

The Current

Green River Community College

Oksana Carlson runs for a reason

A mother's passion for running resurfaces, allowing her to embolden herself and her children

SPORTS page 11



October 15, 2012 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

I WANT YOU



Pages 6 & 7

TO VOTE

CAMPUS page 2

Welcome day sets tone for upcoming year

Hundreds of new students filled the Lindbloom Center and learned about the numerous clubs and groups the college has to provide.

A&E page 4

Students act in A-list film

Drama club members from Green River have a once-in-a-lifetime experience on the set of One Square Mile.

OP-ED page 8

First presidential debate gives Romney edge

Was it Romney's confidence and power at the podium that won over viewers of this season's first debate?

NEWS page 10

Green River deemed military friendly

The benefits and recognition that veterans and military personnel receive at GRCC earns media recognition.

Stay Current

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The Current on Facebook and Twitter:www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrentwww.twitter.com/thecurrentnet

Also on the Inside

"This team is very physically gifted and probably the best volleyball athletes that I've ever had in seven years at Green River."

Febby Mulia Page 12



Welcome day sets tone for upcoming year

With a new school year beginning, many groups and clubs attempt to 'wow' new students

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

Starting at Green River can be an overwhelming experience. Many new students that are experiencing the campus for the first time are unfamiliar with all of the resources that are available for them. Where do you get information on how to pay your college tuition? How do you get information on specific clubs and programs? Where do you go if there is an emergency on campus? With this many questions, there must be answers available. This is where Green River's Welcome Day came in.

Green River's Student Leaders held Welcome Day 2012 on Sep. 20 to assist the college's newest students

in preparing them for this upcoming academic year.

Student Leaders chose "Western Carnival" for Welcome Day 2012's theme, entertaining an estimated 300 new students with a variety of decorations and activities. A photo booth was also open for use, including lassos, cowboy hats, mustaches on sticks, a hay bale and more. This casual atmosphere allowed students to feel more comfortable interacting with new people.

Michael Tuncap, the Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, took the stage during the speech session of Welcome Day. Tuncap spoke of diversity and its value to the campus. During his presentation, he sang a Guamanian song about the

feeling of being out at sea for months, then seeing land. He, then, called a volunteer onto the stage and concluded his performance with a native New Zealand dance.

"I was very happy with the way everything worked out," Ti Hayes, leader of the preparations, said. She felt that Tuncap's presentation was the event that made the largest impact on the students who attended.

After his presentation, Vice President Deb Casey stepped up and led the "Gator Cheer" before releasing the students to their various educational sessions. A total of twenty-one sessions were held by the numerous groups and clubs from around the campus.

Welcome Day gave new students a taste of the many

happenings around the campus, along with answers to specific questions. Student Government, Disabilities Support Services, Campus Corner Apartments, and the Green River Community College Foundation are only a few of the many groups who hosted information tables.

The college radio station, KGRG FM, is another of these organizations benefiting from the event. According to DJ Cole Clark and AM Program Director Kenny Griffith, the radio station attracted many people to their booth. The table handed out pamphlets and gave tours to the new students. They also received donations, giving souvenirs to all those who contributed. The attention drawn to the radio station was also



Students anxiously wait in line for the Welcome Day's educational events noticeable when they saw an increase in their number of listeners.

Welcome Day came together with the combined efforts from both students and staff. Everything was set up with the combined efforts of the college's student organizations, including previous Student Leaders.

Coming to Green River doesn't have to be hectic or stressful, thanks to the campus' Student Leaders. Welcome Day is designed specifically to help students with their transition to a new college campus and to ensure that students are familiarized with the campus and what resources it provides.

Teacher Spotlight: Ajay Narayanan

Full name: Ajay Narayanan
Department: Physics
Age: 45 years
Years at Green River: 12
Hired as full-time in 2000

What did you notice about the difference in teaching methods in India vs. the U.S?

In India, I'll say from my own experience, a lot of the learning was learning for the exam. You took an exam at the end of the year, and your entire progress was assessed from one exam. After coming to the U.S, I learned about inquiry based learning, student centered learning where students are the focus and they learn by doing things with their hands. I would say, even about 20 years ago in the physics teaching community, there was a lot of opposition in doing things the inquiry based way, simply because it takes so much time. But, I would say in the last 5 years, that has completely reversed. A lot of people are now stressing that teachers be able to do inquiry based teaching. I have to say Green River has always done it this way because we had a teacher named Marv Nelson, after whom this building is named (The Marv Nelson Science Learning Center) and he was a leader nationally in that way of teaching, especially in the 2 year college community. I had no idea Green River had this history, I just stumbled into this place. I had the experience of doing that with my mentor at the University of Arizona. I came here, and I found the same situation. I was lucky.

What is it about physics, and the scientific side of things, that drew your attention to wanting to study the subject in the first place?

Going back to grade school, I just loved anything that had to do with the sky, the stars, astronomy. So, that was my draw that drew me into science, but then you start seeing the broader picture and I like physics, I like chemistry, and somewhere along the line things



started to fall into place. So, I got into physics. So, I've done my trainings mostly in physics and astronomy.

In what ways do you feel being a teacher in your own classroom is different than being a teacher aid, or having a collaborative class?

If you teach at a large institution, like a 4 year college, you have a lot of freedom, but you do have to coordinate with other instructors. There's a set curriculum that you have to cover. What I've found is, at Green River, you have more freedom to design your curriculum, gather materials, you know. Tell your own story.

What are some things you have learned about students and/or yourself over the years of being a teacher?

What I learned about students, I think I'll be specific about Green River, and that is teaching at a community college you have to be aware. I've learned that our students have very complicated lives. We have veterans, we have family members of veterans. We have students who come to me sometimes with stories about their

houses being foreclosed. We have a mix of students and their academic abilities. We have people who are well prepared, people who can go very far and have gone very far, and then we have students who are first generation college students, and they've had limited opportunities. So, just knowing that there's that population, understanding that, and I didn't always have that understanding. My first teaching experience was at a 4 year college, the population was different. At a community college, the two year college, that's way different. So, just getting that awareness has helped me deal with situations in class better. Knowing where they come from helps me help them.

How were you able to develop your teaching style?

