

Breakfast produces a low legislative turnout

By Matthew Thomson and Peter Brooks
Staff Reporters

Students were set to speak with local legislators at the ASHC Legislative Breakfast Tuesday morning, but only two showed up. Students were instead greeted with presentations from the Associated Students of Highline College.

Nineteen legislators were invited a month ago but only State Rep. Tina Orwall, D-Des Moines, and State Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, made it to the meal. And they didn't stay long.

Iesha Valencia, director of the Center for Leadership and Service, said Rep. Orwall had an emergency phone call and had to leave early. Sen. Keiser had an appointment at 8:30 a.m. that couldn't be rescheduled, Valencia said.

"We're very thankful that they still chose to come," she said.

"The House Democratic caucus had a conflicting meeting that had been scheduled prior (to the student legislative breakfast)," said State Rep. Steve Bergquist, D-Renton, referring to the

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Max Brown

Programs help students succeed

By Izzy Anderson
Staff Reporter

For many students not raised in the USA, learning English can seem overwhelming.

But with Highline's ESL courses, it doesn't need to.

ESL (English as a Second Language) courses are one of three sectors that fall under one program, which are: ESL courses, ABE (Adult Basic Education) courses, and GED (General Education Development) test preparation courses.

For many Highline students, ESL has been a resource to help them better understand English.

"I want to improve my English, speaking and listening," said ESL student Vivian Liang.

And for many, improving their English is one step toward another goal, which is finding work.

"I need to find a new job. If I don't speak English, I won't get a better job," said Alejandra Trejo, a Highline ESL student.

Trejo used to live in Mexico, where she worked as a lawyer.

Since then, she's moved back and forth between the USA and



Samuel Hernandez/THUNDERWORD

Mexico several times.

"I want to find a job later," Liang said.

"Many students have been able to get a job, a better job, or get a degree at Highline," said ESL Instructor Angie Meyer.

"Sometimes students will stay in touch with me after they have

transferred to another school, so I get to hear about the degrees they get after leaving Highline."

Some ESL students have tried learning English for years, but haven't had much success, until now.

"I've had 30 years living in [the] U.S., I tried to study English

• Students come from all over the world to study at Highline. See story, page 3

many times," said student Soledad Hernandez. "I'd go two to three days, I'd quit."

Hernandez said that she has tried studying English at several institutions, but that her current ESL classes have helped her the most.

"Pamela (Pamela Murray, ESL instructor) and Angie (Angie Meyer) ... are one of the reasons I'm still here, I like how they teach," she said. "I like this environment."

Hernandez's situation is a common one.

Many other ESL students did not have the opportunity or time to study English on their own.

Student Maria Diaz has lived in Washington for 13 years, but life was too busy raising her children and working, to pursue learning English.

"I have children, they are teenagers now," Diaz said. "But now, I'm taking time [to learn]."

Learning English has helped her connect to people around her, and better communicate in

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Fundraiser funds meals for children in need

By Jager Dzurcanin
Staff Reporter

A group of Highline students hope to reduce food insecurity amongst children in the community, and give them a better chance at succeeding in school.

Students in State & Local Government class will be hosting a bake sale on Monday, Dec. 3, to fundraise for the Des Moines Area Food Bank and its Weekend Backpack Program.

The Des Moines Food Bank serves the greater Des Moines/SeaTac area by providing food

to those in need, and by getting out into the community with their Summer Meals Program and Weekend Backpack Program to feed impoverished kids.

The backpack program is run by the food bank to provide school-age children with non-perishable, single-serving foods over the weekend.

The bake sale is an annual event put on by Highline students in order to support the backpack program, and has taken place for the last seven

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Samuel Hernandez/THUNDERWORD

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Nathalie Paradise/THUNDERWORD
Public Safety Sgt. George Curtis directs traffic during a drill.

Highline preparing for emergencies

By **Nayyab Rai**
Staff Reporter

Highline is trying to be ready for all sorts of incidents, from clearing campus to completely shutting down for snow.

The drill was to practice directing traffic in the case that the weather worsens later on, and Highline officials decide to close down the campus.

“What we do is assign officer their positions on where they might be needed to direct traffic,” said David Menke, director of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

“We try to make sure that every year, everyone gets a different position, so that if one year, someone cannot make it, someone else can step up and know what to do,” Menke said.

Public Safety plans ahead and makes slight changes to the plan every year.

“When doing this drill, we follow a specific plan; we ask that parents pick up students at the horseshoe drive or in Building 99’s lot. The South lot has a lot of buses coming through there, so we want to make sure that there will not be complete chaos there,” Menke said.

Public Safety does this drill once a year.

“We try to this drill right before the weather becomes worse, so that is why we did it at the end of November,” Menke said.

To make sure that traffic flows nicely, Public Safety Officials are certified traffic officers, he said.

“The Continuing Education classes offer this certificate, so that is where we get it done,” Menke said,

“We have not had any major issues when carrying out this drill, we make slight changes to the plans every year, but nothing significant,” Menke said.

“We may change certain routes for people, for instance, instead of exiting with a left-turn, we might have them take a right-turn,” Menke said.

Public Safety works with Facilities and Information and Technology Services to facilitate the drill, he said.

“We work with so that they know what to do in the case of a power outage or a network failure,” Menke said.

“This way, we are able to handle almost anything that happens,” he said.

In the case that weather becomes truly bad, Highline has set up the HC alert system.

“The alert system is sent out to everyone’s email, all of Highline’s social media except for Instagram, and we broadcast it throughout the school’s speaker system for those who are already on campus,” said Associate Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management Francesca Fender.

“We also make sure to put the announcement on the front page of the website,” Fender said.

To see if campus needs to be closed, Public Safety officials check the news, and make a recommendation to Facilities on whether classes will be delayed or canceled, Menke said.

“Ultimately, it is Dr. Mosby, the college president, who makes the final decision,” Menke said.

“Classes can either be delayed until 10 a.m., meaning all classes prior to that would be canceled,” Menke said.

“We usually have one snow-related event per academic year,” Fender said.

To sign up for HC text alerts, go to <https://hctextalerts.highline.edu/>

Donors needed for Giving Tree

The Women’s Program is looking for more donors for their annual Giving Tree event.

The idea of the program is to help Highline students who are in need of support during the holidays.

“Students from low-income families can come to us and fill out paperwork to get presents for their families,” said Lucy Gakuru, an office assistant in Women’s Programs.

“It takes a lot of money to buy presents, and so we help out so that those students and their families have a good holiday,” Gakuru said.

Students will provide a short list of things that their family needs, and they will be matched with sponsors.

“We ask these students to fill out the paperwork, and write what presents their families might like,” Gakuru said.

Sponsors can be individuals, classes, or departments.

“We sent out an email to faculty so that they could spread the word, and maybe even donate themselves,” Gakuru said.

If you would like to like to become a sponsor, email Maria Toloza-Meza at mtoloza-meza@highline.edu with your name, phone number/email and the number of children you wish to sponsor.

Take aim at flu prevention

Highline will be having a Flu Shot Clinic for students, staff, and faculty.

Everyone must bring an insurance identification card or pay \$40.

There is a limited number of free shots available for uninsured students.

The event will be in Building 8, second floor, Mt. Skokomish.

It will be on Dec. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Get a job for the holidays

Highline is having its annual Holiday Job Fair next week.



Students are able to meet and connect with potential employers and find out what suits them.

Students need to dress professionally and have copies of their resume ready.

The fair will have over 50 employers coming to hire potential students.

Employers include; Kelly Services, Franciscan Health System, Imperfect Foods, and many more.

The fair will be on Dec. 5, Building 8, first floor, Mt. Townsend, and Mt. Constance. It will run 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Talk tigers at the MaST

Highline’s MaST Center will be hosting a tiger talk for students.

