

The Current

Green River Community College



Green River
Gators
battle for
playoff spot

SPORTS page 11

January 28, 2013 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 5



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Photo illustration by: Dominic Yoxheimer

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Also on the Inside

"Parents have found that whenever a child or teen is in the way or disruptive that it is easier to give them a game to become absorbed in."

Logan Sychtysz Page 9

Ministry of Madness strikes again

Campus improv group learns a lot at their first competition

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

Combine the renaissance time period with the mythical land of Pokémon. Now add ideas from the television show COPS. Next, add a morgue for a non-geographical location. Finally, set it in a situation where the sun has gone out, leading to the world's impending doom. No, this isn't some twisted apocalyptic prediction for some far off future. This is what the Ministry of Madness was given in order to create their latest performance at the College Improv Tournament.

"I think we played a solid game," said Amanda Olsen, one of the Ministry's performers. "I think we worked with our suggestions well. Of course, there are always things you can improve on ... But I think overall we listened to each other and we worked together to come to the solution."

Green River's improv troupe, the Ministry of Madness, took part in its first tour-

namment in Seattle on Jan. 19.

According to Eventbrite.com, the tournament's ticket provider, the CIT is the world's largest improv event in the world. The CIT includes 12 regional tournaments that take place over the course of five months. Last year, it had over 126 college level participants from 115 schools.

For this event, the Ministry designed a completely new game and called it "Professor Whom." The game tells the story of a man with a Ph.D that travels through time and space to save the world. The game's central structure is based on traveling to each dimension suggested by the audience, and then linking them together.

The Ministry learned a lot from participating in this event, especially about their own strengths and weaknesses. Their energy levels are always very high, which creates a form of organized chaos in their shows; this becomes the very center of the entertainment. However, this can also be a weakness, as the tournament has shown

them.

"We need to have varying energy levels," said Jedd Bingham, the Ministry's team captain. "I don't think to succeed in improv you need to have sadness... [I think] that you need to have all the emotions. You need to have low energy, because it makes the high energy really good."

Though the team did not advance past the preliminaries, the Ministry enjoyed taking part in the tournament and viewed it as a learning experience.

"We weren't expecting to win. Not because of our skill level, because that wasn't the reason we were going," said Bingham. "We were going to get out of our bubble, and to see what it is that other performance improv troupes do."

After their experience at this year's CIT, the Ministry wishes to attend future tournaments as well, alongside the monthly shows that they already perform. Their next planned event is a workshop set to take place in April.



The Ministry of Madness improv troupe competed in College Improv Tournament not to win, but to learn.

“We were going to get out of our bubble, and to see what it is that other performance improv troupes do.”

- Jedd Bingham



Michelle Spencer | The Current

This is Can Oner's first quarter at Green River. He moved from Turkey less than a month ago.

Mountains. Snow. Board. Life.

By: Ellice Estrada
Campus Editor

A brisk negative 30 degree wind wrestles with snow on the top of the Swiss Alps. Surrounded by this placid silence, Can Oner stares into the valley below. Here he is quiet, lost in his mind.

Here he is free.

"When I'm snowboarding, I could do it all day, maybe for weeks," said Green River student Can Oner, (pronounced John). "I don't have to go out with friends, I can do it alone because it's something that I really enjoy. The satisfaction it gives me is crazy. It's the greatest feeling."

Can fell in love with the mountains when he was ten years old.

One of his favorite places to go is the Alps in Geneva, Switzerland. A gondola, which is an enclosed car suspended from an overhead cable, transports snowboarders from the ground level and carries them about 10 minutes up the mountain. From there, it's a two hour trip down curvy, steep, twisted slopes.

During one trip in the Alps, Can's snowboard got stuck in some uncompressed snow. His friend, who was ahead of him on skis, stopped to help him. He unclipped his skis, took one step ... two steps ... three steps, then disappeared.

"He went down, I couldn't see my friend. I swear there was nothing," said Can. "He fell in

the middle of two covered trees through really loose snow, so he went down. I pulled him up. I don't know how I did it; in those situation you get a power, something helps you. It's the adrenaline I guess. He hugged me and said 'you saved my life', because if I also fell down there, we could have both died."

Since then, he has competed in several competitions in Switzerland and was offered a position on the Turkish national team.

"My friend took a major break from skiing and was going very fast down a hill. We were snowboarding, he was skiing. He fell a lot and was struggling for 100

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Position: Photography instructor
Alma Mater: Mass. School of the Arts

Gary Oliveira



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

Mr. Oliveira teaches his students how to shoot in both digital and film.

When did you start doing photography?

I started like in high school, I took a photo class, and it was just strange, and I said I wanted to do this. I really didn't know what "this" was. But I just like doing photography creatively. I studied at college, I got a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and then on to a Master of Fine Arts degree, undergraduate at University of Dayton, Ohio and graduate school at Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.

What got you into teaching photography?

I got into teaching because I really liked doing photography from a fine arts prospective. I've done commercial work in my life, I've done portraits, I've done still life and commercial printing. But what I really like doing is creative photography and trying to get my work into galleries and museums and published on that side and so the teaching really fit better because the teaching is a creative environment and not a commercial environment.

Have you had any famous works published?

Well I wouldn't say famous, but I have had work published, a lot in the magazine called The Sun and some other journals like Public Culture

Magazine, and some other academic journals, but mostly The Sun. I had some stuff in The Seattle Times and I have had my work shown in a gallery I belong to called Gallery 1-10, and I have also had my work shown locally in the Seattle Art Museum Gallery.

So you're an art teacher, how do you grade art? How do you put a standard to creativity?

That's a great question; for my

beginning students there is a big craftsmanship component that I outline, so there are measurable things that aren't subjective, like a good focus point, printing an image with good shadow and highlight detail, tonalities that describe the image. You can actually grade the composition and the structure of a print after it has been taught in class, there are measurable things in there, like quality of light. then I always kind of leave that intangible thing in there too where it's

about creativity or vision, but a lot of the beginning classes are about craftsmanship and that's pretty measurable.

Now what about your advance students?

It's more about how well they articulate and illustrate the ideas they are working on, because they work on a project, so we see their work week to week, and I make suggestions and their classmates make suggestions and they can veer from what is standard if they make a good point for it.

Why did you go to Japan?

Well, Green River has a program called Studying Japan, and we have done it for four years now. There is a university that hosts us, and I basically take students from Green River and also from the local community colleges. I get to teach a digital photography and a humanities course that they take and I also teach an arts appreciation course. Like at many colleges, study abroad is a chance for students to take Green River classes in their native language, but get to do it in Japan.

What do you mainly photograph?

I love street photography; my favorite thing to do is wander around and take pictures of what appeals to me, it's a lot of people. Just people on the street, people in the city. I do less landscape and more humans and what they do in the city.