You might have heard this. People say to be an expert in anything, you need 10,000 hours of training. I don't know if its been 10,000 hours. So it's a building process, but, im getting there I suppose.

What is the best part about your job?

The best part is going to

graduation. I haven't missed a single graduation during my time at Green River, and I want to keep it that way. Seeing some students who've had a really tough time at home and you know they've come to you for help and then they go to the graduation and they come give you a hug. That's great. It's the most rewarding thing. You can ask any teacher on campus and they'll tell you it's the best feeling, going to graduation.

In what ways do you encourage students who may not understand the materials as quickly, or may have difficulty in your class? How do you approach the situation?

If a student doesn't understand things one way, you can figure out another way to do it. So, its really important to have that. What I often do is if a student isn't getting something, I will go grab something off the shelves and show them, and that works. So, having the freedom to do things several ways is great. One thing I try and encourage students to do, and I'm sure this works for most people, is to talk to their own peers. Because, I might use some technical language, but when when you talk to your own friends, and people who are your peers, they explain it in a way that you understand. So, that's a technique that works for a lot of students.

In your eyes, what is the most important part about student teacher interaction in the classroom?

I'd say that expectations have to match what the student expects of the teacher. What the teacher expects of the students, that should be clear. It takes a few weeks for that to be clear, even though on the first day there's a syllabus and the teacher says 'here are my expectations.' Through practice, if that expectation is clear, I think things work out. So, I think that the most important thing is to set expectations, and know the expectations. Both ways.

Man on the Street

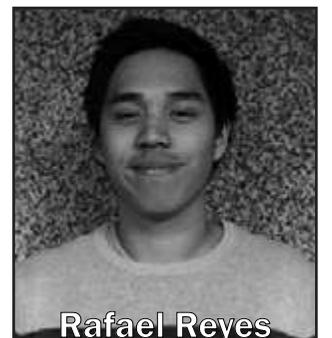


What has been the biggest adjustment in coming to college?

For me, I think the biggest adjustment was the pronunciation of words. I study under the British syllabus. So, to pronounce things in English is difficult. There was this time when I came home to my home-stay and I tried to say, "You can't do this," but instead said, "you [vulgarity] do this."



The biggest adjustment is definitely being independent. [You] have to go home all by [yourself] either by taking the bus or by car, if you have one that is. I had to buy ingredients from the supermarket because I needed to cook my own lunch and dinner.



You see a lot of it is now that you're in college; the responsibility is on you. You have nobody nagging you about when to turn in your homework. The teachers are here to do what they need to do. So, the biggest thing I would say is the responsibility of the students.



The biggest adjustment since I arrived here is the culture because, back in my home town in Indonesia, it is totally different from America. For example, despite the fact that there are Asian restaurants here, it's still not the same as what we have at our hometown.



Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at:

thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Concert Calendar

Oct. 15	<p>Andras Schi @ Benaroya Hall (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$25-\$119)</p> <p>Suicide Commando @ El Corazon (Doors open at 9 p.m. 21+, \$15-\$20)</p>
16	<p>Reel Big Fish @ Showbox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$55+)</p> <p>Rosie Flores @ Sunset Tavern (Doors open at 9 p.m. 21+, \$8)</p>
17	<p>Brother Ali @ Neumos (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$15)</p>
18	<p>Taking Back Sunday @ Showbox at The Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages \$25-\$28)</p>
19	<p>Switchfoot @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$21.25+)</p>
20	<p>Two Door Cinema Club @ Showbox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25-\$28)</p> <p>The Maldives @ Neumos (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$13)</p> <p>Collie Budz @ Showbox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25-\$28)</p>
22	<p>Alesana @ El Corazon (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$18-\$20)</p> <p>Bobby Previte's Silent Way Project @ The Triple Door (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$7-\$14)</p>
24	<p>Snow Patrol @ WaMu Theater (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$29.50-\$70)</p> <p>Mayor Hawthorne @ The Neptune (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$18-\$20)</p>
25	<p>Curtis Eller @ Columbia City Theater (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$10-\$12)</p>
27	<p>All American Reject @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25-\$30)</p>
28	<p>All Time Low @ El Corazon (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$20-\$23)</p>

MOVIE REVIEW

Looper bends both time and minds

By: Meghan Collin
Staff Writer



Imagine a world where time travel is possible, you're a hit man, and there is a possibility for you to change the future... your future.

Looper creates a suspenseful sci- thriller that fuses the concepts of Inception and The Terminator. Director Rian Johnson does a masterful job constructing a puzzling film that takes place in the past, present and future.

Both Willis and Gordon-Levitt play Joe Simmons, but from a different age. Younger Joe (Gordon-Levitt), is a street savvy outlaw who depends upon no one. Willis' character, the older and wiser version of Simmons, is experienced, jaded, and determined to change the past with his edgy banter and anticipated actions scenes.

Simmons works for the futuristic mob as something called a "looper." His job is to kill and dispose of the bodies that are sent to him from the future. The catch is that he must shoot his older self from 30 years in the future to "close the loop" and tie up loose ends.

Lost yet?

Things seem business as usual until his older self actually is presented to him, and he hesitates (wouldn't you?). Young Joe is now left with the dilemma of killing his older self and sealing his fate, or letting him live and changing his impending destiny.

The action throughout the movie keeps your heart pounding and gives you everything that is promised. Willis is in his usual rare form and delivers a stellar performance. Gordon-Levitt, The Dark Knight Rises star, is just as spectacular as he matches Willis' mannerisms to a tee.



Joseph Simmons (Bruce Willis) is forced to protect his younger self (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) from a barrage of bullets after meeting him in a diner to discuss his intentions.

The acting is great, but the real surprise and delight of this film, however, are the mind bending twists which keeps the audience guessing until the end.

Johnson's attention to detail is impeccable from his choice of weapons, to the careful unfolding of how time travel is possible and how it might be used to go back and change what could happen in the future.

Grab some popcorn and invite your friends, you're going to need someone to discuss this thriller with. This movie provides action, suspense, and leads to discussions that you will have long after the movie is over.