The event will feature Dr. Joe J. Figel, a Highline instructor, coming in to talk about his work in Latin America, and how the Sumatran tigers are facing even greater threats of extinction compared to the South American jaguars.

Dr. Figel will also be discussing what his goals are to find science-driven and socially-accepted solutions to help save them.

The event will be at the MaST Center, on Dec. 1, noon to 12:45 p.m.

Microsoft Access class offered

Highline is now offering a Microsoft Access class for Winter Quarter.

Microsoft Access is an information management tool that helps students store information for many different things.

The tool helps analyze large amounts of information, and it manages related data much better than Microsoft Excel.

There are major benefits to learning how to use Microsoft

Access; students will be able to learn how to create a database, how to create forms and reports, using form tools and creating custom forms.

The class is for those who need a Business Technology class.

The item is called BSTEC 170, item number 2387.

The class will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 to 1:20 p.m.

For more information contact Oussama Alkhalili at oalkhalili@highline.edu.

Study abroad for medicine

Students who are pre-med can sign up to go study abroad to Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Croatia, Hungary, and more.

Students will be able to shadow doctors for 20 or more hours per week to get first-hand experience in the medical field they wish to go in.

The program is typically two to eight weeks during school breaks.

For more information, go to <https://atlantisglobal.org/>

To apply, go to <https://atlantisglobal.org/applynow>

Campus Calendar

•Mental Health First Aid

– This event is to help train people how to better identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health. The training is free and open to everyone, but registration is required. To register, contact Continuing Education at 206-870-3785 or online at <https://ce.highline.edu/programs/course/9744B892>

•Fall Quarter Ends – The last day for classes is Dec. 14.

•Math Workshops – Highline is now offering math workshops for students to get help on the math placement test. The session will run Oct. 22 to Dec. 20. The sessions will be held on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m., Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. And Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. No registration is required. The sessions will be in Building 1.

BE A JOURNALIST OR JUST LOOK LIKE ONE

Learn about:

• the campus • the community • and get that second writing credit

- Journalism 101
4199 - daily at 11 am
- Beginning Newswriting J101
4201 - daily at 1:20 pm
- Photo Journalism 105
4203 - daily at 1:20 pm

HIGHLINE
COLLEGE





Jolly Rubin/THUNDERWORD

International Student Programs meet recently to discuss holiday programs, including Erin Updegrave, left, Nga Pham, Anh Thu Ho, Casey Cleary, Mike Gruberg, Ana Morales, and June Stacey-Clemons.

GLOBAL REACH: Highline seeks broad clientele

By Nayyab Rai
Staff Reporter

Highline's international student enrollment is down compared to previous years.

The International Student Program team was a bit reticent in saying why.

"There are about 470 international students this quarter," said June Stacey-Clemons, special assistant to the International Student Programs.

"Last year there were around 600 students," Stacey-Clemons said.

"In America, international students are not allowed to work until after their first quarter, and they need to maintain a 2.5 GPA. They also cannot work off campus," Stacey-Clemons said.

"Whereas in places like Canada, they allow you to work off-campus. Being able to work is just a lot more appealing to the students," Stacey-Clemons said.

"The political issues in the country has also been a huge factor in low enrollment rate all across the nation," she said.

Nonetheless, the team has been working to promote Highline's International Student Program.

"We have eight full-time staff members; four advisers, one recruiter, and three part-time members, all here to help international students," Stacey-Clemons said.

International students come to Highline from all around the world, she said.

"Japan, South Korea, China, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and many others," said Mike Gruberg, program manager.

Gruberg has been working at Highline for about 30 years, and has been a part of the International Program since the beginning.

"We assist them in picking classes and any other needs

they may have," Gruberg said. "We advise them on matters, and refer them to housing options such as Campus View that will be opening in Winter Quarter."

The program actively travels in order to recruit new students.

"We work with international agencies and send our own agents abroad to find and recruit potential students from all around the world," Gruberg said.

"We go to international schools, education fairs, and students can go onto our website and apply online to the program," he said.

International students need to go through certain steps for the program.

"First, they need to visit the website, and contact us with any question or concerns," said Gruberg.

"Second, they need to show evidence that they have reached the English requirements, or they need to go through Kaplan, which is a to help international students with their English."

They then need to fill out an application, and make an appointment with the U.S. embassy in their country. They also need to pay a fee to the U.S. government.



'We have such an amazing diverse student population.'

— June Stacey-Clemons,
special assistant to
International Student Programs

There is also certain documentation that an international student needs.

"Students who come to Highline need a F-2, which is the student visa. They can also bring their family with a F-2 visa. This allows family over 18, spouses for example, to go to school part-time. It also allows children to attend mandatory education," Gruberg said.

"We do not have that many families here, maybe around three to five," he said.

Highline is known for having a good International Program, Stacey-Clemons said.

"We have such an amazing diverse student population," Stacey-Clemons said.

The firsttime international students came to Highline

was in the 1970s, Gruberg said.

"They were from Iran, and Records and Registration were the ones who were in charge of that," Gruberg said. "The International program office was made official in the '90s."

Unfortunately, Highline does not allow domestic students to go abroad through their office, Stacey-Clemons said.

"We can show them study abroad programs at various universities, and we assist them on how to make contacts in order to study abroad," Stacey-Clemons said.

When international students graduate, they typically have to return home, Gruberg said.

"However, they can transfer to different schools, and they can also do something called Optional Practical Training (OPT)," Gruberg said.

"This program allows them to work in the US up to a year after they graduate. They can go to work at places that they plan on specializing in," Gruberg said. "For instance, if a student studied hospitality, they can go work at a hotel during that year."

"International students cannot stay here indefinitely, they need to prove that they are doing some sort of educational activity," he said.

Highline also works to pro-

vide the international students with different activities, he said.

"We have the International Leadership students, who all work together to put on events such as the Halloween Party and the Winter Dance," Gruberg said.

"We want to get them engaged and active within the Highline community," Gruberg said.

International students can also be sent home under certain circumstances, he said. These are usually situations involving low GPA.

"If students get a lower than a 2.0 GPA, they are then put on probation. If it happens again, suspension. The third strike is being asked to leave," Gruberg said.

Gruberg was also an international student.

"I studied in Israel and Mexico, and I loved doing it," he said.

"You can learn so much about the people and culture. People really need to learn more about their neighbors," Gruberg said.

"We get all types of people, from all over the world, and various ages. The youngest we accept is 16, and the oldest we ever had was a 70-something Japanese man," Gruberg said.

International students have a pretty close-knit community, he said.

"We encourage students to talk to one another. We can connect them with alumni from their home countries, and assign them to certain faculty to help with their transition into the United States," Gruberg said.

For more information about the International Student Program, or if you wish to study abroad, visit them in Building 25, fifth floor, or online at <https://international.highline.edu/index.htm>



'We want to get them engaged and active within the Highline community.'

— Mike Gruberg,
program manager

Improving your grades will take some effort

Instead of good grades, aim for better grades. The end of Fall Quarter is just a couple of weeks away. Getting through can be tough, with finals and projects beginning to pile up and the pressure for good grades everywhere. For those whose grades are not great, this is the time to pull what you can together.

Whether high or low, all students are responsible for their own grades through their coursework. Whatever grade you get does not depend on what excuses you give, but rather on what choices you make and the work you put in.

Being responsible for your own education also includes admitting you are struggling and then trying to improve. If you can see that your grades are suffering, there are many ways to try to improve and no shame in asking for help.

Taking the time to talk to your professors, especially if you have a specific question about the class

and grading, is one option to get help with improving your grades. Professors can look back at your work from earlier in the quarter and recommend ways to do better on the last couple of assignments.

