in the right area when it comes

to students.

“My frustration is that they’re just talking about money, and not focusing on student achievement,” she said. “We need to close the achievement gap. To have equal opportunity, you have to have equal access to resources.”

Closing tax loopholes and increasing capital gains taxes may not be possible because of a divided Legislature, she said.

State Sen. Mark Miloscia served in the 30th district House of Representatives for seven terms as a Democrat before switching to the Republican party in 2014.

In 2015, he served on the Committee for Higher Education.

“We need to strive for an efficient, effective, ethical government,” Sen. Miloscia said.

He said there needs to be a change in how salaries are negotiated in order to bridge budget gaps, he said.

When it comes to the McCleary decision, Sen. Miloscia says there needs to be a clearer understanding.

“We need to define it. What is basic education? Who decides the salaries of teachers?” he asked. “Money is not the issue; the issue is who is going to pay for it? Where is the money go-

ing to come from?”

Sen. Miloscia said he is fine with the current plan of who should pick up the bill.

“The state is primarily responsible, I’m OK with that,” he said.

State Sen. Sharon Nelson has served in the Senate since 2011 and was appointed to the 34th district House of Representatives in 2007.

“Two year institutions are the backbone of our education system,” Sen. Nelson said.

She says she believes the Running Start program needs to be protected.

“There’s a big difference in what people come to the college for,” Sen. Nelson said. “It’s a hub for everyone.”

Sales taxes should not be increased, but capital gains taxes on the wealthiest Washingtonians should be increased to meet McCleary, she said.

“They’re not paying their fair share,” she said.

Sen. Bob Hasegawa has served in the Legislature since 2013. In 2015, he was on the Ways and Means committee, and sponsored bills supporting homeless students and students with disabilities.

He said he is in favor of a progressive tax structure and cutting tax loopholes, as opposed to Republicans who want to borrow funds destined for other state programs out of the existing budget.

“We have to raise revenue,” he said. “There’s no way we can meet McCleary and raise revenue.”

The division between house and senate puts a halt to any progress, Sen. Hasegawa said.

“Both sides have distinctly different views,” he said. “There’s nothing we can do to move forward with it. It’s essentially a recipe for gridlock.”

A total transformation of the state’s revenue system is a possible solution, he said.

“We need a comprehensive progressive tax reform,” Sen. Hasegawa said. “We need to review corporate tax breaks and also make sure the rich are paying more.”

Seattle Public Schools predicts \$74 million budget shortfall

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle Public Schools is preparing for the worst-case scenario as it predicts a \$74 million budget shortfall for the 2017-18 school year.

Superintendent Larry Nyland said in a message to teachers on Wednesday that unless the Legislature acts, starting in 2018 school districts won’t be able to collect as much money as voters have approved through local levies, costing Seattle schools \$30

million, The Seattle Times reported.

School officials say if the so-called “levy cliff” has not been resolved by next year they may have to lay off teachers and cut programs.

“Right now there are many unknowns,” Nyland wrote. “These unknowns will cause challenges and disruptions to the good work that our schools, educators and central office staff are doing, and for that I am

truly sorry.”

The district also blamed the shortfall on the fact that the Legislature hasn’t fully funded salaries for school employees despite the district’s labor costs increasing by \$25 million.

The levy cliff isn’t limited to Seattle. According to the Washington Association of School Administrators, if the Legislature doesn’t remove the cliff, districts won’t be able to use

nearly \$500 million of their approved local levies.

Although the new legislative session starts next month, lawmakers likely won’t complete the state budget for 2017-19 until spring or later. District must start planning for the 2017-18 school year earlier than that.

WASA Executive Director Bill Keim said districts are having to create two budgets: one with money they could use if

the Legislature addresses the issue and one without those funds.

“It’s causing a lot of concern and instability that probably doesn’t need to happen,” Keim said.

Seattle School District’s Nyland wrote that budget allocations for individual schools are sent in February and March and, as of now, will represent the worst-case budget scenario.