Rated: R

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis, Emily Blunt

The Current Picks

VIDEO GAME

WOW: Mists of Pandaria



By: Rachel Sant

Marking nearly eight years since the original game's release, Blizzard's World of Warcraft has aimed to please with their newest expansion, "Mists of Pandaria."

The latest addition to the popular online multiplayer brings plenty of new content. This includes a new race of Pandarens, the new Monk class, and the release of the continent of Pandaria. Players can now also reach level 90, rather than the original cap of 85. Player vs. Player content and Dungeons have been also been added, as well as the newest concept of Pet Battles.

All in all, I recommend World of Warcraft: Mists of Pandaria whole-heartedly.

MOVIE

The Sweetest Thing



By: Meghan Collins

Everyone has that "go to" movie for movie nights. The one that you can watch over and over again and it never fails to keep you giggling, crying, or mouthing the words in sync with the actors. Mine is *The Sweetest Thing*.

When Christina meets Peter, just for him to disappear the next day, she goes on a quest to find and prove that true love does still exist. You are taken on an entertaining adventure with hilarious banter and occasional music numbers. Get ready to snuggle into your coziest blanket and prepare to laugh until your stomach hurts.

BOOK

Super Human



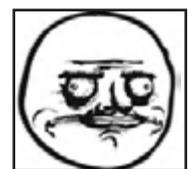
By: Jeremy Siregar

The world's first Superhuman emerged 4,000 years ago. With his superhuman powers, he conquered the known world and united them under his name, the Fifth King. Forty centuries later, a band of newly discovered Superhumans are the last defense against the return of the Fifth King.

Michael Carroll's "Super Human" gives the term ass-kicking a whole new meaning. Each action scene is filled with intense fighting that is not cliché. Don't expect to be bored by literature perfection. However, "Super Human" is the perfect book to feed your desired appetite for exhilarating action.

WEBSITE

9gag.com



By: Feby Mulia

Home to the troll face, me gusta, and thousands of other user-uploaded internet memes, 9gag.com is a social media website that is bound to amuse its users.

9gag lets its users upload, comment and vote on image or video posts. Popular images would appear in the 'Hot' page, while other uploads might end up in the 'Trending' or 'Vote' page. The website is tagged 'Just for Fun!' and has a sole purpose to provide just that.

So, if you're looking for a quick and fun way to 'derp around' the internet, then this is the perfect website for you.



Students act in A-list film

Five Green River drama club members cast as 'extras' in *One Square Mile*

By: Michelle Spencer
Photography Editor

In the upcoming major motion picture, *One Square Mile*, five students from Green River Community College were fortunate enough to be a part of the movie making experience.

Film makers were searching for the perfect house to film the set, and happened upon Green River's Transportation Program Director, Judy Brendan's rental home. She agreed for them to film the scene at her house. Soon after, she discovered that the film maker was interested in including international extras on the set. She saw this as a perfect opportunity to ask if students from Green River would be an option.

"I needed to do this for them," Brenden said, "It took one month of convincing, but I did it."

Brenden approached the film club to see if any members would be interested in participating in the film. Founder of the film making club, Jiajin Song, then agreed and chose other members to join her. When the filming finally started, hundreds of people were there to play as extras. Many of the extras did not want to stay, and, though the students were not paid, they stayed the entire time. They did not want to miss the opportunity to participate on a real movie set. The scene was held and shot over a duration of 12 hours, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The crew filmed all night and blared loud music until it started disturbing the neighbors.

"Since we only got to pick five people, we picked the most dedicated people in the film club," said Song. "We were only in one scene of the movie. The scene is about a party and we were all pretending to be drunk kids. We had to pretend to be having an awesome time."

During the scene, the extras were supposed to be dancing along to music, but there was no actual music playing. The main characters in the scene were talking and the music would have been louder than their voices. Since they didn't play any music, the students had to dance without it.

The five students also had their hair and makeup done before they shot the scene. They were given different clothes from the ones they had shown up in because what they were wearing didn't go along with the theme of the set. The scene is supposed to take place at a Summer party in California.

"We had to wear short shorts because we were girls partying," Song said. "But it was freezing outside and we still had to act like we were having

a good time. We were not allowed to wear jackets or anything."

The five Green River students arrived early to the set and, before the film director started shooting, the cosmetic aspects of their outfit were completed.

When they were finished in makeup, they were able to observe some of the set. They also got a glance at some of the advanced equipment used for filming. Song expressed how helpful this experience was.

Song has been a part of movie productions before. However, this was her first time on a major motion picture set.

"I got to see what a really professional big

production is like," said Song. "And it's so different from what I'm used to. Everything is divided and everyone has their own work, and their work is much more specific."

The movie is a fast paced emotional drama directed by Charles-Oliver Michaud and starring Cam Gigandet and Kim Basinger. The plot of the movie centers on a deprived teen seeking a better life for himself.

The students briefly spoke with the director, and got a picture taken with a famous cast member.

"I got to meet one of the lead actresses, her name was Analeigh Tipton," said Song. "She was really sweet."



Cam Gigandet plays a main character in the *One Square Mile* Production.

Resurrection of a lost genre



Fun with **FEAR**
Diandra Hassan

Survival horror games have diminished into mere action games, but the future of the genre might still be rescued by the emergence of considerably impressive indie horror games.

Ever since *Resident Evil* was launched in 1996, survival horror games such as *Fatal Frame* and *Silent Hill* have been thriving and catching attention from the media up until the early 2000s.

Most horror games of previous generations offer the complete package of frightening elements: the darkness that causes feelings of paranoia, feelings of isolation, and the fear of the unknown that haunts you until the very end.

Regrettably, that golden era has ended. Survival horror games that were launched in the mid 2000s have shifted their focus and borrowed elements from the action genre. We are in the transitioning era where many mainstream survival horror games now utilize reflexes, shooting, and occasionally melee combat. Although there are some good survival horror games, such as *Alan Wake*, there is a loss of the original horror feeling. Recent survival horror games also focus too much on the audio and graphic factors, which can take attention away from other elements that truly scare us, including essential aspects such as twisting plots and eerie atmospheres.