While asking for help and looking for ways to improve is great, the last week of the quarter is not the time to give your professor excuses for your behavior earlier in the term. These explanations should have been given earlier, plus sob stories most often do nothing to improve scores.

If you are struggling with course content, consider getting extra help from outside of class. The sixth floor of Building 25 is home to four academic Success Centers; the Tutoring Center, Math Center, MESA Center, and Writing Center. All of these centers offer free tutoring for Highline students. Schedules for available tutors are available on the Highline website.

But while getting help from a tutor can answer some questions, tutoring is not a place to have

others do the work for you. Tutors will help with assignments by offering advice and breaking down concepts, but it is up to you to learn the content and complete your work.

Throughout the end of the quarter, set some of the stress aside and take steps to stay healthy. Health is a major influence on our ability to focus and learn, poor health can cause you to miss class entirely. By staying healthy, you feel better, so you can learn and work better. Between the wet weather, increased stress, and lack of sleep, it is easy to get sick. Frequent handwashing and vaccinations are the best ways to avoid colds and other illnesses.

As everyone is working to wrap up their quarter, these strategies are open to everyone, no matter their grades or courses. Don't give up on classes, especially since it is now too late to drop. Instead, focus on improvement, because even small changes can lead to success.

Summit helps black and brown students share experiences

John Bunn, a man who was voiceless for 27 years of his life due to a failure in the U.S. justice system, hopes now that he has a new-found voice he can help those that find themselves in a similar situation.

His program, "A voice 4 the unheard" aims to give those who may be forgotten by the system hope for a better tomorrow, through correcting the social injustice that is currently present in the U.S. criminal justice system.

At the Black and Brown Summit, where he served as the keynote speaker, he told his story about when he was accused of murder when he was 14 years old.

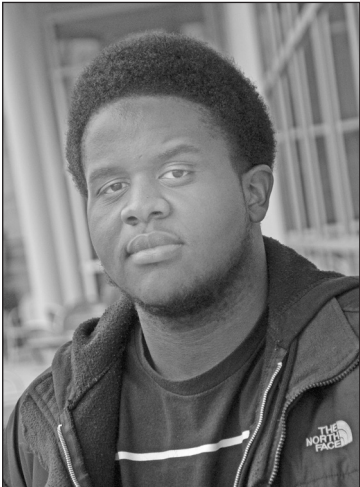
When the police rushed into his mother's apartment, they told Bunn to come with them to the precinct. He headed to the precinct, accused of murder, but Bunn wasn't there when the murder happened. The police didn't believe him, questioning him for 16 hours.

Bunn had no idea what happened and no proof he wasn't there. The police treated him as an adult. He was sent to the detention center while the court made a decision. Bunn was found guilty for the murder of two New York City correction officers in Brooklyn. He was sent to jail in 1991.

Bunn did not have the resources or family support to overcome the wildly inaccurate accusations put on him by the powerful judicial system.

Bunn's mother drank heavily

Moore Thought



Donnie Moore

ily leaving him not wanting to be home due to her behavior while drunk. His father was in and out of his life, and would be there only when he found it convenient. Bunn was an example of a child who should have been cared for by the U.S. system, but instead he was used as a scapegoat, for a crime he never knew of before being confronted by police.

On May 15, 2018 Bunn was exonerated with help from the efforts of the Exoneration Initiative. After all of the evidence was corrected, Bunn's name was finally cleared and tears of joy came to him.

While Bunn's story may be a surprise, that such a gross failure in the U.S. judicial system could go unchecked for some 27 years, it's a lesson many black and brown people learn early, which is you don't have to be guilty to go to jail.

Bunn's story shows what happens when we as a society criminalize blackness in America. For too long we have been taught to associate black people, and especially black men, with crime and wrongdoing.

While Bunn's story is somewhat of an outlier, it is consistent with many trends in the U.S. criminal justice system.

"Nationwide, African American children represent 32 percent of children who are arrested, 42 percent of children who are detained, and 52 percent of children whose cases are judicially waived to criminal court," according to the NAACP.

When put in court settings, black and brown children are made to seem older and more capable of the crime than their white counterparts, leading to them being seen as predators even if they did not do anything wrong. This is something that led to Bunn being seen as a possible murderer when he was only 14 years old.

"Though African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately 32 percent of the US population, they comprised 56 percent of all incarcerated people in 2015," according to the NAACP.

This stat illustrates a reality in which black and brown people are not necessarily more criminal in nature but are targeted by law enforcement more when they do commit crimes. And in Bunn's case, when they do not commit crimes. Stories like Bunn's show us why



Jaylen Green/THUNDERWORD
John Bunn speaks at the summit

events like the Black and Brown Male Summit are so important, giving black and brown students time to reflect on how the world sees them and how they can change that.

The ninth annual Black and Brown Male Summit had a message of "Stronger Together #unstoppable".

Rashad Norris, Community Engagement and Outreach Services Director and the event organizer said, "When you provide spaces where they are able to really sit and listen and communicate and dialogue, and to really feel [the] feelings behind [the] words that their other brothers share, and experiences that their other brothers may be going through and the strategies around getting through

some of those challenges."

When given the opportunity to express feelings, and have the space and support of others who may understand the sometimes-hidden struggles you are going through, can be very powerful. That allows some students to be vulnerable about things that have stopped them from being their best selves and gives them a possible solution of how to overcome it.

"We hope that they understand that they are not alone and at the same time we want this to be empowering and encouraging to move forward through all those challenges," said Norris.

This summit is something that helps students have a chance to explore solutions to some large systemic problems that they may not have created, but will take a great effort to solve.

It allows students to have a beacon of light even when it seems that the social pressures are too much to overcome.

In a world that does not always see you as the person you want to be, but the stereotypes that are too often portrayed in different areas of society.

Events like this can often remind students, that you are more than what someone else says you are. And that you have a chance to shape the world around you for the better, even after it may try to take your voice away.

Donnie Moore is a staff reporter for the Thunderword.

the Staff “ That way you trap the lonely people into reading. ”

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Holiday cheer is all around

• Kick off your holiday fun with SeaTac’s annual tree lighting and Festival Fun Night. The event will be at the SeaTac Community Center Dec. 6.



It will have holiday crafts, and bouncy houses available for children. Santa photos will be offered, the Tye Jazz Ensemble will perform from 5 to 7 p.m. The tree lighting with Santa will be at 7 p.m. The address is 13735 24 Ave. S. For more information call 206-973-4680 or visit seatac-blog.com/2018/11/21/. • Winterfest returns to Normandy Park for the holiday season. This event will be on Dec. 6 at the Normandy Park Market. The first half will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Manhattan Village. It will include carolers, an appearance by Santa, and more. The second half will be at the Normandy Park Towne Center from 5 to 6:30 p.m. There will be arts and crafts, the tree lighting attended by Santa, and more. The Normandy Park Market address is 19805 1st. Ave. S., Normandy Park. For more information visit www.facebook.com/normandyparkwinterfest/.

• The Inter-Cultural Center hosts Poetry Lounge Closing Mic for next week. It will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 4. Performances of poetry, spoken word, music, and more are encouraged. Food and beverages will be offered at the event. Sign up online to perform at this event registration is open until the day of the event. Each time slot is estimated to be for 3 to 5 minutes. Visit bit.ly/Fall18Poetry-Lounge, or visit the Intercultural Center to reserve your spot.

Players will face new challenges

Just Cause 4, published by Square Enix Co. Action-adventure, Single-player Available on Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4, Xbox One. \$60 Standard Edition.