MAN ON THE STREET

What is your New Year's resolution?



EmilyAnn Bachand

"My New Year's resolution is to help people out by doing community service ... it is important to help people."



Lien Nguyen

"I want to diet. I have to take the bus because it's too rainy and too cold here. So, I just balance my food and milk and do exercise at home."



Tristan Lewis

"... I would like to make the national weightlifting team and go to Columbus, Ohio so I can compete at the national weightlifting event."



Mason Knox

"My new year's resolution is to make sure that I get better grades in class because I was slacking pretty bad in the other quarters."

MOUNTAINS FROM PAGE 2

meters or so," Can explained. "My friend who is a professional snowboarder asked me to get help at the bottom of the mountain, I went so fast down the mountain, and a national team was doing practice there. They saw me and asked if I wanted to join the Turkish national team of snowboarding."

After being accepted, Can unfortunately suffered from a major injury that prevented him from joining. Even after hundreds of descents down mountains, still the mountains call him. But one can be deceived by the beauty of the mountains. For within them holds the power to be the passion of one's life, and there also lies the potential to claim it.

"Safety is very important, snowboarding is one of the most dangerous sports in the world. Know your limits, and don't try and show off. Don't snowboard alone if you are an amateur," said Can. "Life is the biggest competition, it's bigger than any sport."

Save a tree!



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Also on the Inside

"The squad is starting fresh this year, with brand new members that have never cheered before and even a few girls from Norway and Sweden."

Keyana Angove **Page 10**



Queens native, Nicholas Howard, performs what he calls urban soul music.

Green River presents: Nicholas Howard

Rising musician Nicholas Howard paves path with West Coast College Tour

By: Laylav Rasheed
Staff Writer

On January 16, 2012 you could hear the brilliant voice of Nicholas Howard, 32, echoing in the Lindbloom Student Center. All eyes were on the lone singer as he played songs from his albums.

However, the talent doesn't stop there for Howard. He grew up in New York with what he considers "artsy-fartsy parents" who supported him in playing the violin at age of six and later supported him in achieving a major in audio-engineering.

At the age of 18, he worked with Nas as an assistant recording artist on Stillmatic, a highly ranked album on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart in 2001. Among other big names Howard has worked with are Pharrell, Joe Budden, and Fabulous. Surprisingly, with such a phenomenal background and experience in hip-hop, Howard finds himself a bigger fan of soul music.

"My favorite male singer of all time is Ray Charles and I saw him at the Blue Note Café when I was about 10 years old and he was incredible."

Being exposed to many of the world's greatest artists and such a variety of genres has brought Howard to label his style of music as "urban soul." When asked why he chooses to expand his genre in so many directions Howard says that as you grow up you want to try new things

to see what works for you and what does not.

Howard's success stems from the amount of hard work he has put toward his passion for music. At the age of 19, Barry Bon Jovi (Jon Bon Jovi's cousin) hired Howard to work at Right Track Recording LLC.

"The first year and a half all I did was make coffee, answer phone calls, and take out garbage for \$5.15 an hour and 90 hours a week, I've told that story to other audio-engineers or kids who want to be audio-engineers and they say 'I couldn't do that.'"

After time passed Howard was given more responsibility and knowledge to begin recording for some of the biggest names in the music business.

Howard continues his own personal path to make it as a singer, currently touring for his West Coast College Tour. When asked why he decided to go from working behind the scenes and into the frontlines, he provided an analogy, "The first people that saw the stars in the sky and started making animals out of it said, 'Oh, we need a way to explain this.' And so my way to explain life is through songs, it helps me and it heals me. It's therapy and it's fun."

Howard's best advice for Green River Community College students who aspire to be musicians and singers is this: "You want it, don't talk about it. Go and do it."

MOVIE REVIEW



No gimmicks, no fluff, Hollywood does it right

By: Laura Gray
Staff Writer



FILMFACTS

DIRECTOR



Kathryn Bigelow age 51

RATED

R

MAIN CAST



Jessica Chastain



Jason Clarke



Chris Pratt

BUDGET

\$40,000,000

RUN TIME

2 hrs. 37 min.

THE GOOD

In *Zero Dark Thirty*, Director Kathryn Bigelow took viewers on an amazing quest: the hunt for Osama Bin Laden.

Jessica Chastain did an amazing job portraying Maya. Maya's need to find Bin Laden and her struggle to do so was obvious in a relatable way to the viewer. Chastain's character was extremely realistic.

The film was written in such a way that it did not demonize anyone. Not the terrorist or any of the CIA or government officials. Every character felt like they were portrayed in a more realistic way than the usual Hollywood fictionalization where characters tend to feel overly dramatized.

The story of *Zero Dark Thirty* has an intense serious tone, but the writers were able to add in some bits of humor to the film. It was not enough to detract from the severity of the hunt and thus made it easier to watch.

THE BAD

The start of *Zero Dark Thirty* is the hardest part to watch. It could be considered distasteful as it consisted of a blank black screen with a montage of phone calls from the victims of 9/11.

This was followed by some extremely brutal scenes. There were multiple scenes of torture and terrorist acts performed by al-Qaida that can be a bit difficult to watch, such as the shooting of innocent civilians.

There were also parts of the movie that were slow and would drag a bit.

The biggest problem with *Zero Dark Thirty* is that it lacks the ability to catch its audience's long term attention. Like required reading for English classes, it'd be a good read for most students but the majority of people are not going to go out to buy it to read again. That is the same feeling that one gets after seeing *Zero Dark Thirty*, it was excellent and engaging, but not worth the keep.

THE VERDICT

Overall, *Zero Dark Thirty* is a brilliant triumph of a film for Bigelow. It is one of those movies where everything worked together beautifully, from the writing and actors to the directing and editing.

Chastain was the correct choice for the role of Maya, and the other actors supported her character extremely well. The casting was spot on for every single character in the film.

The movie felt very realistic in all of its portrayals, which is rare these days for Hollywood. It never felt like any part of it was glamorized, which is a nice change from the majority of Hollywood films.

Despite the fact that the audience knows the final outcome of the story, it was gripping right to the end. This is one of those films that everyone should see at least once in their life.

Makena's Cooking Corner

By: Makena Cayce

Jam Thumbprints



1/2 cup seedless jam of your choice
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. baking powder
12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
2/3 cup sugar
3 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 large egg
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Fill a small zip-lock bag with the jam. Whisk the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda together in a medium bowl.

2 In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar together with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, 3 to 6 minutes. Beat in the cream cheese, egg and vanilla until combined, about 30 seconds, scraping down the bowl and beaters as needed.

3 Reduce the mixer speed to low and slowly add the flour mixture until combined, about 30 seconds.

4 Working 1 1/2 teaspoons of dough at a time, roll the dough into balls and lay them onto the prepared baking sheets spaced about 1 1/2 inches apart. Make an indentation in the center of each cookie with your thumb.