One such example is *Resident Evil 5*. While it wasn't truly awful, critics argue that it wasn't as frightening as the previous generations of the *Resident Evil* games. Returning to the franchise once again is Chris Redfield as the main character, who is accompanied by Sheva Alomar. The graphics and the action in the game were satisfying. Similar to the classic *Resident Evil* game play, players are still faced with the terror of surviving hordes of zombie-

like enemies. Unfortunately, the game doesn't live up to its name. It has lost the gripping scare that was prominent in the past.

However, survival horror games might still redeem themselves as there has been a rise in indie horror games that has attracted attention. PC games such as *Slender* and *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* claimed their fame through word-of-mouth and reviews from fellow trusted gamers across the net. The two games share features of overwhelming darkness and a feeling of helplessness. For example, in *Amnesia: The Dark Descent*, the character would often have little equipment, rendering the player almost defenseless. The only course of action the player can take when he encounters

"It has lost its gripping scare that was prominent in the past generations of survival horror games."

Diandra Hassan

a monster is either to hide or run. The setting of *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* is horrifying; imagine being trapped in a very dark castle alone and you are unable to attack the encountered unknowns. In fact, these elements add the feeling of uncertainty and the long lost excitement of survival horror games.

It should be noted that the graphic qualities in indie games are considerably less decent than most mainstream survival horror games on the market. Glitches often occur and occasionally affect the game play. Nevertheless, the experience from the game will leave you astounded, and the "jumps" won't leave you disappointed.

It seems that survival horror has been revived through indie games, but does that mean there might be another golden era of survival horror games? Considering the rise of indie horror games, its gradual return is surely inevitable.

ASGRCC Presidential Election!



David Sungmin Chae

do much more good as Student Body President. This year however, Chae's main objective, if elected, is to get more involved with as many groups as possible.

Green River has many clubs, groups and organizations and Chae sees these groups as "a place of opportunity," to not only get more involved, but to actually get to know students on a personal level.

After speaking with many students as a bylaw last school year, Chae was "shocked" by the fact that very few students on campus knew Green River had a very diverse, very educated student government.

Another main goal for Chae is to improve campus safety.

Chae plans to start conversations regarding the rugged roads students have to take in order to arrive here on GRCC's main campus, which, on many occasions, can cause accidents. The old phone booths also need to be addressed. The phone booths located on campus are to call Campus Safety, but according to Chae, there is only one booth that actually works.

Chae's plan to bring awareness to these issues make him a great presidential candidate, and whether Chae is elected or not, he still plans to be involved as a member of bylaw.

David Sungmin Chae, 17, is a graduate of Kentwood High School, who is now in his third year at Green River after taking a year off.

Chae, has plenty of experience from being a member of bylaw all of last year for Green River. He felt he made great improvements on the school and was happy that he was able to impact so many students.

After the year he spent being a bylaw, Chae felt he could

exactly what leadership entails.

This is the start of Dombrowski's second year at Green River and he is a student in the college's welding program with plans on being involved somehow in the automotive industry.

He works in the VA office and believes that gives him another advantage because he hears things behind closed doors that most students aren't allowed to listen to.

Dombrowski is enthusiastic, and honestly cares about, not only Green River, but the students that make this college one of the best in the state. Despite Dombrowski's lack of experience in student government, his ability to communicate, in his mind, gives him an undeniable edge.

Running for Student Body President should be a piece of cake for Dombrowski when you put into perspective that he has served nearly a quarter century in the military. Still, he knows there are challenges ahead. Maybe not the same challenges he faced 20 years ago, but challenges nonetheless.

While he knows there are many problems, many of which that cannot simply be fixed quickly, in Dombrowski's opinion, that is no reason not to try. "It's a process," says Dombrowski. "Things aren't fixed in a day."

Joseph Dombrowski, 40, is a retired military veteran who served 20 years fighting for our freedom. Now, he is fighting for you in trying to become Student Body President here at Green River Community College.

Dombrowski is a people's person in every sense of the word, no matter who you are or what you believe in. His advanced leadership training from his army days gives him a distinct advantage on how to lead and just

Joseph Dombrowski



Who will
you **VOTE**
for?

2012 - 2013

Tyronne Somerville, 35, is a retired army veteran who spent 11 years in the military, three of which being stationed in Germany.

Born and raised in New York, Somerville now finds himself in Auburn, Wash and his main goal is to make a change, specifically at Green River Community College as Student Body President.

Somerville does not have previous experience with the student body, but has been a very passionate student activist both on the east coast and now here at Green River, he is a confident adult who is not afraid of a challenge.

Somerville, who is big in stature has an extremely loud voice, who hopes to give student government here on campus a much needed louder voice as well. "We need a louder voice and representation," Somerville states, who is also looking to "Unify the student body on this campus."

Somerville brings life experience many do not have and leadership skills that are second-to-none. Other than unifying Green River's "voice" Somerville also believes the college does not do a good enough job "promoting" itself, he attended many sporting events last year and recalls seeing a plethora of empty seats each night, no matter the event.



Tyronne Somerville

With his loud voice and by implementing social media there is no doubt Somerville can make a difference on this campus and guide it into a positive direction. He hopes to talk to many students around campus both international and domestic and find out the real problems on campus and how he can fix them.

Somerville plans on transferring to a four year university and wants to major in public administration.

Tika Diagnestya, 17, is an international student who left her home country of Indonesia to study here at Green River Community College in order to do bigger and better things.

Despite her young age, Diagnestya is an extremely passionate and intelligent person who prides herself on hard work. Currently, she is in her third quarter at Green River and is looking to make a change, specifically in student government involvement both on and off campus.

"I want students at Green River to be involved in student government," expressed Diagnestya.

Being an international student herself, Diagnestya has an uncanny ability to relate to all students on campus, whether they are international or not. Her plan post Green River Community College is to transfer to a four year institution with the intent to major in either business or economics. Diagnestya is an intelligent young lady, who believes all students should feel a sense of "community" when they arrive at Green River. A warm family environment can create a happy, learning oriented work place, that can provide students and faculty with all the tools needed to succeed.

Diagnestya would not have this opportunity if it weren't for

her loving parents back home in Indonesia, who gave her the money she needed to start her campaign. With the love and support given from both her friends and family, Diagnestya's confidence is easily noticed.