Soaring over the jungles of South America would be a breathtaking view, if they weren’t crawling with mercenaries. This is the fourth installment of the *Just Cause* franchise. The games are named after the US invasion of Panama, *Operation Just Cause*. Players will once again take the role of Rico Rodriguez, an agent of “The Agency,” a secret branch of the CIA. The game takes place in the fictional island country of Solis, which has multiple different environments. It has the largest map to date in franchise history, and has large-scaling cities along with military complexes. Players will be able to glide through the terrain with their wingsuits, or base jump into new areas. The Black Hand is a mercenary group run by Gabriella Morales. They serve the dictators of countries that hire them. Rico will also uncover some information about his father in the hostile country. As players traverse the landscape they will need to be cautious of their surroundings as blizzards, tornadoes, and sandstorms are common occurrences. They can use the weather to



Just Cause 4 will offer players a larger map, wingsuits, and more in the newest addition to the series.

their advantage, to either mask their movement or disrupt enemy activity in the area as they attack. The game comes in three different editions: • The Day One Edition gives access to the full game and any pre-order content if applicable. • The Digital Deluxe Edition, \$70, comes with 24-hour early access, Black Hand Prototype Weaponized Wingsuit, and the Black Hand Stealth Micro Jet. • The Golden Edition, \$90, comes with all the bonuses from the Digital Deluxe as well as the Golden Gear pack (golden skins for shotgun, wingsuit and parachute), and the Expansion Pass containing Daredevils, Demons, and Danger expansions to the game. The game zips into retail stores Dec. 4, so swing over and reserve a copy before it’s too late. • Red and Dead in a team: This week Rockstar will roll out its latest online endeavor for BETA testing and so far, it has not disappointed. The BETA started for some on Tuesday, allowing Rockstar to handle any potential server issues. The online portion to

Red Dead Redemption 2 plays a lot like *Grand Theft Auto 5*, another one of Rockstar’s mega hits. Instead of just dropping players into the countryside, *Red Dead Online* has an underlying storyline that gives a purpose for the character to be there. The main story to the online portion still allows players to choose if they will be fine upstanding citizens or if they will be lawless no-good varmints. It starts with character creation, allowing players to make their gunslinger the way they would like, with preset options. After doing a few mandatory training-style missions and getting some clothes, players are then free to set about the frontier, on their own or with some friends. While roaming the wild west, players will run across wild animals and side missions, which they can complete for money. Large towns serve as a way to sell furs or meat and sell other items not needed, but there is an increase in danger as other players are usually around and looking for a fight. Combat is still as smooth as in the main game and, when

playing with a team, can lead to some funny moments. Players will be able to hog tie other players for a slow execution or just to get them out of the fight. In playing the BETA the arsenal that players can wield makes one feel like a true gunslinger legend. The shotgun is by far the most devastating weapon when you find yourself cornered in close combat. Riding around as a posse on horseback brings back the feeling of starting a biker gang in *Grand Theft Auto 5*. While playing the game it never felt hard to get new equipment, or even a horse, for your character. If a player is feeling like they are being bullied or they are just tired of being hunted, they can enter parlay. This teleports the player away from hostile parties and keeps them from being killed by the other party for 10 minutes. *Red Dead Online* will be available to all players on Nov. 30. The BETA has no current end date, so Rockstar might just go straight into a full release of the online portion once they feel it’s ready.

‘It’s A Wonderful Life’ brings in holidays

By Kelsie Leggett
Staff Reporter

The story *It’s a Wonderful Life* comes back to the stage this December at the Renton Civic Theatre. A Christmas classic, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, has stood the test of time. The film by Frank Capra first hit screens in 1946, and the story written by Peter Van Doren Stern, has since been adapted for the stage by James W. Rogers.

This retelling of a timeless tale is being directed by Vincent Orduna. “It’s a really special story about love that will be told for many years to come,” said Orduna. In the play, protagonist George Bailey reaches a point of such great despair he’s granted a visit by his guardian angel on Christmas Eve. Throughout the story he’s shown how his actions and good deeds have shaped the town around him.

“Though the tale comes from a different time, the morals still stand true,” said Orduna. It’s been compared to Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* for its influence in modern celebrations of the holiday season. “What’s so special about this performance is the message it conveys,” said Orduna. *It’s a Wonderful Life* preaches how important one’s actions can be, and how their love can affect others around them. Orduna encourages those who attend to bring their fami-

lies. “I think this is going to be a really great performance.” *It’s a Wonderful Life* will be performed at the Renton Civic Theatre Dec. 7 to Dec. 22. Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Renton Civic Theatre is located on 507 3rd Street Renton, Washington. Tickets are \$26 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. For more ticketing information visit rentoncivictheatre.org/

Holiday spirit returns to the Ballet



Angela Sterling photo

Clara (Elise Hueffed) and The Nutcracker (Jack Hindocha-Daniels) leave the Land of Sweets in a sleigh.

Pacific Northwest Ballet dances annual holiday classic 'The Nutcracker' at McCall Hall

By Winter Dorval
Staff Reporter

The Christmas season is ushered in by *The Nutcracker* in Seattle.

The Pacific Northwest Ballet's current show will be at McCaw Hall through Dec. 28.

It is based off of the novel *The Nutcracker and The Mouse King*, written by E. T. A. Hoffman in 1816.

The ballet follows Clara, a young girl, who receives a nutcracker on Christmas Eve.

Her uncle gives her the toy, which her brother is envious of, so he breaks it.

After she falls asleep holding the Nutcracker, she dreams that she is the same size as the nutcracker and he comes alive to battle the Mouse King in her living room.

Throughout the dream she travels to the Land of Sweets with the Nutcracker. Once there, he transforms into a human.

In the Land of Sweets they meet the Sugar Plum Fairy, danced by Lindsie Dec, and others from his world.

Clara and her brother Fritz, danced by Elise Hueffed and Josiah Walters, portrayed the mischief and excitement of their characters well.

The Nutcracker, danced by Jack Hindocha-Daniels, was expressive and endearing.

Steven Loch embodied the mysterious and fascinating qualities of Herr Drosselmeier.

Dylan Wald danced The Mouse King with vibrant energy and enthusiasm.

Music by Peter Tchaikovsky was played flawlessly by the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, conducted by Allan Damron.

It accented the captivating and elegant scenic and costume design by Ian Falconer.

The props and set helped

portray the wonder and magic Clara felt during her dream.

Choreography by George Balanchine works well with staging by Judith Fugate with Peter Boal and Garielle Whittle.

Lighting Design by James F. Ingalls helped create an engaging and interesting performance.

The performance had smooth transitions between scenes and a good coordination among the dancers.

However, this frequently semi-static production often left questions as to which characters were being portrayed.

The connections between characters were frequently unclear throughout the dance, along with their relevance to the overall story.

For those who haven't seen the Nutcracker this is a good day's entertainment.

However, for those pining for Maurice Sendack's work, this might not bear repeated viewing.

Show times are Mondays at 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Also, Fridays and Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.

The address for McCaw Hall is 321 Mercer St., Seattle.

Tickets range from \$58 to \$205.

To purchase tickets and for more information visit www.pnb.org/nutcracker/.



Angela Sterling photo

Clara, danced by Elise Hueffed, is presented with the nutcracker by her uncle Herr Drosselmeier, danced by Steven Loch, on Christmas Eve.

Sharpening up



Nathalie Paradise/THUNDERWORD

The Lady T-Birds run for conditioning during a recent practice. They return to action against Shoreline on Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. in their home opener.

T-Birds open season 2-1

By Calvin Domingo
Staff Reporter

Highline’s men’s basketball team started the regular season with two victories out of three games in the Skagit Valley Tournament.