5 Bake the cookies, one sheet at a time, until they are just beginning to set and are lightly browned

around the edges, about 10 minutes. Remove the cookies from the oven and working quickly, gently reshape the indentation with the bottom of a teaspoon measure. Snip a small corner off the bag of jam and carefully fill each indentation with about 1/2 teaspoon of the jam. Rotate the baking sheet and continue to bake until lightly golden, 12-14 minutes.

6 Let the cookies cool on the baking sheets for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack and let cool.

MUSIC MAVERICK



JEREMY SIREGAR

Auto-tune, not auto-wreck

Mankind is always trying to find cheats to achieve what they can't. With Antares Audio Technology's release of auto-tuners in 1997, suddenly sore throats and cigarettes weren't much of a threat to singers anymore. Whether it's a bad-voice day or just being plain talentless, auto-tune provides an alternate escape. After a series of unfortunate events, auto-tune has been shot down with only a select few left to maintain auto-tune's fragile reputation.

Auto-tune is a processing program that corrects the pitch of the audio file. The most common problem for singers is singing off-tune. Auto-tune corrects the mistake by shifting the pitch into the desired range. The result? Perfect "angelic" voices for musicians and artists.

Auto-tune became well-known when the Goddess of Pop, Cher, pioneered the use of auto-tune in pop music. Her song "Believe" (1998) became one of the first mainstream songs to utilize the auto-tune program.

The downfall of auto-tune began when bands and artists utilized auto-tune without finding the balance between the amount of auto-tune that should be used and the kinds of song auto-tune should be used in. Artists like Chris Brown missed the concept of balanced auto-tune completely. Chris Brown sang in auto-tune for the whole duration of his song "Don't Wake Me Up" (2012). The problem is, the song didn't need auto-tune! We know that Chris Brown can sing. His voice is more than adequate to make it in the music business. If he had sung normally, the song would've been easier on the ear. So why the auto-tune? Because, he was getting on board the auto-tune bandwagon that has been abused since the start of the new millennium.

Auto-tune creates a perfectly tuned performance for artists even when the artist may not be skilled enough to deliver the same performance without the aid of auto-tune. This music dishonesty is an increasing problem that significantly annoys me to the core. Lil Wayne is probably the epitome of this problem. Never have I seen an artist like Lil Wayne. His use of auto-tune is nothing more than a gimmick to attract attention. He must thrive on the negative attention he receives.

One does not simply talk about auto-tune without mentioning T-Pain, the King of Auto-tune. Not everyone abuses the auto-tune. Very few artists truly understand the balance needed to produce a well-done auto-tune song. T-Pain (Faheem Rasheed Najm) expanded and made active use of balanced auto-tune in his songs. While some songs like "Take Your Shirt Off" (2009) seem to have been overdosed with auto-tune, it actually complements the song. Meaning the "overuse" of auto-tune is exactly what made the song enjoyable. Like ripped jeans, the holes in the jeans is what makes them stylish.

Auto-tune also has significant influence outside of the electropop and hip hop genre. Metalcore bands like We Came as Romans shows evidence that auto-tune is alive and well outside of its home genre. A few of WCAR's songs like To Plant a Seed utilize the auto-tune effect. At first glance, metalcore with auto-tune might not seem to fit. However, auto-tune did not dominate the song as WCAR used a low level auto-tune effect. The result: balance.

In short, there are only two laws to using auto-tunes, balance and music dishonesty. As long as artists know the boundaries and laws of using auto-tunes, then they are out of the danger zone.

The Current Picks

WEBSITE

Roosterteeth.com



By: Thomas Petersen

Bordering between comedy and action, the web series Red vs. Blue on roosterteeth.com is easily one of the most popular online shows known to any gamers.

Red vs. Blue trails on the backbone of the Xbox game Halo, following the story of a red team and a blue team, stuck in a canyon, bent on destroying each other. As the series progresses the characters find themselves trapped in the middle of a conspiracy spreading far beyond the limits of their canyon.

On a less serious note, the show features characters cracking jokes and trailing the main story of Lenard Church and his search for answers.

MOVIE

Into the Wild



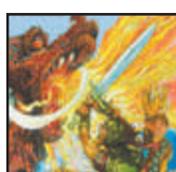
By: Jackson Ross-Lyons

Into the Wild is one of the most awe-inspiring movies that will ever meet a viewer's eyes. This non-fiction story of Christopher McCandless is one that will not be forgotten.

McCandless is a college student athlete and is at the top of his class. Out of the blue, he gives away his savings and possessions to charity, and begins a journey that takes him across the country. Up to the Alaskan wilderness he went. There, he shapes himself with life-changing ideals and morals, leading himself into a new life. This movie is recommended to anyone and everyone.

BOOK

Guard! Guard!



By: Logan Sychtysz

Brace yourself for a wild adventure as Captain Vimes and the small rabble of the City Watch take to the streets of Ankh-Morpork to face a threat like non-other faced before: a dragon.

The dragon has been awoken and unleashed on the city where it made itself king, much to the people's dismay. Vimes and his crew will have to form the strangest group around in an effort to save the city.

Terry Pratchett delivers an adventure that will keep you spell bound and captivated to the very last page as he brings the fantasy world of Ankh-Morpork to life through much wit and humor.

GAMES

FIFA 13



By: Dylan Whitcher

With the latest installment of their videogame franchise, FIFA 13', video gamers can rejoice in something truly new and refreshing.

With smooth gameplay and eerily realistic graphics, even non-soccer fans will enjoy everything FIFA 13' has to offer. What makes the game unique is that skill is required in order to be successful. Unlike in many sport videogames, luck is rarely a factor. Your skill level won't improve without practice.

Try laying down Halo 4 or Call of Duty and challenge your friends in epic matches with soccer fans from all over the world. You won't be disappointed.

the
Undercurrent
news briefs*Student government
heads to Olympia*By: Dylan Whitcher
Editor-in-Chief

Green River's student government will be travelling to Olympia, Wash. on Friday Feb. 1, to attend a rally to discuss statewide budget cuts, specifically regarding education.

All of the states 34 community colleges and technical schools will be a part of the rally. ASGRCC President Ty Somerville is leading Green River and is hoping to get as many as 500 students to attend.

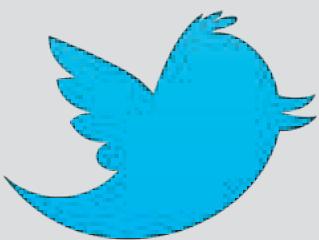
For Somerville, the message is simple, "[the students] are the future; do not cut the solution."