Non-Traditional Students leader aims to leave Highline a better place

By Dylan You
Staff Reporter

Returning to school after a long career can be an arduous task, but for one student the experience has not only been liberating, it's been downright inspirational.

"I decided to come to Highline to finish getting my degree after working in the warehouse industry for 26 years," 47-year-old Julie Bradbury said. "I enjoyed the physical nature of the work, however I realized that I could not continue to do this type of work for much longer."

The decision to return to school was not an easy one. Because she was financially independent, over the age of 40, and hadn't been a student in 26 years, she doubted that she would fit in and keep up academically with the students who came straight from high school.

Despite her concerns, Bradbury found lots of help. Not only did she receive aid from resources such as the Access Services, TRiO and the Center for Leadership and Services, she noticed the open-minded environment stimulated her personal growth.

"The acceptance I experienced here has allowed me to be myself and to establish connections to like-minded people I otherwise may have never met," she said. "It has given me the self confidence to be a successful student. Highline has provided me with opportunities to grow as a person and gain lead-



Julie Bradbury photo

Julie Bradbury fulfilling her mission of giving back to the community through Habitat for Humanity.

ership skills. It has also opened doors to new career paths and provided networking opportunities that are useful both now and after I graduate."

Despite her busy life as a student, Bradbury wanted to give back to the Highline community. That's when she became the president of the Non-Traditional Students Club. The club finds ways to support students who are financially independent, have children or are older than the age of 30.

"I was hesitant at first, because I thought clubs were in the way," she said. "People think clubs are a distraction, but it's a way to stay in school, socialize, get together and help each other out." During meetings, members give each other advice such as how one should raise their children properly, how one can succeed

academically, which classes one should choose to take and how one can ace a job interview.

They also discuss an array of topics such as upcoming events the club has planned, world news and updates on their personal lives.

"Any topic goes," Vice President Vanessa Primer said. "Whether it's club stuff, school stuff or politics."

Another way members help each other out is by sharing resources and connections that provide support in their academic or personal lives.

For example, one member told the other members how they could sign up for the TRiO Student Support Service program. The program helps low-income, first-generation students and people with disabilities succeed in college.

"As non-traditional students,

we know there's more in the world than college," Bradbury said. "We build connections to help you when you leave here, we can get new connections to help Highline as well."

Although its members tend to be older, the club is seldom stale or sedentary. The members engage in a variety of activities.

The club organized a self-defense workshop, arranged a Halloween party and members attended *The Vagina Monologues*. Members have also found ways to volunteer for events that assist the underprivileged.

"We've volunteered for Habitat for Humanity," Bradbury said. "It was the first habitat built by a group of Highline students."

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that specializes in bringing families, volunteers and resources

together in order to help build simple, decent, and affordable houses in low-income areas.

"We put in drainage pipes, removed trees and we put shovel after shovel of gravel around the house," she said.

The sense of joy and purpose from helping those in need was all the payment the members needed.

"It's weird. The amount you get back is so much more than what you gave," Bradbury said.

Their altruism doesn't end there. The members plan finding ways to minimize waste and helping financially struggling students at Highline by building a food compost and food bank; a few of the many steps the members intend to take in order to succeed in their mission of leaving Highline a better place.

"For me as a non-traditional student, my life experience influences my priorities and how I view the world around me," Bradbury said. "The time I have here on this earth is finite and I want to make the most out of it."

"To me, leaving a place or person in better circumstances than I found it is a way to give back to this world. Highline has given so much to me and others like me. My way of showing how much I appreciate this place is to help Highline continue to improve for the next generation of students," she said.

Meetings will start again at Winter Quarter. For more information, contact Bradbury at lippazanna@students.highline.edu and Primer at vanessaprimera@students.highline.edu.

Concerned students shed light on racial profiling

By Cris Romero
Staff Reporter

Raising awareness of racial profiling was the goal of students speaking at last Thursday's forum sponsored by the Inter-Cultural Center.

The initial presentation started with a YouTube video of keynote speaker Dalia Mogahed discussing her fears following the attacks of 9/11. She felt scrutinized because of her Muslim heritage. "I don't mind questions, it's the accusations that are tough," said Mogahed.