She plans on staying here at Green River until spring of 2014 and plans on being involved in student government at any level, even if she is not elected as the ASGRCC student body president.

Tika Diagnestya



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EDITORIAL

Smoke and mirrors:
the truth about pot**Editorial Board:** Dylan Whitcher, Shane Lange, Ellice Estrada, Jeremy Siregar, Thomas Petersen, Michelle Spencer

Approximately 300 million people populate the United States. Of those 300 million, about 2.5 million are incarcerated, half of which are in prison due to federal drug offenses; many being charged with "simple possession."

In Washington State, it costs \$50-\$60 thousand yearly to house an inmate. Who do you think pays for this?

That's right. Taxpayers. According to CBS News, it costs taxpayers nationwide roughly \$63.4 billion per year to keep the convicted in jail.

Let's put this into perspective. A high school educator, on average, makes \$60-\$80 thousand annually. Currently, the federal government spends \$62.8 billion in protection services, which include police, firefighters and law courts.

A large portion of those who remain imprisoned were arrested for the possession of marijuana.

Compared to alcohol, the negative effects of marijuana are minimal. Alcohol is highly addictive and, in some cases, has proven to be fatal. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are over 37,000 deaths reported that are attributed to alcohol abuse. The CDC doesn't even have a category for marijuana fatalities.

Actually, marijuana carries many practical purposes in helping people.

In the medical field, cannabis is commonly used to treat and/or prevent cancer, Alzheimer's, and HIV/AIDS.

So, why is it illegal?

In 1930, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics was established with Mr. Henry Anslinger at its helm. Projecting racist and deceitful messages about marijuana through distorted and bias news media, Anslinger declared war on pot. Anslinger presented his "findings" to congress, and, with the help of yellow journalism, pushed through the Marijuana Tax Act, making the drug illegal on a federal level.

Today, the possession of Marijuana is still illegal and is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. This kind of sentence is comparable to those of violent crimes such as a rape and assault.

Just take that in for a second.

Despite pot being virtually harmless and the third most used recreational drug, we still punish people for possessing it.

Here in Washington State, a bill has been proposed and is giving us a chance to progress passed our fallacy filled indoctrination.

Initiative 502 is a law that would hold marijuana

to the same standards as alcohol. More specifically, people over the age of 21 will be able to purchase a limited amount with an excise tax of 25% that will go towards substance abuse treatment, education, research, and healthcare.

With issues such as this being addressed in the upcoming election, we at *The Current* urge those who are eligible to vote to do so.

Possession is a victimless crime and, in legalizing marijuana, the positives greatly outweigh the negatives.

Alongside recreational use, cannabis also maintains many commercial purposes, from the ability to make furniture to clothing, marijuana could play a serious role in the industrial world.

Now, almost a century after the installation of its prohibition, the citizens of Washington State have a chance to overturn this faulty law.

To let this opportunity pass by would allow for more people to be jailed, more taxes to be paid, and for less progress to be made in the innovations of medicine and industry.

So, as a voter, you have a say in what direction your government goes. Legalizing pot in Washington State may not fix many of our problems, but it will point and push us in the right direction. Forward.

responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

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.

Dylan's Letter
A message from the EIC**The Chief**
Dylan Whitcher

A fear of mine is doing something I will loathe for the rest of my life. Being 'forced' to go to work rather than 'wanting' to.

There's a big difference.

Currently, it's 2 a.m.

early Thursday morning; Oct. 11 to be exact. We are not quite finished with the first issue of our paper and I have three classes that begin in a mere seven hours. My staff and I are working vigorously to put out a newspaper that our friends, colleagues, superiors and family will hopefully enjoy. I have gulped a ridiculous amount of coffee, I am elbow deep in stress and haven't had eight hours of sleep in who knows how long.

And you know what? I love it.

I cherish these excruciating, 10 hour shifts in the newsroom, editing stories until I begin feel my eyes start to turn a bright rehydrant red. While this may sound terrible, to me, it is what I was put on this earth to do; To inform my community.

My name is Dylan Whitcher, I am 20 years old and this is the start of my second year here at Green River. I am a student, part-time employee and full-time father. My two year old son, Mason, motivates me everyday and, if it weren't for him, I would not be half the man I am today.

I am responsible, caring and, while I might not be the smartest student, I work hard to achieve the highest results I possibly can.

I am an avid Seattle sports fan, and probably the biggest "homer" you would ever care to meet,

and don't you dare try to test my knowledge.

I am rare in a sense in that I look forward to waking up, sitting down and reading my local newspaper every morning. A part of me wishes I was born 20 years ago, when journalism jobs were plentiful and nearly everyone had a copy of their local daily in one hand and a steaming cup of Joe in the other.

A part of me is terrified that newspapers will be lost in this new found world of technology and that I will be left in the dark, forced to find something else to do with my life, while believing in "expired" technology.

But the more I think about it, newspapers will never leave. They will simply just change and evolve as we head further into the 21st century.

While being born in the 1980's does seem nice, in my opinion, this is the most exciting time to be a journalist. News is constantly at your fingertips, always just one click away. If you ask me what is going on in Indonesia, I could have an answer for you in a matter of moments, and that's very exciting.

As the new Editor-in-Chief, I worked hard to be in this position, and I am damn sure not going to waste this precious opportunity.

I have only a year to leave my mark on this community and I will do everything in my power to make it a positive one. This job will push me to the limit. There are many more sleepless nights in the foreseeable future, many more gallons of coffee to be consumed and I cannot wait.

I know the road ahead of me will not be easy, but nothing worth doing ever is.

I look forward in bringing this community informable and at the same time entertaining stories that this campus, this family can be proud of.

First presidential debate gives Romney edge

Senator Mitt Romney's confident demeanor outshines President Barack Obama's charismatic nature



Commentary by:
Logan Sychtysz

Leading presidential candidates President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney brace for the November election as public concerns over economic conditions deepen.

The economy is without a doubt the main problem for the candidates in terms of future prosperity and well-being for the citizens of America. The economy itself will be broken into sections to allow it to be debatable and so that candidates can make concise points; these

sections being tax reforms, social security, national debt, unemployment, and health care.

President Barack Obama valiantly tries to fight for a second term as President against his main opponent, Mitt Romney.