For students interested in attending the rally at the state capital, registration is located at the Student Life office, located upstairs in the Lindbloom Student Center. Registration ends on Jan. 31.

Students do not need to be a part of student government in order to participate. Transportation will be provided by the college and busses will be leaving at approximately 10:30 Friday morning with the expectation of arriving back on campus around 3:30 that afternoon.

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Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

On Jan. 11, President Eileen Ely, staff members of Green River's Campus Safety, and members of the Auburn Police Department met with students to speak about recent crimes and safety.

Crime hits campus

Crime appears to become more prevalent on both campus and Lea Hill

By: Christin Peter
Staff Writer

In late December, after a quiet lunch with his parents, a Green River student returned to his Gentry Walk apartment to find footprints all over the floor and most of his electronics gone. It wasn't the first robbery in the apartment complex that week and none of the items have yet been recovered.

"I felt angry at the time," says the student. "Can you imagine that my apartment was the third one that got burgled in the week of Christmas?"

Crimes seem to be a growing trend both on campus and in the Lea Hill neighborhood, yet the number of crimes have not increased in the last year.

Even though crimes on campus are uncommon, numerous campus safety alerts have been sent to students' in-boxes this quarter.

On Jan. 6 three Green River students were robbed at gunpoint at a bus stop three blocks away from campus. The following day, two cars were reported stolen from campus parking lots P3 and P12.

According to Auburn Police, 10 other cars had been stolen in Auburn within 12 hours of the thefts on campus.

A week later, a Campus Advisory e-mail informed students that

Auburn police received three reports of stolen Hondas in the Lea Hill neighborhood. One of the vehicles was found abandoned on campus in parking lot P8.

"The most common crime is personal property theft, usually in the library," said Fred Creek, director of

Campus Safety.

American School Search gives Green River a C- rating in safety due to the number of car thefts, aggravated assaults, thefts, and robberies.

Green River Campus Safety in alliance with Auburn Police has taken various measures to ensure the safety of its students. Additional safety rides have been made available and additional parking lot patrols have been arranged. Steering wheel locks have also been made available for loan.

"We are looking to install some cameras throughout campus and along the corridors as they approach campus," said Creek. "We are also working on a text messaging where students can text us directly."

Students are urged to travel

in groups and to be alert for anything suspicious. All suspicious activity should be reported to campus safety immediately either in person, by phone, or through a red flag on the security website.

All valuables, whether in a vehicle or on a person, should be kept

concealed at all times. Students are encouraged to use the free campus park-and-ride which has security personnel on site at all times between 7 a.m.

and 4 p.m.

Students have the ability to request a campus safety escort any time they feel the need to. The campus safety office, located in the administration building near P12 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Fortunately for the burglary victim, he insured his apartment ten days before the incident and received compensation from the insurance company. He still feels uncertain of what the future will bring.

"I am sure that this will happen again to another ground floor apartment," he says. "But looking at the incident now, I am just thankful that I had it insured at the right time."

"American School Search gives Green River a C- rating in safety..."

— Christin Peter

STAYING SAFE

BE ALERT for any suspicious persons or activity.

Take the Green River Safety Ride whenever possible.

Walk in groups. Try to avoid walking alone.

Keep cell phones (including ear buds), electronic devices and valuables concealed.

Report any suspicious activity to the Auburn Police (911) or to Campus Safety (253-288-3350)

Credit: Fred Creek

Forestry program receives accreditation

GRCC is one of first two-year colleges to be SAF accredited in United States

By: Matthew Dalos
Staff Writer

Green River's forestry program recently received accreditation from the Society of American Forestry this past December, making it one of the first two-year programs in the entire country to receive such an acknowledgment for the quality of education provided for its students.

Before 2011, two-year colleges were only given recognition, while accreditation was reserved for four-year programs.

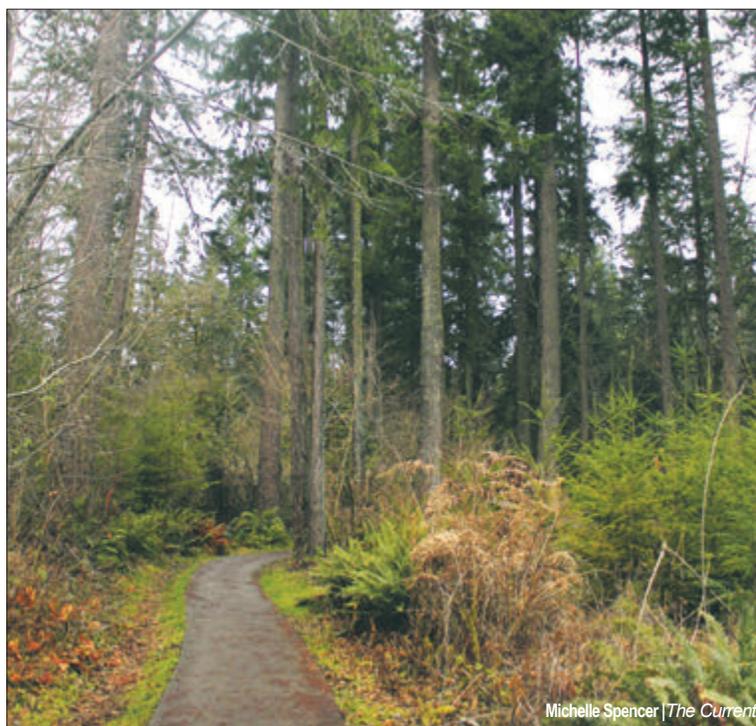
This accreditation means a lot to the roughly 100 forestry students in terms of employment opportunities and options for continuing education.

"Having the SAF accreditation of this program gives them that much more standing to any other

university," said natural resources instructor Dick Hopkins. "We have the distinction of being one of only two undergraduate programs [in-state]. The other being Spokane Community College."

Achieving the accreditation was not easy or quick by any regards. SAF inspectors came in 2011 for a site visit to inspect everything from curriculum and staff, to forests, vehicles, and buildings, and almost everything else vaguely related to the forestry program; nothing was overlooked.

Paula Hopkins, the forest manager, diligently assembled a jam-packed three-ring binder full of necessary data and information on the program from the last few years. The staff had to then attend two national meetings, one in Hawaii and the other in Spokane, to present the accrued



data to prove its quality.

Following the accreditation, the forestry program is not sitting back on its heels for a moment; their next goal is to develop a Bachelor's Degree for Applied Science in Forest Management.

Their great work in caring for

the forests around the college also continues. The Phellinus fungus, the root rot that has killed many trees in the area, enters its eleventh year of study at the college. Important information helpful in fighting the fungus is being discovered continuously.

Green River receives \$200,000 grant

By: Abbie Holmberg
Staff Writer

More young adults in south King County will be shown the value of a college education, thanks to a \$202,244 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant, to be administered by the college, is designed to inform young people about the opportunities and need for a college education.