Ederly Ebeausilien, facilitator of the event, has plans to major in network engineering. Ebeausilien initiated a series of prompts to begin a discussion on the topic of racial profiling.

As students began sharing their experiences and situations where they encountered some form of racial profiling, some

became frustrated.

"There are good people and there are bad people," one student blurted out of frustration over the criticism of police pulling over people of color.

Aby Colmenares said that racial profiling is "prevalent, still around and still uncomfortable." She said she believes that some police are good but that some are also bad.

"We should identify someone by who they really are," said Colmenares.

Highline student Shanessa Prescott-Jennings, who is majoring in psychology, is worried on the potential outcome of racial profiling.

"It's happening. It's real. It's taught me that those that haven't gone through it, don't truly know [racial profiling]," said Prescott-Jennings. The results of the recent elections have caused her to be more ac-



Wangari Muranga/THUNDERWORD

Students discuss the importance and urgency of racial profiling.

tive. She's so far attended five post-election forums.

"It's time to stand up for what is right," said Prescott-Jennings.

Even as time progresses, many still face racial profiling.

Vanessa Primer experienced this when a student she had helped

with over a period of time stopped asking for Primer's help when he found out she is multiracial.

Primer also expressed concerns with this ongoing conversation.

"It makes me sad despite how far we've gotten," Primer said.

She said that the statistics on how many people are racially profiled are "alarming" and that the "big stats" should be focused on first.

"We need to start [change] at home, with ourselves. Practice what you preach," Primer said.

But while Primer is distressed by the prevalence of racial intolerance, others don't seem as concerned.

Ebeausilien is concerned that it doesn't seem to be an issue for some people. He urges folks that as a community, people should love.

"Don't be mad if cops stop you even if you aren't aware of your mistake," Ebeausilien said.

Firs

continued from page 1

recently helped manufactured home owners in Washington purchase parks.

Park bought the property in 2007 for \$4,999,500 and it was recently appraised at \$4,140,000.

He hired a relocation specialist, Kerri Lynch, and offered all owners \$2,000 for the move.

Lynch did not respond to interview requests.

Average sales prices for mobile homes are more than \$25,000.

Many Firs residents are also eligible to receive up to \$7,500 relocation assistance from the state after their move is completed.

The relocation money helps with rental of moving equipment, down payment on a new home, some repairs and light construction related to the move, or demolition of the unit.

"We'll help them get help from the state...to help them get moved," Park said.

Cruz Medina, Firs resident and president of the Firs Homeowners Association, said he and the residents were lost at first, but have now decided to fight to stay.

The relocation assistance would only cover the demolition of their home and a partial deposit on a rented apartment, Medina said.

"[Everyone here] is like a family," he said.

Firs has a small town feel and the residents look out for one another. Everyone works, or goes to school, close by and takes care of their home as if it were a traditional house, he said.

Medina works in the car-towing business and lives in a manufactured home with his wife and two daughters.

"We're ready to fight for our land," Medina said. "We won't accept \$2,000."

Medina and a committee of homeowners are currently working with the Tenants Union of Washington state, an advocacy group that counsels tenants about their rights and helps them organize legal action.

Park is only thinking about becoming a millionaire without a thought toward the consequences for the senior, disabled and undocumented residents who rely on this land, Medina said.

In response to Park's statement that he would sell, Medina said the homeowners would buy the land, but only at fair market price.

If the homeowners could buy the land, they would hire a company to put in traditional homes, he said.

The SeaTac City Council



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Landowner Jong Park plans to replace the mobile home park with a hotel next year. Approximately 60 households will need to relocate.

was advised by city attorneys not to comment on Firs because of an upcoming appeal that was filed by the Firs homeowners.

The appeal is to determine if the Firs closure meets statutory requirements.

The City Council did not respond to interview requests, or declined to comment.

In an Oct. 6 town hall meeting between the SeaTac City Council and homeowners at the SeaTac Community Center, Mayor Michael Siefkes said, "I don't think there's anyone up here that doesn't support you and doesn't feel for you and would try and help you if we could. As far as being able to save the mobile home park in making a change, that's outside of our ability as a city to do."