“We have potential, but potential has never won anything. We played really well at times and not so well at others. Hopefully the guys who were sitting out because of academics will be motivated to join what could be a pretty fun, competitive team,” said head coach Che Dawson.

The Thunderbirds began their regular season with a narrow three-point victory against the Peninsula Pirates with a final score of 79-76, at Skagit Valley College on Nov. 23.

Led by a diverse offensive attack, multiple players scored in double digits for the ‘Birds, led by center Tristan Miguel’s 14 points (7-12 from the floor), who also finished with 6 rebounds and 3 blocks.

Guard-forward David Harris and guard Coby Myles chipped in with 11 points apiece while guard Ryder Kavanagh led the team in scoring off the bench with 12 points.

While the T-Birds held the advantage in team shooting percentage and three-point shooting percentage, with 54.5 percent and 45 percent respectively, free throw shooting was a major issue as they finished 9-15 (60 percent) compared to Peninsula’s 12-15 (80 percent).

Peninsula also dominated in second chance points against Highline, 10-0.

“Coach has told us that our identity needs to be defense and rebounding and that second



Nathalie Paradise/THUNDERWORD

Highline men’s basketball run drills during a recent practice.

chance shots not only demoralize a defense, but also gives the offense momentum,” said freshman guard Jordan Purvis.

Going into halftime, Peninsula held the lead, 38-33. From then on, it was back and forth between the two teams.

During the crucial final minute of the game, Highline held a 79-76 lead. The ‘Birds were able to hold on for the hard-fought victory after a missed layup and a missed three-pointer from the Pirates in consecutive possessions.

Following their first victory of the season, the Thunderbirds thrashed BC Christian, an elite-level prep school in Canada, 106-59 on Nov. 24. However, both players and coaches alike were surprised to hear that they were a high school team.

“We didn’t know anything about them. They were really big and long but not incredibly skilled. Our quickness gave them

problems,” said Dawson.

“We thought they were just another team,” said freshman forward Darius Mitchell.

Yet again, the Thunderbirds had a plethora of players contribute in the scoring column, this time with five players scoring in double digits, led by Kavanagh’s 15 points off the bench (5-6 from the floor, 3-3 from the three-point line).

Forward Sammy Hunter of BC Christian, an Ole Miss commit, led his team with 21 points (7-9 from the floor and 5-8 from the free throw line) and 3 rebounds.

BC Christian was completely outmatched, allowing Highline to post field goal percentages north of 60 (34-50 from the floor, 68 percent and 12-18 three-point shooting, 66.7 percent)

However, the ‘Birds once again struggled from the free-throw line, posting a team percentage of 69.6 on 16-23 shooting.

In their final game of the Skagit Valley Tournament, Highline played Skagit Valley on Nov. 25 and took their first loss of the season, falling 96-85.

Dawson took full responsibility for his team’s loss.

“I didn’t do a good job of keeping us focused on how to get the ball inside and how to defend ball screens. I need to do a better job coaching the team,” he said.

Mitchell said that the whole team learned plenty of things in the loss and that there are areas that the team can improve upon.

“We learned how to come together as a team as well as being there for each other because some of us felt as if we didn’t do as much as we should have coming off a two-game winning streak,” said Mitchell. “We took them lightly.”

Guard-forward David Harris led the way for the starters with 20 points, (7-15 from the floor, 3-6 three-point shooting) 8 rebounds and 4 assists while starting point guard Coby Myles finished with 17 points (7-8 from the floor) and 7 rebounds.

Highline struggled from the 3-point line in this game, finishing 5-18 (27.8 percent, compared to a 9-24 effort (37.5 percent) from Skagit Valley.

Purvis summed up the game by saying that Skagit Valley wanted it more than they did.

“Overall, what led to us losing is they worked harder for the 50/50 balls. Overall, we were not mentally or physically prepared coming into the game,” said the guard.

The Highline men’s basketball team plays next against Olympic College on Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in Bremerton and on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at home at 7 p.m. against Everett.

3835
4514

Scoreboard

Women’s Basketball		
WEST		
Team	League	Season
Tacoma	0-0	2-1
Grays Harbor	0-0	2-2
Green River	0-0	0-0
Centralia	0-0	1-2
Pierce	0-0	2-4
Highline	0-0	0-2
S Puget Sound	0-0	0-2
Lower Columbia	0-0	0-4
EAST		
Team	League	Season
Columbia Basin	0-0	3-0
Treasure Valley	0-0	3-3
Walla Walla	0-0	2-1
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	2-1
Yakima Valley	0-0	2-1
North Idaho	0-0	2-1
Blue Mountain	0-0	1-2
Spokane	0-0	1-0
Big Bend	0-0	1-0
NORTH		
Team	League	Season
Peninsula	0-0	3-0
Edmonds	0-0	3-0
Everett	0-0	2-0
Skagit Valley	0-0	1-1
Whatcom	0-0	0-2
Olympic	0-0	0-4
Bellevue	0-0	0-2
Shoreline	0-0	0-0
SOUTH		
Team	League	Season
Umpqua	0-0	4-0
Lane	0-0	3-0
SW Oregon	0-0	3-3
Mt. Hood	0-0	3-3
Linn-Benton	0-0	2-1
Clackamas	0-0	1-2
Chemeketa	0-0	0-3
Men’s Basketball		
WEST		
Team	League	Season
Highline	0-0	2-1
Lower Columbia	0-0	3-1
Centralia	0-0	2-1
Green River	0-0	2-3
Tacoma	0-0	1-3
Pierce	0-0	1-4
EAST		
Team	League	Season
Walla Walla	0-0	2-0
North Idaho	0-0	3-0
Spokane	0-0	3-0
Big Bend	0-0	3-0
Yakima Valley	0-0	1-2
Wenatchee Valley	0-0	3-1
Columbia Basin	0-0	1-3
NORTH		
Team	League	Season
Skagit Valley	0-0	5-1
Everett	0-0	3-2
Whatcom	0-0	3-1
Bellevue	0-0	2-1
Edmonds	0-0	2-1
Olympic	0-0	1-3
SOUTH		
Team	League	Season
Portland	0-0	1-1
Clackamas	0-0	5-0
Lane	0-0	3-0
Clark	0-0	3-0
Chemeketa	0-0	3-1
Linn-Benton	0-0	3-1

Transform your turkey leftovers

Thanksgiving's gone, but the memories linger on -- in the form of leftovers. After having all the traditional Thanksgiving fixings, I always crave spicy foods. I've come to enjoy thinking up ways I can transform the mountain of plastic containers full of a few scoops of this and a mound of that into a new recipe. Leftover turkey combined with Mexican spices makes a great meal.

I love this enchilada recipe because the combination of cumin, chili powder and cayenne pepper completely changes the flavor of the leftover turkey, and it's easy to prepare. If you don't have time to make the enchilada sauce from scratch, use a good quality, commercially made sauce, and add the spices from the recipe to give it a homemade taste.

Serve this dish with a side of Spanish rice and a tossed salad, and you'll have a great meal and a great way to finish off that leftover turkey!

TURKEY ENCHILADAS

- 3 cups cooked turkey, shredded
- 2 cups sour cream
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese, one cup reserved for topping
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin



- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 12 (10-inch) tortillas, corn or flour

- Enchilada Chili Sauce:
- 2 cans (4 ounces each) chopped mild green chile peppers
 - 2 cups chopped onion
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon cumin
 - 1 teaspoon chili powder
 - 1 1/2 pounds stewed tomatoes
 - 1/2 teaspoon brown sugar
 - 1/2 cup water

TO MAKE THE TURKEY ENCHILADAS:

- Using a large bowl, combine the cooked turkey with the sour cream, 2 cups of the cheese, the salt, cumin, chili powder and the cayenne pepper.
- Wrap the tortillas in a clean dishcloth or food-safe paper towels and sprinkle



Depositphotos

Adding spices to leftovers is a great way to enjoy old meals.

both sides with a little water. Microwave the tortillas for 10-15 seconds to warm and soften.