"This grant will help us and our network of community partners teach students about the benefits of higher education as

College plans to administer money to educate students on significance of post-secondary education

a career pathway," said Dr. Eileen Ely, the president here at Green River.

Ely pointed out estimates projecting 67 percent of jobs in Washington will require a post-secondary education by 2018. Only 22 percent of the South King County region's students earn college degrees or certificates by the age of 24, with significant drop-offs among low-income students

and students of color.

"The College Access Network will serve all South King County students with particular focus on first generation, low income and students of color," said Lindsey Morris, one of the grant's authors.

SKC-CAN expects to serve more than 45,000 students in 27 high schools and 25 middle schools in the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton and Tukwila school districts. This allotment is expected to encourage students, who statistically speaking would not otherwise attend college, get into a degree program.

Auburn welcomes new independently owned animal shelter

By: Kayla Harmon
Staff Writer

The Auburn Valley Humane Society opened the doors to the City of Auburn's new animal shelter on Jan. 1.

It is Auburn's first independently operated shelter in over 30 years. The facility is housed in the former Evergreen Community Center.

On Dec. 28, the shelter held its opening celebration. The event included live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction in honor of the hard work of the charter members, and to

celebrate the new facility.

"The whole purpose of the [event] was to thank the charter members. In a little over a year's time, we raised over \$100,000 and, for a small community like this, that is exceptional," said shelter director Kelley Durham. "I think that shows a lot about how giving this community is."

Since the shelter's conception back in 2010, local veterinarians, councilmen, and concerned citizens have banded together with the desire to provide excellent service to the city's lost, stray and abandoned pet population. These individu-

als made the shelter a reality.

The shelter already has a list of over 300 volunteers, and 50-60 active volunteers currently working at the facility.

Durham also stated that "we hope to be very successful and remain small."

The facility presently has capacity to house 50-70 cats.

The shelter currently only accepts lost or stray animals from animal control, but beginning Feb. 1 will be accepting owner-surrendered pets by appointment.

The center also has been in tentative discussion with local

veterinarians to become a place to hold meetings, as well as to have training for both animal professionals and the public. They eventually would like to hold regional training between shelters.

Still under construction, the shelter has limited open hours: Thursday to Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday to Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you'd like to get more information, get involved or make a donation, you can go to AuburnValleyHS.org or follow them on Facebook.



Campus tobacco ban proves to be very successful

By: Emily Braun
Staff Writer

Only a few people have been caught in possession of tobacco on campus since the no-tobacco policy went into effect on Jan. 1.

"I think since the first, I've encountered, personally, three people smoking and one person with an e-cigarette," said the director of Campus Safety Fred Creek two weeks after the policy took effect.

The policy includes the banning of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco. The ban applies to all areas on campus, such as sidewalks, parking lots, landscaped spaces, and even in vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the college. It is also against the policy for students to be smoking inside their own vehicles on campus.

A primary goal of the policy is to keep the campus clean, so all tobacco products should be discarded appropriately before arrival on campus.

So far, students have mostly been smoking in areas away from campus, and those who were caught smoking were simply reminded of the policy and asked to stop or go somewhere else.

"We've had some challenges with the Metro bus stop, and so I think we have to re-educate the students that the Metro bus stop is a smoke-free area. And basically, the metro bus stop goes from the yellow fire hydrant all the way to the entrance of the Holman Library . . . we've gone over and asked them to move," said Creek.

All in all, the policy has been relatively successful, both in its enforcement and in its effects on the air quality around campus.

"[The campus] is cleaner," said Creek. "We don't have these groups hanging around smoking, and I think it's had a positive impact on the campus."

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If you find that we've spelled something wrong, made a grammatical error, or stated our facts incorrectly, please contact us at:

OEB room 17

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thecurrent@greenriver.edu

It's beyond our guns

The Current takes a stance on gun control

On Dec. 14, 2012, the village of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Conn. had its quiet small-town air pierced by the sound of gun shots. The sharp cracks that resonated from Sandy Hook Elementary school left 20 children dead, six adult staff members dead, and scars in the hearts of many in the small community along with many in the nation.

"As a country, we have been through this too many times. Whether it's an elementary school in Newtown, or a shopping mall in Oregon ..." President Barack Obama said when addressing the nation on the Sandy Hook massacre. "... we're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."

Since the shooting, gun control has been the hot topic in mass media and on Capitol Hill. The Obama administration launched the biggest gun control push in generations, which includes banning assault weapons, restricting round capacity of gun clips to 10 rounds, and background checks on those who want to purchase guns.

The push became a battle against the National Rifle Association and members of congress who are against any form

of gun control. With the subject being so polarized, the fight looks to be a long one.

Now, the question at hand is this: are we putting our energy and funding in the right direction? Yes, maybe day-to-day citizens shouldn't own assault weapons. Rather, there should be specific training and requirements that must be addressed before obtaining one.

In the case of the Sandy Hook shooting, and with most other shootings of this type, the perpetrator is someone who suffers from a mental illness or has endured something mentally traumatizing.

This should raise some red flags.

Are guns to blame for the countless innocent lives lost in shootings throughout history, or is it those who pulled the trigger?

Adam Lanza, the perpetrator of the Sandy Hook shooting, was described as "intelligent, but nervous and fidgety" along with "uncomfortable socializing". It would be easy to assume his actions were backed by some form of mental disorder, but that may not be the case. Yes, Lanza was said to have Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, but we can't say that was the initial reason for Lanza's actions.

"The kind of carefully

planned, violent attack like the killings in Newtown, Conn., on Friday would be out of character for someone with Asperger's," said autism expert Travis Thompson, Ph.D., of the Special Education Program at the University of Minnesota.

We need to stray away from putting all of the blame on our loose gun laws and, yes, we need to invest more of our focus onto mental healthcare. Most importantly though, we as a society need to reassess how we socialize ourselves and our view on guns and violence.

Americans have established and engrained a violent gun culture through our media and it has desensitized us. A gun is often seen as an extension of power in our society, rather than as a tool. With this view, we easily associate guns with extreme violence.

It is inevitable that guns will continue to be used to kill, but it should be with purpose. It should be to defend our homeland or to feed our families, not to lash out in rage or anger.

We as a society have an obligation to mold our future generations and, with this issue amidst us, we must seize the opportunity and realize that the problem is not with our guns, but rather the problem is within ourselves.

Editorial Policy

The Current is a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for the content of the publications. The college acknowledges the dual free purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community. The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the college or student body.

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A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who

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Letters to the Editor

The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of The Current. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.