At the same meeting, Councilmember Pam Fernald said, "Hopefully we can come help you get something. I can't guarantee what."

The landowner, Jong Park, plans to redevelop the land with Hotel Concepts LLC.

He may not intend to sell, said Helena Benedict of the Tenants Union.

She has been working with the homeowners for more than four months in opposition to the hotel development after they had contacted her organization asking for help.

She and the Firs community wrote a letter to Park opposing the development, asking for help, and outlining his neglect of the property.

"We would have to abandon our community, our jobs and our health care," they said in the letter. "Many of us have no economic resources to start over and we would be left homeless with our children."

They asked him to cease development, continue operating the land as a mobile home

community, or seek a buyer that would.

They asked him to meet, but said they haven't had much luck getting him to talk.

Benedict said to the City Council during a recent City Council meeting that she wants SeaTac to be "bold and creative" in their plans to preserve the land as affordable housing.

SeaTac should go on record in support of the Firs community, invite the landlord to a mediation and create a community task force to study future options, Benedict said.

This is the first time the Tenants Union has worked with manufactured housing communities, as they tend to work with renters.

"We were disappointed by the [SeaTac City Council's] rude and dismissive treatment of the homeowners, and your request that we take our signs to Olympia," Benedict said at a City Council meeting.

SeaTac has not given the homeowners the information to engage in the civic process, Benedict said.

This is a regionwide problem that requires a regionwide solution, she said.

Benedict presented the case of Bellevue, in which the city invited a developer to negotiate and preserved a low-income apartment building as affordable housing by contributing \$2 million.

In Renton, the City Council passed an emergency ordinance to protect tenants when a landlord stopped accepting section-8 vouchers.

State Rep. Mia Gregerson, D-33rd district, has been a public supporter of the Firs community and participated in protests that homeowners staged.

She represents SeaTac, Des Moines, West Kent and Bur-

ien in Olympia and was on the SeaTac City Council from 2012 to 2015.

"They are super scared," she said.

Sure the landlord is providing relocation assistance, but this amount is deducted from what the state provides, so the homeowner is left with little money to do anything, Rep. Gregerson said.

The city could supplement the relocation, she said.

"These people will be homeless," Rep. Gregerson said. "There's so much despair."

Ishbel Dickens, an activist and attorney with Columbia Legal Services, has been working with Firs for the past three months after the Tenants Union asked her to get involved.

She has been working on the rights of manufactured housing communities for 30 years.

They have more protections than apartment renters, but they aren't protected from losing all equity in a home after a park closes, Dickens said.

There were a lot of closures in the mid 2000s, then the economy got worse. Now it's picking up again, Dickens said.

Such homeowners tend to be people of color and low income families, Dickens said.

"Transit-oriented development will continue to have an impact on manufactured housing communities. It certainly has at Firs," Dickens said.

"Cities do tend to hide behind the fact, it's the state's problem, it's not our problem," Dickens said. "They could come up with solutions."

SeaTac could enact a zoning ordinance, which jurisdictions have done and have been upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, that would

protect other mobile home parks in the area with a security of tenure, Dickens said. The Manufactured Housing Community of Washington has been the biggest obstacle, Dickens said.

This is a non-profit group that represents landlords and managers of manufactured housing communities in Washington. They brief landlords on their property rights and offer training to managers in rules and regulations, tenant interactions and property maintenance.

"They are a very well organized industry group, and they have lobbyists and money," Dickens said. "They are always trying to deregulate responsibilities and pass more and more responsibilities onto homeowners."

Craig Hillis, executive director of the Manufactured Housing Community of Washington, said he can't think of one case where that would be true, and that his organization tries to work with residents.

"We try to keep [manufactured housing] affordable," he said.

The Manufactured Housing Community of Washington recently supported a change to legislation that would give relocation assistance to manufactured home owners regardless of income.

The previous version stated that the owner would only qualify if the individual or family met the definition of low income.