As both Republicans and Democrats put together their strongest case, both Romney and Obama will find it to be a true struggle to gain a lead over one another.

When questioned about the economy, Obama made it clear that he was confident that his plans were going to make our nation's economy turn for the better. In response to the economic situation, Obama addressed his points in the first Presidential debate on October 3, which were held in Denver, Colorado.

Statements entailing that Obama will put forth his best effort to ensure the people with basic social security benefits will not be cut due to the economic recession.

Obama explained he will provide tax cuts for the middle and working classes as well as set out to enforce clear, consistent rules for the financial marketplace in an effort to protect American families from manipulation.

Obama was strong in these points and was noted to be very confident as he presented his ideas and defended them.

One of the many points that Obama addressed during the debate was the fact that oil companies pocket \$4 billion in deduction annually. Upon addressing this and the federal deficit, he asked, "Now, does anybody think

that Exxon Mobil needs some extra money when they're making money every-time you go to the pump?"

Presenting himself as an equally worthy candidate for presidency, Romney also had a tight and concentrated plan as to how he would help the United States if elected.

Against Obama in the Denver debate, Romney presented his points with bold and unwavering confidence. Points being that he would do the best he can do to ensure to the citizens the long-term solvency of social security without raising taxes, that he would make American businesses competitive in the global economy as well as open the markets abroad in fair and clear terms for American goods and services.

Romney also stated that

he planned to cut federal spending while balancing the budget by reducing the size and reach of the federal government with hopes of returning fiscal power to both the states and the people.

Strong points for what appears to be a strong individual.

Romney also responded to a federal deficit question by saying, "My number one principle is that there will be no tax cut that adds to the deficit."

Although Obama presents a well-developed case, in my opinion, Romney has won a strong foothold that will allow him to pull ahead.

I found Romney's statements to not only be strong, but clear as well.

When speaking, Romney appears to be filled with

great confidence and is very consistent in making sure that his points are heard accurately and that they are the correct information.

However, it is clear that Romney does not always have answers to every question asked to him. Questions involving social security and health care had Romney hesitant on some of his replies.

An important fact to remember, however, is that perfection is achieved by no one. Although Romney may not have all the answers, that does not mean that he won't have the answers in the near future.

Even President Obama himself said that he wasn't a perfect president. Therefore, we should not dismiss Romney so quickly for not having the perfect answers.

Campus tobacco ban is 'unjust'

Many student are punished for what few students do



Commentary by:
James Nguyen

Starting on Jan. 1, the beginning of winter quarter, Green River Community College will become a tobacco free campus.

A local attendee of the college, who chose to be anonymous, believes that restricting what people can and can't do is wrong.

"I don't like the word 'suppress,' but that is exactly what I believe they (the college) is doing to us."

Another student, who also wanted to remain anonymous, believes a smoke free campus has potential to be a good thing, but may be a bit too much.

"(Green River) should just keep the people who want to smoke in designated areas and enforce those specific areas."

In my opinion, having a

smoke free campus, despite creating a safer environment, can cause a sticky, controversial situation. The people who rely on cigarettes to ease their minds or as a way to relax will no longer be able to. They won't even be allowed to smoke in the parking area! Green River, as far as I can remember, has always been smoke-friendly and the majority of the students have been respectful enough to use the designated smoking spots.

But not all.

Since my first day at Green River, I have witnessed clouds of smoke float around throughout campus. So many students smoke with such normality that it doesn't even seem improper.

I, as a non-smoker, have never been bothered by cigarette smoke and, being friends with many smokers on campus, I don't think banning smoking is necessary.

However, looking at the smoking ban with a positive mind, I can't help but admit that the ban could possibly be a good thing. The health benefits would be great, smoking student's personal lives may

be enriched and the amount of local pollution would greatly be reduced. The banning of smoking on the Green River campus is just one large step towards a healthier and more natural student environment.

Smoking is a personal act and something that some people rely on to function. Simply taking away that right with no exceptions is completely unjust.

That is why students such as Richard Williams, who happens to be a student senator on the judicial committee, is working towards a petition that would require a mere 5% of student body's support to force a referendum vote to overturn the ban.

I believe that things are best done gradually and that the total banning of smoking is unfair.

A simple solution may be warning students who regularly smoke outside of designated areas. Students would be given a warning on the first offense. If people continued to disobey the specified smoking areas, then a heavier punishment would be given.

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Also on the Inside

*"Going back to grade school, I just loved anything
that had to do with the sky, the stars, astronomy."*

Ellice Estrada Page 3

The Undercurrent

Tobacco-free campus coming soon

By: Christin Peter
Staff Writer

Starting Jan. 1, 2013, Green River will be a tobacco-free campus. The use of all tobacco products will be prohibited from campus and in any vehicles used by the college.

College president Dr. Eileen Ely announced that the decision to go tobacco-free will help Green River work toward its goal of creating a healthier environment for staff, students, and visitors. Another goal is that the decision will reduce the number of new smokers and persuade current smokers to quit. Dr. Ely made the decision to go tobacco-free, not smoke free, due to the litter from tobacco products and the abuse of the smoking area policy.

This new policy also includes the removal of smoking areas and the training of staff members to reach out to students who want to quit using tobacco products.

It will be each person's obligation to comply with this new policy. If the person refuses to abide by the new policy, students are urged to contact security. Failure to comply after verbal warnings may result in further disciplinary actions.

Green River recognized by Boeing

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

Boeing recognized Green River during a ceremony for its work in training students to fill jobs in aerospace careers.

The Aerospace Academic Alignment team is a group of Boeing employees that work to guide schools, from elementary to college, in teaching students about present and potential future needs within the aerospace industries. They play a large and important role in instructing these students for entering jobs in the industry later on in life. This team also designed the aerospace and advance engineering classes that began on the Green River campus this past spring quarter.

According to the Green River website, Deans Josh Clearman, Leslie Moore and Krista Fox, alongside Director of Corporate and Continuing Education Bob Embrey, President Ely, and Vice President of Instruction Derek Brandes represented Green River at the small ceremony on Sep. 17. They met with Aerospace Academic Alignment members, Mantz Brinkman and Melissa Helmenstine to receive the recognition, honoring GRCC's "exemplary efforts."