A word from the chief

Dylan Whitcher
Editor-in-Chief

There were only three seconds remaining, down by two, the chance of victory was quickly diminishing. I was at the edge of my seat as I waited for my idols to take the court. As the buzzer sounded, the only sound remaining was the swish of the net. The team I loved my whole life, just upset the heavily favored San Antonio Spurs, after Ray Allen hit the game winning three point shot.

From that moment on, Allen was my hero. I copied everything he did, wore the shoes he sponsored and bought anything that featured his name.

From childhood, my heroes were the athletes; the ones who could hit a baseball 400 feet, throw a game winning touchdown pass or, yes, hit the miraculous game winning shot. Now, as I grow older, my definition of a hero has changed.

My father has always been there for me; he was at every one of my sporting events, took me to hundreds of games and bought me the items that at the time I so desperately desired.

Sports brought us together, but tragedy has bonded us tightly.

My dad is like many men; after work, he would pop open the occasional beer and take sips until it was finished. Recently however, his drinking progressively became more and more of an issue. The occasional beer after work, turned into the occasional shot of tequila ... then two or three or four. He was slowly becoming dependent and things were getting nasty.

People talk about rock bottom, and how being there is worse than hell. For my dad, rock bottom was when my mother kicked him out of the house. The mere presence of him was too much to handle; he was unhappy and his actions showed it. Something had to give.

Alcohol and the men in my dad's family have never been able to coexist. My father was constantly beaten by his father and I'm sure it didn't start there.

After my dad left the house he began going to alcohol abuse meetings, something he never tried before, but they worked. He has been three months sober and no longer needs the bottle in order to feel fulfilled.

Now, my dad is my hero. He went to hell-and-back, and came out stronger. He did it for me, my mother and to see his grandchild grow up. But most importantly, he did it for himself.

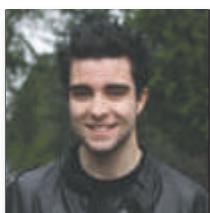
I turn 21 this summer, a fun time in one's life and I am proud to say I will never have a drink with my old man, something I never thought imaginable if you asked me just months ago.

Hitting a monstrous homerun or running at speeds unimaginable are not traits that make you a hero. It's the people who are willing to change for your wellbeing that deserve that title.

For me, that person is my dad and he has provided me with life lessons that I can pass on to my son. The vicious cycle is broken and it's thanks to my hero, my dad.

Ink shouldn't blot out future career options

With the mainstream spread of body art, employers need to accept reality



Commentary by:
Josh Krebsbach

It seems like everywhere you turn people are inking up and getting piercings.

Tattoos and other body modifications are gradually becoming more accepted in our society.

And yet I still wonder if getting body mods will affect my potential to get a job.

Some companies have very strict policies regarding what a person can have displayed and still be considered professional.

On the other hand, some companies are moving forward and accepting workers with some body mods.

I believe that the business world will need to adapt to this large change in the appearance of their future employees or it will be hard to find many new workers under such restrictions.

More people are getting tattoos now than ever before.

It isn't hard to travel 20min. through a populated area and find at least one or two tattoo parlors. You can travel up to the local shopping mall and get any number of piercings and tattoos.

They've become a new fashion statement that can be attained with little work, and a few hundred dollars. I can say that I do find body mods attractive and I am seriously considering some for my future.

However, with the difficulty of finding a job after college, it would seem illogical to hinder one's ability to be accepted for a position.

There may be promise for the future of students with body mods. It seems many companies are adopting policies that are more accepting of certain levels of body modification.

As an example I draw attention to Fred Meyer's policy regarding body modification. An employee is allowed to have tattoos that are not located on their face or neck, and the images depicted cannot be seen as being vulgar or offensive. They also cannot interfere with work safety.

Fred Meyer employees can have a single nose stud, a single tongue stud that does not interfere with speech and they can even gauge their ears. So long as the jewelry is not overly large and is a single piece.

Both men and women are allowed ear piercings with the limit being a maximum length of 1.5 inches.

This policy is a prime example of forward

thinking.

It allows for a much larger acceptance of the population that would be ready to work, but is otherwise hindered by their body mods. Also, it supports more customers who will look well on a company with a more diverse workforce.

Fred Meyers has a policy that I see as being an excellent example of what almost all businesses should adopt.

I say permit body modifications, but set

standards that give some leniency to employees.

It should be made known to employees that they can be asked to cover their tats or remove their

pierced jewelry.

The business world adapts to two main elements; its workforce and its customer-clientele.

Today's youth are making up a great portion of the population and as a college student who is interested in body modification, it is important I know what might hold me back in the work world before I make any permanent decisions.

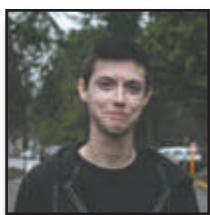
The business world is changing with the worker's but before I run out for a massive or offensive tattoo, I will think heavily on how it might affect my future.

“More people are getting tattoos now than ever before.”

— Josh Krebsbach

BAM! Respawn in three ... two ... one ...

Violent video games have bad effects on mentality for upcoming generation



Commentary by:
Logan Sychtysz

Over time, video games have changed from being simplistic and tame to what society is currently delivering to us; games of non-stop action composed of blood, violence, and profanity.

However, not only has the content of these games transformed, but the take and view on these games has changed as well.

In today's world, video games have become an addiction that has taken over the minds of both parent and child alike.

Looking back, people used to play games maybe a few times a week for an hour at a time. Compare that to today's generation and you can see people playing games for hours on end almost every day.

The sad part is that this obsession is not looked down upon by society, but almost appears to be encouraged.

Parents have found that whenever a child or teen is in the way or disruptive that it is easier to give them a game to become absorbed in. The child then becomes so attached to the game that they are oblivious to their surroundings, to the world and to time itself.

On the flip side, the people playing these games don't see it as being a problem because after all, they are totally content with being in an alternate world where they are more or less in control of their virtual fate.

Game content is also becoming problem.

Major companies have long since assassinated the characters of Pac-Man and Frogger and have replaced them with futuristic Spartans and trigger-happy soldiers fueled by the bloodlust of war and chaos.

These games nowadays are all about killing the enemy with speed, precision, and no emotion. I ask, is this what we should be allowing the young generation to learn?

If someone was to ask a number of children to name the states of our nation

or even half of the Presidents of history, they will find a small number who can answer them. Sadly, if that person turns around and asks those same children how many guns are in a game, the variations of weapons, types of soldiers and maps, and the weak spots on an enemy and you will get a greater response with far more detail and accuracy.

The gaming world has grown to be a system of profit from this gaming addiction.

The people like to play games of killing, so that is what companies offer. Gamers get sucked into the virtual world, the parents don't complain since it keeps the child quiet, and the world quickly fills with people who know more about the false realities than the actual reality they live in.

I say stop, take a step back, and take a look at your own life. The truth is that the false reality of games will not help you in the reality that you are living in. I personally hope that people will realize the future outcome we face is one where all our younger generation knows is how to kill, not live. After all, when we die don't we just respawn?