Hillis said they did this to keep relocation assistance fair for all people regardless of income.

Firs would be a good example of a community that would benefit from this, he said.

The Firs homeowners appeal with the SeaTac Hearing Examiner will take place on Jan. 5.

Wage

continued from page 1

some money left over to deal with any surprises.

The extra chunk of money in the budget ensures that no employees will get laid off or that any major programs will be defunded, Cartwright said.

“We’re just starting to have conversations about it, but I don’t foresee any major or [problematic] changes,” Cartwright said.

She said that the minimum wage hike isn’t a stressing concern, and most employees are focusing on other issues.

“We won’t have any solid information on it until January or February, when we set the new budget,” she said.

She said that by then, conversations about the increase will be more secure and slight changes in the budget will be enacted. However, she does not see any negative impacts coming out of the initiative passing.

The initiative was generally popular on the west side of the state, but all counties east of the Cascades rejected the proposal. Overall it carried by almost half a million votes, racking up nearly 70 percent approval in King County.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Go Figure!

answers

5	×	4	+	6	26
+		−		×	
9	÷	1	+	4	13
×		×		+	
2	+	7	×	3	27
28		21		27	

Holidays

continued from page 1

businesses are open on Christmas Day. Many people like to go out to eat on Christmas but the meals are very expensive. I set up my Christmas tree and decorations two weeks before Christmas, have my kids write Christmas cards and go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus,” Lee said.

Student Jenny Cortez celebrates Hispanic traditions.

“I’m an El Salvadorian that also has some Mexican traditions,” she said.

“Our tradition is to open Christmas presents at Midnight on Christmas Eve,” Cortez said. “A lot of Hispanic cultures do that.”

“My family is Brazilian and we always go to church on Christmas Eve for midnight mass,” said Student Lauren Gomez.

Tristan Hernández celebrates with food and fireworks.

“It is always a big celebration at my house with traditional Colombian food, drinking and enjoying our family,” he said. “Me and my cousins usually light fireworks on Christmas and a few days after.”

David, an Ethiopian student, said he celebrates Christmas on a later day.

“We celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7, because the Ethiopian Church uses the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar,” he said. “Modern Ethiopian families celebrate Christmas as western culture does, with a tree,

by sharing meals, giving presents and by going to church.”

Iraqi student Zainab doesn’t celebrate Christmas in a traditional way due to her Islamic beliefs, but still finds ways to make it a special occasion.

“My son asks me why we don’t put up a Christmas tree,” she said. “We don’t like to do that because it’s not in our religion, but some Muslims do celebrate Christmas.

“Sometimes we’ll get together, and we’ll give each other gifts because we want to. It’s not something we feel we have to do but we want to,” she said.

An international student from Japan plans to celebrate with her boyfriend instead of her family this year.

“In Japan, we don’t celebrate Christmas with our family,” she said. “If you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, you spend Christmas with them and if

you don’t, you just celebrate with your friends,” she said.

Student Lien-Chi Huynh celebrates like many other Americans by going to church with her family, setting up a Christmas tree and playing the traditional white elephant game.

“We all bring Vietnamese dishes like pho, eggrolls and che,” Huynh said.

He and his family also spend Christmas with their ancestors. “We go our grandparents’ grave and bring incense candles then we bow and start praying,” he said.

Highline student Dianell Salinas plans to have a lengthy dinner with her family this Christmas. It has been their tradition to host long Christmas parties lasting several hours past midnight for years.

Kelsey Par, Cris Romero, Jackie Robinson and Dylan You contributed to this story.

Groups sue feds to force Washington to protect Puget Sound

SEATTLE (AP) – An environmental group is suing the federal government to force Washington state to do more to protect Puget Sound from polluted runoff from roads, farms, logging and boats.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday, seeks to force the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to cut funding to the state for failing to protect coastal water quality.

A similar lawsuit by the same group – Portland, Oregon-based Northwest Environmental Advocates – resulted in the agencies cutting \$1.2 million in grant funding to Oregon this year.

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Instructor: Tarisa Matsumoto-Maxfield

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