3. Lightly oil a shallow 13 by 9-inch baking pan so that the enchiladas won't stick to it.

4. Place a tortilla on a flat surface. Spoon 2 to 3 tablespoons of the turkey mixture on the end of the tortilla closest to you. Roll up the tortilla. Arrange it, seam side down in the baking pan. Repeat, placing each stuffed tortilla side

by side until the pan is full.

5. Pour the chili sauce over the enchiladas and bake, uncovered at 350 F for about 25 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. Sprinkle with the remaining cup of cheese. Bake for another 5 minutes. Remove pan from the oven and let it set for 5-10 minutes before serving. Serves 4 to 6.

TO PREPARE THE ENCHILADA SAUCE:

- Using a medium-sized

pan, saute the chili peppers and the onions in the oil until the onions are soft, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic, salt, cumin and chili powder, and saute for another minute.

2. Add the stewed tomatoes and the brown sugar, and saute for 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in the water. Turn heat to high and bring the mixture to a rolling boil. Then turn the heat to low and simmer uncovered until thick, about 15 to 20 minutes.

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Old-fashioned treats to sweeten the holidays

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

Christmas Fruit Drops

- 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 cup red candied cherries, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup green candied cherries, coarsely chopped
- 1 1/2 cup white chocolate chips

- Heat oven to 350 F. Grease large cookie sheet.
- On waxed paper, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed,

Good Housekeeping

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 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.

5. 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.

*Each serving: 100 calories, 6g total fat (2g saturated), 17mg cholesterol, 80mg sodium, 12g total carbohydrate, 1g protein.

Impress your family and friends with these red and green striped meringue kisses.

Christmas Kisses

- 4 large egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- Red and green food coloring paste (see tip)

1. Line 2 large cookie sheets with foil. Heat oven to 200 F.

2. In small bowl, with mixer at high speed, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until soft peaks form; gradually sprinkle in sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, beating well after each addition until whites stand in stiff, glossy peaks. Beat in vanilla extract.

3. Place large star tube (about 1/2 inch in diameter) into large decorating bag. To make stripe effect, with artist's paintbrush, and using slightly less than 1/8 teaspoon of each food coloring paste, alternately brush 2 lengthwise stripes of red food coloring paste and 2 lengthwise stripes of green food coloring paste inside decorating bag. Carefully spoon meringue into decorating bag.

4. Pipe meringue, about 1 inch apart, onto foil-lined cookie sheets into rosettes, each about 1 1/2 inches in di-

ameter and about 1 1/4 inches high.

5. Bake Meringue Kisses 3 hours. Turn oven control to off. Leave meringues in oven 30 minutes longer to dry. Cool completely on cookie sheets on wire racks.

6. With metal spatula, carefully loosen meringues from foil. Store in tightly covered containers.

TIP: Food coloring paste is available in specialty stores wherever cake decorating equipment is sold.

* Each serving: About 10 calories, 5mg sodium.

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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. ANATOMY: What are the four lobes of the cerebral cortex?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month is Black History Month?
3. LITERATURE: Which early American author wrote the *The Scarlet Letter*?
4. CHEMISTRY: Which element is represented by the designation Cl?
5. MEASUREMENTS: How long is a lunar month?
6. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust?
7. MUSIC: Who wrote the 1962 song *The Loco-Motion*?
8. GEOGRAPHY: Which

country is home of Great Bear Lake?

9. U.S. STATES: Which state claims to be the *birthplace of aviation*?

10. BUSINESS: What law requires banks to disclose the interest rates on loans?

10. Truth in Lending Act
9. Ohio
8. Canada
King
7. Gerry Goffin and Carole
6. Aluminum
5. 29.5 days
4. Chlorine
3. Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. February
poral lobe
1. Frontal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobe and temporal lobe

Puzzle answers on Page 12

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!

	+		×		15
÷		×		×	
	+		×		16
+		-		×	
	-		×		15
17		15		20	

1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Woodsy home
- 6 Buddy
- 9 Lawyers' org.
- 12 Russian pan-cakes
- 13 "— -la-la!"
- 14 CSA soldier
- 15 Big name in porcelain
- 16 Expression of regret
- 18 Find
- 20 Flightless flock
- 21 E.T.'s transport
- 23 Previous night
- 24 Wherewithal
- 25 Tatters
- 27 Robin Hood's missile

- 29 Tiers
- 31 Big river
- 35 Helicopter part
- 37 Bygone times
- 38 Go around the world?
- 41 Wager
- 43 Table scrap
- 44 Gaucho's weapon
- 45 Antenna
- 47 Green field?
- 49 Amorphous masses
- 52 Reggae-like music
- 53 Tiny

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
			18			19				20		
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
				35			36			37		
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- 54 Dutch city, with "The"
- 55 NYC hrs.
- 56 "Acid"
- 57 Secret rendezvous

DOWN

- 1 "NCIS" ailer
- 2 Jungfrau, for one
- 3 High school science course
- 4 — -European
- 5 Family girl
- 6 Straw hat
- 7 Lasso

- 8 Discoverer's cry
- 9 Scent
- 10 Started
- 11 Big canyon
- 17 Maneuvering room
- 19 Sailor's "Halt!"
- 21 Cyber-address
- 22 Air safety org.
- 24 Mid-May honoree
- 26 Soap opera, e.g.
- 28 Harder to find
- 30 Deteriorate
- 32 Fauna study

- 33 Bobby of hockey
- 34 Trawler need
- 36 Followed orders
- 38 Not just chubby
- 39 Ice cubes, slangily
- 40 Swell
- 42 Snug
- 45 Census data
- 46 Winged
- 48 Fly-by-night?
- 50 Clear the tables
- 51 Collection

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Arian penchant for impatience shows, as you consider passing a problem-prone project on to someone else. Best advice: Stay with it and work out those snarls yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Even patient Bovines can be frustrated when carefully made plans go awry. But crank up that "stick-to-it-ivity" you do so well, and you'll soon find that your schedule is back in sync.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your aspect favors using more resourceful means in dealing with a workplace situation. Some discreet checking around could help shed light on the root cause of the problem.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You show an unusually strong streak of stubbornness in rejecting suggestions from friends and/or family members early in the week. But you become more receptive by the week's end.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) The Big Cat might find a gentler approach more effective when dealing with those who



resist needed changes. Remember, the word "persuasion" starts with the sound "purr."

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sep. 22) A disappointing experience with someone you felt you could trust can be painful. But there just might be more to this situation than you're aware of. Press for an explanation.

LIBRA (Sep. 23 to Oct. 22) Changing your views about something you believe in isn't easy. But you might reconsider as the facts come in. Keep your mind open, even if you're uneasy about what you might learn.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might have to do some serious shifting of gears to get your project back on track. But cheer up. Your hard work starts to produce some positive results by the week's end.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) An unsettling mood

at the start of the week soon lifts and gives way to a more positive attitude as you find fun and friendship beginning to dominate your aspect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) A delay in firming up holiday plans could work to your advantage. Use this time to scout out possibilities that might be more in line with what those close to you would prefer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Some people might question some of the new friends you've welcomed into your life. But your ability to see beyond the obvious helps you recognize how special they are.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Financial matters can be especially tricky this week. It's best to follow a conservative investment path for now, and wait for a more fortuitous time to take a bolder approach.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your warmth, your humor and your genuine concern for others make you someone people love to keep close to their lives.

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Kent mayor addresses budget woes

By Any Chang
Staff Reporter

The City of Kent has been trying to recover from losses caused by a change in state policy.