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"The grant, to be administered by the college, is designed to
inform young people about the opportunities and need for a
college education."

Abbie Holmberg Page 7

School spirit charges onto basketball court

Years of persistence have finally paid off for Green River cheerleading coaches

By: Keyana Angove
Staff Writer

After nearly three years of trial and error, cheerleading has finally taken flight at Green River.

Tryouts for the Green River cheer team were held in October for the current basketball season, bringing in local and out of town cheerleaders. In the past, lack of cheerleaders had been the only roadblock holding back the program. But refreshingly, this winter has started off on a high note.

Eileen Uson and James Wilson, cheer coaches at Green River for three years, are ecstatic to finally get the ball rolling. Uson strongly encouraged a bigger turn out at tryouts by getting the word out around campus and relied on other Green River cheerleaders to recruit new talent.

The squad is starting fresh this year, with brand new members that have never cheered before and even a few girls from Norway and Sweden.

"We're starting from the ground up, building this program," Eileen Uson said.

The Gator's cheer team practices two to three times a week, always working on more creative routines for upcoming basketball games. They're also working hard at conditioning, tumbling and jump drills to ramp up and strengthen their performance.

Unfortunately, being at a community college, it's hard to build a solid foundation for the cheer team because the cheerleaders are only here for two years.

On the bright side, this year's team is more dedicated and determined to get Green River cheerleading on its feet.



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

Cheerleaders take control of the court during their halftime performance.

The team is full of quick learners that can pick up a routine in one practice. They have an amazing commitment level and great attitudes during every game no matter what the scoreboard says.

Marie Svensson cheered in Sweden for three years and now does so for Green River. She has a passion for the dances and performing stunts.

"It's fun," Svensson said. "It's

nice to meet new people and cheer for basketball teams."

An outstanding season with more cheerleaders and more school spirit is sure to come, and they're just getting started.

Kendal Brown brings heat from Alaska

By: Jonathan Sigrist
Staff Writer

Coming from chilly Alaska, Kendal Brown has set the scoreboard on fire for the Gators' men's basketball team as he adjusts to life in Washington.

Brown, a standout at his high school in Anchorage, was drawn to Green River because of both the school and the basketball program. Feeling right at home with the Gators' style, Brown was impressed with the coaching staff, which he described as a diverse and talented group.

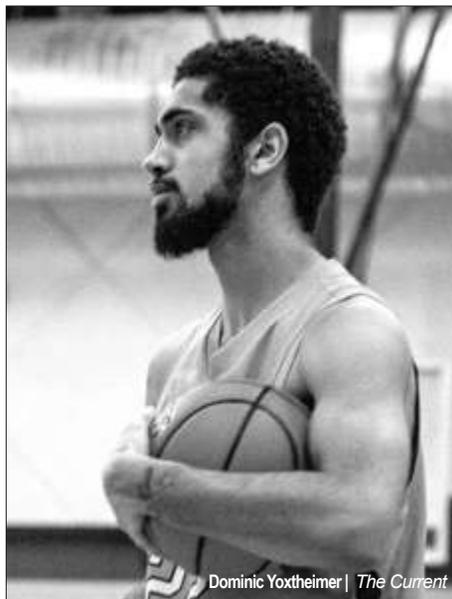
Head coach Tim Malroy and his coaching staff have lived up to Brown's expectations, using the different talents of the team as a unit to light up the court.

"They're all diverse in their own way, and when you put all of them together, it's like a perfect mix," Malroy said.

Towering at 6'5", Brown's scoring has been a big part of the Gators' success this year. He is consistently ranking as one of their top shooters, keeping pace with sophomore Kortney Darby for the title of leading scorer.

When he isn't shooting hoops, Brown is a typical teenage kid. "I play video games, I'm always on the phone. And I'm always hanging out with the team. I'm with one of my teammates 99% of the time," Brown said.

The bond he shares with the rest of



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

Brown keeping calm and collected after a foul

the team has been one of the highlights of playing at Green River. "We're great together," Brown said, "Every game we say 'family' before we leave the huddle. We're just really family-oriented."

As well as promoting the family dynamic, Coach Malroy pushes communication during practice, keeping the team sharp about running plays efficiently when it comes to game day.

Malroy has helped Brown improve his game in all aspects, including his strengths. Brown is an excellent shooter and rebounder and he's become an outstanding team player, but his true passion is sinking shots.

"I just want to be a good teammate. But I'm going to be honest, I like to score," Brown said. "That's what I do most of the time, I just score."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

Kendal Brown facilitates Green River's offense against Clark Penguins.



CARLEY KITZMAN

the current's
CHOICEATHLETE

By: Thomas Petersen
Sports Editor

"Playing basketball was always a family thing, my parents were into it and so was I."

Carley Kitzman started her basketball career in the small, southwest Washington town of Roseburg, blowing the competition from the surrounding schools out of the water.

Beginning at the age of 13, Kitzman quickly climbed the athletic ladder, receiving MVP of the league in her sophomore, junior and senior years at Natselle High School and earning over 1,000 high school career points.

Fresh out of high school, Kitzman was considering going straight into a career in cosmetology without playing college basketball until her best friend, Taylor Woods, convinced her otherwise. Bringing her to Green River and giving her a chance to shine on college courts.

Leading the team in points, rebounds and steals, Kitzman has been more than welcome in the Green River family and is a deciding player in every game.

"I never had a coach I actually liked," Kitzman said, "but I like the way the coach here runs things."

Averaging 11 points per game, and dominating in assists, Kitzman is more than just a one-trick pony. She's done an excellent job of leading the team pointwise but also moving the ball around and diversifying the Gators' offensive style.

"She's here to establish herself as a college basketball player," athletic director Bob Kickner said. "I think she's doing a really good job of it."

By: Kidane Menker
Staff Writer

After a grueling 31 point defeat to Pierce College, the Green River men's basketball team ended their two game losing streak with a win at Grays Harbor last Wednesday.

The 86 to 45 wallup against first place Pierce may have been the wake-up call the team needed as they set their sights on the NWAACC playoffs.

On Wed. Jan 23, the Gators travelled to Grays Harbor to take on the last place Chokers.

Behind Kortney Darby's 21 points and 12 rebounds, GRCC ended their two game losing streak and remain in playoff contention.

The Gators tenacious defense crippled their opponent, holding them to a mere 55 points.

"We play a different brand of defense in our league," head coach Tim Malroy said. "We are still a work in progress but I like where we are headed."

The Gators are not a one man show, they rely on all nine men

GATORS READY FOR PLAYOFF PUSH

With only eight games remaining, Green River will use a defensive minded approach as they battle for one of the last playoff spots.

in order to win ballgames. Carrying a mix of young bloods and veterans, this year's team as a whole is beginning to grow into their own, becoming better and better as the season goes on.