Transfer fair held at Green River

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

The Washington Council Fall Quarter Transfer Fair is to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Oct. 19 in Green River's Lindbloom Student Center.

During this event, representatives from several universities will be on campus to provide information to students that are considering transferring from Green River. All students are welcome and admission is free. This particular Transfer Fair will include The University of Washington, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, the Art Institute of Seattle, as well as many others.

All details on the event and a full list of attending colleges can be found on the GRCC event calendar at www.greenriver.edu.

Green River deemed military-friendly

G.I. Magazine selects GRCC as top 15% college in military support

By: Christin Peter
Staff Writer

Green River has been selected as one of the top 15% of military-friendly colleges in the U.S. by G.I. Magazine.

Qualification is based on factors such as offering outstanding support to veterans and active-duty military members, showing schedule flexibility, having a certain percentage of currently enrolled students that are veterans, and the school's policies concerning discounted tuition and spousal policies. This honor proves Green River's enthusiasm towards making current and former military members feel welcome.

Approximately 3% of the school body is made up of current or former military personnel. Among the features Green River was applauded for are having veteran advisors and counselors

on staff full-time, having an advisor who helps students with career placement, having on-campus childcare services, and identifying military

section on the school website. On-campus veteran events include a free pizza lunch held on the first Friday of every month in the Lindbloom

served in Southeast or Southwest Asia.

On Sep. 24, a veterans' breakfast fundraiser was held to supplement a scholarship for veterans whose tuition costs are not fully covered by their service benefits. Tuition will be completely refunded for those who are unexpectedly activated for military service during a quarter they were registered for.

There is also a Veteran's Coordinating Council to express areas of need for veteran services to stakeholders. In addition to programs and services that directly aid veterans, special seminars are arranged to educate staff on veteran outreach.

The "Freedom Eagle" perched outside the Holman Library is a reminder that serving and honoring those who have fought for our freedom will always be a commitment at Green River Community College.



The Freedom Eagle that resides outside of Holman Library. The eagle is a symbol of the college's commitment to veterans. Other pluses are providing on-campus events specifically for veterans, offering military members, offering evening and weekend programs, and having a veteran

Center, along with the coin ceremony held every June. Also, there is a Veteran's Day celebration.

A veteran's tuition discount is also available for those who



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CROSS COUNTRY

37 years young: Mother runs to inspire

Ukrainian parent of four comes to Green River and revitalizes her passion for running

By: Thomas Petersen
Sports Editor

Oksana Carlson traveled over 5000 miles with her family at the tender age of 15. Now, at 37, she runs for a purpose, not just for her, but to prove to her four children that it's never too late to do something you're passionate about.

Carlson began running cross country when she attended high school in Ukraine. She ran in her home country for two years, from 1987 to 1989, before she and her family moved to the United States in 1989, abruptly putting her running career on hold.

With her aspirations for cross country fading, and no knowledge of the English language, Carlson stopped running when she moved to America, and later graduated from Federal Way High School in 1993.

Although Carlson had

dreams of attending college after high school, she didn't feel ready for an "American University."

"When you come here with no English, there's not a lot you can do," said Carlson. "In fact, that's why I didn't continue onto college. I didn't know any English."

After graduating from Federal Way High School, Carlson lived a traditional American lifestyle; getting married and having kids, the whole nine yards. She volunteered regularly at the Kent, Auburn, Tahoma and Bellevue school districts as an interpreter for Ukrainian students.

However, career-wise, Oksana was striving for more than just sales at Nordstrom or flight attending, neither of which offered plausible work hours that would comply with her busy schedule.

Her purpose for returning to school after all of these years is to get a job that will better prepare



Oksana Carlson (49) running in a recent cross country meet.

her children for the future.

"My concentration is on them right now and that's my main goal; to make them successful as I'm trying to get somewhere myself."

So, why do cross country at Green River? For Carlson, the answer is simple.

"Because no other school invited me. So, I just picked the most convenient school."

Carlson also said that the college would help

her pay for her education if she ran. That, along with Athletic Director Bob Kickner's support, was definitely the inspiration that she needed to compete.

When she first got back into running in 2008, Carlson said that she didn't know how people could enjoy it. "I thought it was boring," mentions Carlson, "but as I started to run, I started to listen to my body, and each day

it was craving for more running."

Carlson walked onto the cross country team without having ran competitively for over 20 years.

What did she notice? That she still has a passion for the sport she loved as a child.

"I definitely feel like I'm taking more and more out of it during races," said Carlson. "I'm seeing how my body works."

The younger athletes Carlson runs with are competitive. They push her to an entirely new level each and every day, which helps her in the grueling heats during races.

"One practice you run several miles as fast as you can, but you get a three or four minute break in between each mile," said Carlson. "But during a race you don't get breaks, you run 3.7 miles as fast as you can."

Despite the competitiveness, Carlson found

it easy to get along with the runners who are half her age. "It doesn't matter what age, I can just fit in wherever I am," said Carlson with a smile. "Everything takes time, but, after the first few weeks, I feel like we're bonding more."

Carlson is planning on transferring to the University of Washington after Green River and possibly running there if she receives a scholarship for cross country. Carlson's long term plan is to finish her degree in marketing and get a job in that field.

In addition to being an inspiration to her children, Carlson said that she would also like to encourage all the Ukrainians in the area to not allow a language barrier to stop them from pursuing what they want.

"I want to inspire kids to keep doing sports and get a higher education," said Carlson. "If you don't like your today, then you can do something about it."

GOLF

New voice leads experienced group to new heights

New golf coach, Glenn Beatty, looks to build off of last season's success with the help of sophomore Broc Johnson

By: Jonathan Sigrist
Staff Writer

Player of the year Broc Johnson earned a third-place win, propelling the Green River Golf team to a second place finish in the NWAACC tournament on the weekend of Sep. 30.

Led by new head coach Glenn Beatty, the Gators' second place finish was a great debut performance for the new coach.

Coach Beatty grew up in Buckley, Wash., and went to White River High School before attending the University of Arizona, where he was a member of the Varsity Practice Golf Team.