Dana Ralph, who is the current mayor of Kent, recently spoke at Highline about how the city will have to make budget cuts in order to maintain essential services like police.

Sales tax used to be placed at the source of origin. As a result of the destination tax that was passed by the Legislature in 2008, Kent has seen a great loss in tax revenue.

Destination tax means that the sales tax from products bought from another place would go to where it is being delivered instead of where it is coming from.

The revenue that the city gets comes from property tax (12 percent), sales tax (10 cents a dollar, of which the city only gets 9 percent), and Business



'There is no way to not pay for police or for roads.'

— Dana Ralph,
mayor of Kent

and Occupation tax.

Destination tax really affected the City of Kent because Kent has an abundance of warehouses and they are the ones who ship to other places, said Mayor Ralph.

She said that Kent started out as a farming community, then moved on to being mostly warehouses and has been losing money because of destination

tax.

"Seattle gained, Bellevue gained, meanwhile Kent lost from it," said Mayor Ralph.

The loss has been around \$14 million from the city's budget, which is nearly 10 percent of the budget, she said.

Kent has been receiving \$5 million in mitigation for the loss by the Legislature every year to lessen the severity of

the loss.

"There is no way to not pay for police or for roads," said Mayor Ralph.

With more than 125,000 people, Kent is the third largest city in King County. She said that Kent has one police officer for every thousand people, whereas Bellevue has nearly two and a half.

"We can't have an officer go out for every call. If your car gets broken into and you call they will most likely ask you to file a police report online, which people aren't too happy about, because you want an officer there," said Mayor Ralph.

Police also assist with homelessness so Mayor Ralph said she prefers to not make any cuts in that department. She said some officers specifically go out to connect people with services that they need.

The biennial budget was presented and voted on by the City

Council on Nov. 20 was \$650 million.

The budget covers the general fund which goes toward anything ranging from economic development, and roads, to parks and public safety.

Part of the city's budget goes to subsidize Showare Center. But, the mayor said, it is attracting people to the surrounding businesses including Kent Station.

"If you talk to the folks at Kent Station, they are 100 percent dependent on Showare," she said.

"We look at it as a community asset," she said. "It infuses a lot of money into our economy."

Mayor Ralph said that because every person hired into local government and the departments has to be written into the budget and approved by the council, some people have been laid off as a part of the new budget.

Get help to get covered

By Matthew Thomson
Staff Reporter

People who want to enroll in free or low-cost health insurance can get help every Wednesday at Highline through Dec. 15.

Public Health – Seattle and King County will be on hand every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon through Dec. 15, which is the deadline to enroll in coverage through the Affordable Care Act and Washington Health Plan Finders.

"Our goal for the events is to make sure that anyone who is uncertain about using the webpage to enroll, or has questions about their eligibility or how to choose a plan, can get personal help, so that they don't miss the opportunity to get covered," said Keith Seinfeld, communication officer for Public Health.

Although statistics are unavailable for Highline, Seinfeld said many college students may qualify for free or low-cost insurance.

"Between 20 and 25 percent of UW students are covered through Medicare or Medicaid," Seinfeld said.

Public Health is offering help sessions throughout King County over the next few weeks, and among their goals increase the rates of insured people among minorities and students, Seinfeld said.

"We have dozens of these in-person events. They happen

nearly every day of the six-week enrollment period. We also have partner agencies that offer assistance, such as HealthPoint clinics," Seinfeld said.

The enrollment event features Public Health representatives called "navigators." These navigators set up laptops at HealthPoint Clinics and partnering institutions such as the University of Washington and Highline.

The navigator's job is to help an applicant through the enrollment process, as well as explain the computer interface, and what types of income are going to be included when enrolling, said Seinfeld.

There are 270 navigators across King County at more than 40 sites around King County. The majority of navigators are bilingual and where a navigator works may depend on what language they speak.

Navigators fluent in Spanish are more in demand in South King County whereas Somali speakers are needed more in Seattle, Seinfeld said.

The events take place in cities throughout King County. For those interested in signing up for healthcare, a Public Health official will be available in Building 8 every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon during open enrollment.

To find other enrollment sites closest to you, you can go to www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/locations/health-insurance/coverage/enrollment-assistance/calendar.aspx

To sign up a United States citizen will need a Social Security number, and proof of annual income before taxes.

Immigrants need only bring a passport or Green Card.

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UNICEF helps kids around the world

By Jager Dzurcanin
Staff Reporter

Millions of children around the world are suffering from a lack of education, nutrition, and healthcare, UNICEF Representative Eric Sype said during a presentation on campus on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Sype gave a presentation that covered topics ranging from UNICEF's methods as an organization, their Children Uprooted program, and the current migrant crisis in Central America.

UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children Emergency Fund, and is also referred to as the United Nations Children's Fund.

Thematic areas that UNICEF bases its work around includes HIV/AIDS treatment, healthcare, education, nutrition, child protection, water sanitation and hygiene, and social inclusion.

The organization was initially founded to assist European countries ravaged by WWII, and as the foundation has grown so has its global impact, as UNICEF now works in over 190 different countries and territories.

The Children Uprooted program focuses on the assistance of "children who for whatever reason have to flee their home country," Sype said, be it due to war or violence, a natural disaster, poverty, or persecution.

Though this program is in place all around the world, this division of UNICEF is especially relevant in the current Central American migrant crisis, he said.

Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are where "the vast majority of Central American migrants are coming from," Sype said.

These countries have homicide rates, and general crime rates, that are on par with countries that are in the midst of a territorial or civil war, he said.

Some 50 million children are currently known to be fleeing their country of origin, and while not exclusive to Central America, it constitutes a sizeable proportion of that number.

"This migration has been happening for decades and decades and decades," but it's only being covered by the media in recent weeks, Sype said.

Sype also detailed UNICEF's general goals and methodology, and provided several statistics surrounding the progress they've made in recent years.

"15,000 children under 5 die from preventable diseases everyday, which is far, far, far too high," Sype said, noting that the number used to be somewhere around 24,000.

Preventable diseases are one of the primary focuses of the organization, and many of their programs include free vaccinations and medical treatment.

"UNICEF vaccinates nearly half, 45 percent, of children around the world," Sype said. "It's really important to be able to get these vaccinations to remote communities."

Malnourishment also proves a large obstacle for many of the communities UNICEF works in, and they have several measures to prevent it.

UNICEF focuses on providing the mothers of malnourished children with an ample amount of food and nutrition, because "We know that one in four children in the world are malnourished," Sype said.

Another issue that UNICEF prioritizes is the increasing of access to education in impoverished communities, especially for young girls.

"Around the world, girls have less access to education than boys," Sype said. "All of our educational programs have to be viewed through a gendered lens."

Their "School In A Box" program provides a teacher with a set of educational supplies that is intended to last for a few months of student instruction.

UNICEF will also partner with the teachers of these children, and give them further training on things such as child psychology and teaching practices.

Sype concluded the summarization of UNICEF's operations by presenting the ways they are working to protect children's human rights around the world.

"Everyday, there are children born in remote areas that aren't registered, meaning they are not considered a citizen, and have no rights," Sype said.

UNICEF is working to give remote families access to hospitals, or at least contact with government officials, to ensure that no children are born without their rights.

The organization prides itself on its presence in remote and dangerous places, where the need for their services is the highest and has no political bearing, he said.

"UNICEF is an apolitical organization because a child in need knows no politics," Sype repeated three times during the presentation.

In regards to the Central American migrant crisis, Sype expressed his personal belief that "the U.S. has a great moral responsibility to do more than it is," whilst making it clear that he was not speaking on behalf of UNICEF in saying this.