"We're definitely not a superstar squad, everybody likes to pitch in offensively," Malroy said. "...our two guards Emanuel Carter and Nate Jones set the

tempo for us defensively by putting pressure on the other teams guards."

When talking about the Green River Gators you must mention big man Darby, with his ability to score in the paint at will along with his tenastic rebounding intensity, it's no question where this team gets their attitude. With Ken-

dal Brown averaging almost 13 points a game, and 4 other players averaging 8 points a game it's clear to see that the teams chemistry is growing by the game.

Malroy is ambitious regarding his team's future, but he's also passionate about his players' futures. The head coach of men's basketball has always done his best to get his athletes as far as they can go sports-wise and academically.

"There's definitely potential for all our sophomores to play at the next level," Malroy said. "Ideally I want my players to move on with an AA and play for a four year school."

All in all this team is a fun bunch that can only go up from here.

Coming at the division stacked on defense and offensively ready to fight, this Green River Gators squad will have no trouble handling the rest of season.

With only eight games remaining the team is only a half game back of a playoff spot.

WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

MENS

Pierce	6-1	.857
Tacoma	5-2	.714
Centralia	5-2	.714
Lower Columbia	5-2	.714
Green River	4-3	.571
Highline	3-5	.375
Clark	2-5	.286
South Puget Sound	1-6	.143
Grays Harbor	1-6	.143

WOMENS

Centralia	7-0	1.000
Lower Columbia	6-1	.857
Clark	5-2	.714
Tacoma	4-3	.571
Highline	4-4	.500
Pierce	3-4	.429
Grays Harbor	1-6	.143
Green River	1-6	.143
South Puget Sound	1-6	.143

BASKETBALL

How to write a strong personal statement

Every good university application is supported by a strong personal statement.

Each student has a grade point average and most have standardized test scores, but neither of those truly reflects who they are. More and more, universities are looking beyond numbers and have adopted a holistic application review process to find students who will not only succeed at their school, but contribute to a diverse population.

The personal statement is an applicant's chance to convey how they will be a vital asset to a university's student body. At the University of Washington in Seattle, a university that adopted the holistic review process, there has been a dramatic increase in students running for student governments and more students joining clubs and becoming activists since adopting the system.

The personal statement is your way to prove to a university that you have value; don't disregard it as a small aspect because, for those who don't have great statistics, it is a last stand.

1. Tell a story

Think in terms of showing or demonstrating through concrete experience. One of the worst things you can do is to bore the admissions committee. If your statement is fresh, lively, and different, you'll be putting yourself ahead of the pack. If you distinguish yourself through your story, you will make yourself memorable.

2. Be specific

Don't, for example, state that you would make an excellent doctor unless you can back it up with specific reasons. Your desire to become a lawyer, engineer, or whatever should be logical, the result of specific experience that is described in your statement. Your application should emerge as the logical conclusion to your story.

3. Find an angle

If you're like most people, your life story lacks drama, so figuring out a way to make it interesting becomes the big challenge. Finding an angle or a "hook" is vital.

4. Tell what you know

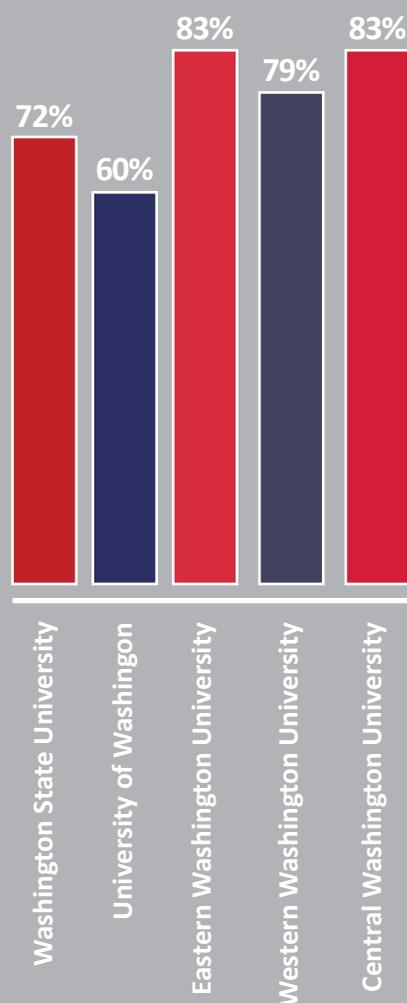
The middle section of your essay might detail your interest and experience in your particular field, as well as some of your knowledge of the field. Be as specific as you can in relating what you know about the field and use the language that professionals use in conveying this information. Refer to experiences (work, research, etc.), classes, conversations with people in the field, books you've read, seminars you've attended, or any other source of specific information about the career you want and why you're suited to it.

4. Write well and correctly

Be meticulous. Type and proofread your essay very carefully. Many admissions officers say that good written skills and command of correct use of language are important to them as they read these statements. Express yourself clearly and concisely. Adhere to stated word limits.

Personal statement tips from: [Purdue OWL](#)

Transfer acceptance rates



All statistics and dates were gathered from the admissions offices of all the universities listed.

Application deadlines

Washington State University	Jan. 31
University of Washington	Feb. 15
Eastern Washington University	Feb. 15
Western Washington University	Apr. 01
Central Washington University	Mar. 01

Tips for transferring

1. Decide when to transfer

Many four-year colleges and universities give priority to students who want to transfer with an AA degree or 90 transferable credits. So, unless you need to transfer just after or during your freshman year, it is suggested that you finish your first few years to have the best chance at admission.

Also, for many colleges, if you apply with less than 45 credits (30 for most schools on a semesterly system), your high school grades will carry more weight in your admission decision. If you are wanting to use your college GPA to show how strong you are academically and you did not do well in high school, finishing your degree in community college will be most beneficial.

2. Research before you transfer

Do research on both your major and your prospective school. Choosing a major can be difficult for many and is a decision that can affect your life significantly. If you invest time in potential majors, especially early on, you will be better prepared to form your academic track. Many majors require prerequisites that need to be satisfied in the first two years of a four-year track. If you decide to be a chemistry major at the time that you transfer and haven't taken any chemistry classes, you may be set back a year.

If you decide on your major early in your college career, you'll be able to focus more on which school would best suit you. Many schools have an emphasized field of study within them, and getting a degree from a school with a more renowned program will make you a more valuable asset in the job market.

3. Start applying to colleges early

If you send in your applications early on in the application window, you will be able to concentrate on your studies instead of pressing deadlines. Furthermore, many schools send out their admissions decisions in waves; getting your application to them sooner will allow you to find out their decision earlier on.

It's time to

Transfer