He turned pro after graduating and has been coaching at camps and

mentoring golfers for the last 15 years. Beatty moved to Sumner, Wash., two years ago before taking the position of head Golf Coach for the Green River Golf Program.

Under the leadership of Coach Beatty, Sophomore sensation Johnson has stepped up as a difference-maker for the team so far this season. Johnson, the 2011-12 Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year, is primed and ready to have another outstanding season.

"They've got Broc. Broc is the rock of the team," said coach Beatty. "All the guys look to him, they watch him practice and play because they see what a great player he is."

Johnson struggled in

the first round, shooting a 76. But he turned his game around and shot a 69 in the second round of the tournament, leading the team to a strong second place finish.

Beatty is extremely enthusiastic about his men's team as well as the rest of the season, citing poise and maturity as the main strengths of the group, despite the majority of the team being freshman.

The women's team, however, has run into difficulty due to lack of players. The Green River team took only one female athlete to the tournament, Madeleine Ottosson, who finished eighth.

Coach Beatty was quick to invite any interested women to join the golf



Sophomore Broc Johnson

team, girls that have prior experience or not. "Come on out," said Beatty, "You can go to some great golf courses, some nice road trips, and have a good time playing golf with a lot of other nice young ladies in the conference."

There's no doubt expectations are high for this young talented team, who will be playing in their next tournament Sunday, Oct. 21 in Shelton, Wash.



New head coach Glenn Beatty poses during team pictures

Volleyball

Lady Gators' suffer first loss but rebound nicely

Green River grasps sole possession of second place in their respective region after recent three game win streak

By: Febby Mulia
Staff Writer

The Lady Gators put their undefeated season on the line when the Highline Thunderbirds, also undefeated, visited GRCC on Wednesday Oct. 3.

The winner would find themselves in first place in the NWAACC West Region.

On Sep. 15, the Lady Gators played Highline in a pre-season tournament. In the highly competitive game, Green River fell to Highline, losing in five sets.

The Lady Gators headed into Wednesday's game versus Highline with extreme confidence. Prior to the match, Kyle Densley, head coach for the past seven years, said, "I'm very confident that if they (Green River) don't beat themselves we will win."

For whatever reason, Green River looked sluggish in the first set, resulting in a 16-25 defeat.

Eventually Green River

woke up, winning the next two sets to take a 2-1 advantage.

Lorraine Toilolo, Gwen Leituala, along with the rest of the team gave great performances, delivering multiple spikes that caught the Thunderbirds off guard. Spotless serves, and fearless dives to save the ball gave the Gators a temporary lead late in the match.

Just as Green River prepared for what they hoped would be the fourth and final set, the Thunderbirds dominated, beating the Lady Gators 15-25.

This highly competitive match was headed to the decisive fifth and final set.

The atmosphere was crazy with all of the fans on their feet. Claps and chants of "Go Gators!" filled the gymnasium as the team prepared for the set that would determine their fate.

Both the Gators and Thunderbirds went toe-to-toe in the most heated set.

In the end, Green River



Jeremy Serigar | The Current

Green River outside hitter Lorraine Toilolo, left, attempts to spike ball under Highline outside hitter, right, Mikaela Ballou late in the match.

fell short by two points and walked off the court in disappointment.

A sense of déjà vu consumed the Lady Gators, who lost to Highline in the exact same order in the preseason tournament.

Green River has not let the potentially demoral-

izing loss affect them, the team has won their last three matches.

With a 6-1 league record the Lady Gators still have a great chance to claim first place in the West Region.

"I think they're going to get better and better," said coach Densley referring to

his team, "we're still looking at a team that is probably going to be first or second in the Western Region and will drive for Green River's first championship since 1984.

"This team is very physically gifted and probably the best volleyball athletes that I've ever had in seven

years at Green River."

The Lady Gators will have another shot at beating the Thunderbirds on Oct. 29, the Lady Gators will travel to Highline in a game that will most likely determine which team will finish in first place heading into the playoffs.

Calendar

Wed Oct 17
Sat Oct 20
Wed Oct 24
Sat Oct 27

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Edmonds - Wilson Playfield, 2:00 p.
@Watcom - Bellingham, noon
Skagit Valley - Wilson Playfield, 2:00 p.m.
@Everett - Everett, noon

Wed Oct 17
Fri Oct 19
Wed Oct 24
Fri Oct 26

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Tacoma - Green River, 7 p.m.
Centralia - Green River, 7 p.m.
@Lower Columbia - Lower Columbia, 7 p.m.
@Everett - Everett, 7:00 p.m.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Lady Gators stub toe out gate

Preseason success does not translate to league victories

By: Thomas Peterson
Sports Editor

The Lady Gators' soccer season was filled with high hopes after last year's squad broke 14 records and made the NWAACC playoff.

So far this team has not lived up to those expectations, losing six out of seven league games, including an embarrassing 6-0 defeat against Everett.

The team is extremely talented, but has only four returning sophomores, including star keeper, Cassy Duschel.

Duschel has not been the problem this year, the Gators have only scored three goals in their seven league games, averaging .43 goals per game.

A league worst.

Growing pains are imminent for this team, which

is comprised of 16 new players, 11 of which have never competed at the college level. Despite their record, coach Snow is not worried, "It takes time to actually start to feel and figure out how to work and play together," admitted Snow.

Despite the slow start, Snow has confidence in several players other than Duschel who can lead the Gators to victory. Jessi Crabbill is leading the team in goals with three, and with freshman Trisha White playing stellar defense there's no doubt a quick turnaround is not just possible but, expected.

"They're all players who are coming up pretty good," said Snow happily.

Getting his top players to work together as one unit will be essential, especially with their mindset being to

improve each and every day.

"This team is way past fundamentals, the flow, movement and placement of our individuals (needs to improve) so that we're all in a position to attack or defend as a unit."

In the team's four preseason games, the Lady Gators looked mightily impressive, winning two of their four games, with one draw and one loss. Unfortunately, the preseason success appears to be a thing of the past.

"That's all history," said Snow, "We're going to build from what we did, learn from our mistakes, fix them and move forward with what we should be doing properly."

"The playoffs are still in the picture but it's up to them whether we get there or not."