Backpacks continued from page 1

years.

"We'll be in the Student Union Building next Monday and we'll be selling homemade baked goods at 50 cents a piece," Highline student Marta Barlow said.

The bake sale will be taking place between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., and will be offering home-baked goods made by Highline students.

"All of the money we get from selling the baked goods will go to the backpack program," she said.

On average, the bake sale is believed to raise approximately \$1,000 for the Des Moines Food Bank every year.

"Most of the baked goods will be sweets, so if people don't want them they can just donate in cash," Barlow said.

She went on to explain that no matter the size of a donation, it would be going to worthy cause, and every little bit can help hungry kids.

The Weekend Backpack Program that these donations would be funding consists of the Des Moines Area Food Bank putting together bags of ready-to-eat items for food-insecure children to take home with them on Friday after school.

The program intends to diminish the amount of children who come to school hungry on Monday morning, whose parents cannot afford to, or are not around to, feed and take care of them over the weekend.

"Right now we're doing 300 - 350 backpacks a week," said Barb Shimizu, associate director at the Des Moines Food Bank. "At the height of the recession, we were doing about 400 - 450."

Shimizu came to Highline's campus on Monday, Nov. 26, to speak about the Des Moines Food Bank's Weekend Backpack Program, and to encourage the bake sale.

The backpack program serves an exhaustive list of grade schools in the Des Moines/SeaTac area, and each school has different protocols for the program.

"It's a great thing with a program like this that we can directly reach the child," Shimizu said.

The backpack program allows the Des Moines Food Bank to assist children in need whose families do not attend their normal services, or any community charity services.

"A lot of times, as young people, we're dependent on our parents," she said, explaining why being able to directly contact the children at their school makes such a big difference.

The main reason the backpack program is so important is because poor children who don't eat well can't learn well, and if they can't learn well, they will grow up to continue to be poor.

"The rate of kids qualifying for free and reduced meals is very high in SeaTac," Shimizu said, noting that the rate is not much lower in Des Moines.

SeaTac has been very enthused about the Backpack Program and what it's doing to assist hungry kids at home, and has asked the Des Moines Food Bank to continue the program.

The program is being revised to be more effective, exploring better options for accessible, transportable, and nutritious food.

"We're trying to find things... that have protein, and that are light," Shimizu said, adding "We're working right now to reduce sodium at the food bank," and in the Weekend Backpack Program.

The Des Moines Area Food Bank accepts cash and food donations from the public, and any interested donors can follow up on their website or during their normal operation hours from 9 to 11:45 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

"The food bank itself serves about 900 families a month, and about 40 - 50 of them identify themselves as homeless," Shimizu said.

Although the food bank accepts all kinds of donations, cash donations are more valuable than food donations.

The reason for this is because food bank staff has the ability to purchase low-cost bulk shipments of food, Shimizu said.

Any donations, whether through the bake sale or through direct means, would go a long way in helping combat food insecurity amongst children and families in the community, organizers said.

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Programs
continued from page 1

her day-to-day life.

“I can speak to their teachers ... I can go to their school and know what they’re saying,” she said.

For student Jhon Thomas, ESL classes were not his first experience learning the language either.

“I’m from Haiti, I taught myself some English there,” Thomas said.

“Before I came here, my listening wasn’t really good,” he said. “I want to increase my language, and I want to learn more.”

Overall, ESL students often also want to connect and socialize better with others.

“I have seen students make friends and develop a community in class. It’s important for students to have a network when they are new to a country,” Meyer said.

“Our ESL students range from 19 to 75 years old. They are adults with fully-lived lives and vast experiences, some traumatic, and some joyful. They just may not be able to express themselves in English - yet,” said Laura Stusser-McNeil, who teaches ESL classes.

These ESL courses offer students several tools to help students better grasp American culture and communication.

“Conversation, pronunciation, reading, writing, and grammar are taught through topics [that are] important to adult students,” Czarina Refuerzo, Workforce education services employee and funding adviser, said.

And breaking down the English alphabet is vital when it comes to learning the language as well.

“Some come from different alphabet traditions, so learning to decode and write in English is a huge step forward,” Stusser-McNeil said.

The ultimate goal of ESL courses is to bridge any gaps that speaking different languages, or coming from different cultures might create, Stusser-McNeil said.

“It sounds corny, but in these times, it really is an honor to be closely connected with people very different than myself and find our shared humanity,” she said.

Oftentimes, students who take higher level ESL and GED classes move on to college-level courses to continue their education.

Alongside ESL, ABE and GED courses continue to help Highline students thrive to the best of their abilities.

The ABE courses are specifically for those who already speak English, but wish to improve their math, reading, writing, and communicative skills.

“[They] are designed to help adults become more self-sufficient, improve their job prospects, [and] prepare for the high school equivalency options,” Refuerzo said.

The GED test preparation courses are geared toward students who would like a little help to prepare for the GED test.

The classes focus on improving the students’ writing, math, and reading skills.

“At the very minimum, earning a GED improves people’s lives by giving them access to better paying jobs, college-readiness skills, financial aid, and personal satisfaction of completing a goal,” said GED Preparation Instructor Shana Friend.

Through these preparation courses, students have found confidence through pursuing their GED and by furthering their education, Friend said.

“Students have been more confident to enter college and had better job prospects directly because of these classes,” she said.

To qualify for these courses, students must not be enrolled in high school, and have not met the educational needs required for high school completion.

Spanish GED classes are also available.

The program has a \$25 tuition fee per quarter for all of these courses.

If students can’t afford this, however, Refuerzo said that the fee could get waived.

“There is a \$25 tuition fee for the quarter, which ... usually will be waived,” she said. “This is another perk that Highline College offers our ABE [and] ESL students.”

ESL class orientations occur three times a week, and GED class orientations happen twice a week. For more on these orientations, visit precollege.highline.edu/ESL.php#orientation.

For more information on ESL classes, call 206-592-3297, or email at abeadmin@highline.edu.

To learn more about the ABE and GED courses, contact abeadmin@highline.edu, or call at 206-592-3941.

For more on the Spanish GED courses, contact Ignacio Sánchez Ramírez at iramirez@highline.edu, or call 206-592-4843.

Breakfast
continued from page 1

House Democratic Caucus leadership elections.

The event was hosted by the Student Government and the Center for Leadership and Service.

Topics were chosen by the Washington Community and Technical College Student Association for their 2019 Legislative Action Agenda.

The ASHC Vice President Chalisa Thompson addressed college and textbook affordability, suggesting prices are too high.

ASHC President Max Brown addressed food insecurity on college campuses. He said that one in every six Washingtonians relies on a food bank or some other type of government assistance to do their grocery shopping.

Louis Ilhrig of Highline’s Justice Scholars Society for Change suggested that previously incarcerated people should have their backgrounds hidden from employers.

“If someone served their time, that should be the end of it,” Ilhrig said.

The agenda is based on

reports from community and technical college students as being their highest priorities for advocacy during the 2018-2019 academic and legislative session.

Students shared their experiences dealing with similar issues mentioned in the agenda for the duration of the event.

During the Q&A near the end of the event, a student suggested that, while Highline appears to be doing well, graduation rates aren’t higher than other schools.

The speakers suggested that promoting student involvement on campus could result in better grades.

Thompson and Brown also encouraged students to e-mail the legislators who didn’t attend, to ask them why they didn’t decide to show up.

On Wednesday, Brown clarified the reason to email legislators was to try to talk to them about the issues from the legislative breakfast that they were unable to attend.

A mystery prize was offered to students at the end of the legislative breakfast who returned to the Center for Leadership and Service with proof of sending an e-mail to legislators.

Go Figure!
answers

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King Crossword
Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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