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Staff profile: Hyesoo Albright

The **Board of Trustees** meet in regular session on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. in the admin boardrooms.

Faculty, staff, students, and the community are cordially invited to all open board meetings.

Save this date! On Saturday, Feb. 20, three former Blazer standouts will be inducted into the CC Sports Hall of Fame.

The new HOF members include Mike Merriman, Jill Johnson, and Rick Conroy.

The presentation of the candidates and their awards will occur at halftime of the women's basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 20. Plan to attend if you can and stay to enjoy some good b-ball. P.S. The Lady Blazers are on a 16-game win streak as of Wednesday afternoon.



Noted In Passing

"I don't think anybody should write their autobiography until after they are dead."

—Sam Goldwyn—

It was a long and winding road that led Library Supervisor Hyesoo Albright to the Henry Kirk Library at Centralia College. It started in South Korea, was impeded by nearly enough red tape to festoon the original route, but turned out better than expected. If Albright has her way, it will only get better in the future.

Hyesoo is a native of Seoul, South Korea, and lived there until she came to the U.S. in 1987. Before immigrating, Hyesoo went to the University of Dong Guk and got a 2-year degree in Computer Sciences. She worked for five years at the Ministry of Construction.

Hyesoo married an American serviceman in Korea, but departed from tradition when she determined not to get her family's permission to do so. "I told my parents, 'I am getting married and do not need your permission,'" Hyesoo recalled with a big smile. Women's rights were still something of a vague concept in middle 1980s Korea!

Soon after her wedding, Hyesoo became very ill and was hospitalized. The doctors there weren't able to immediately diagnose the cause of her infirmity and kept her hospitalized for an extended period. "Because of a very high fever I was put in the hospital on three different occasions," she explained. "I was kept in an ice bed to try and control the fever." It was finally discovered that Hyesoo had kidney stones and had to have surgery to remove a very large one.

During that year her husband, who had returned to the U.S. by the military, traveled back and forth to Korea and stayed at her parent's home. During those periods Hyesoo's parents got to know and accept her husband; Hyesoo's liberated acts and attitude were forgiven.

For her first two years in Washington Hyesoo lived in the Yelm area and was mostly unhappy. "I was very lonely, and I called the place my jail without walls," she recounted.

"I couldn't drive and didn't know any Korean people."

After another year passed her son Charlie was born. Soon thereafter the family moved to Centralia, but Hyesoo surprisingly found elements

of racial intolerance here. When she found a position at Centralia College she began enjoying life more.

I love my job," she gushed,

"and I love the students, especially the International students and the Korean community that don't speak English." She volunteers at the hospital and for the police department as a Korean translator.

Hyesoo hopes to return to college and get a master's degree in library science. She enjoys her work and wants to expand her influence on the students she so much enjoys working with. Her biggest challenge is still the odd person who reminds her she is different in this community. "I feel very comfortable on the campus," Hyesoo explained. "And I am so thankful for what my family has received from this community. I am grateful we didn't move away," she continued. "Even after being flooded twice, we are simply raising our house and staying in this community."

Hyesoo's son Charlie is one of the community's brightest lights, a piano virtuoso of world-class renown. Charlie will return to Centralia College on March 27 for a fundraising concert on the new grand piano that was named in his honor.





The Birthday Roll Call

Having been away for two weeks, we shall pick up the birthday roster where we left off at the end of January.

This couple of weeks brought a nice gang of celebrants to the forefront, and they of excellent quality.

This gives us pause to consider the obvious virtues of May!

DARLENE BARTLETT	2/2
BRENDA NOVARRA	2/8
GENE SHRIVER	2/8
JIM WALTON	2/9
DARLENE RAHN	2/9
CHRIS JONES	2/9
MARK COLLINS	2/12
BEV GESTRINE	2/14
PAT PRINGLE	2/15
HEATHER ASHTON	2/16

It occurred to your editor that whenever we have this large a group during any short time period we should organize a potluck. Even if only the honoree brought something it would be a feast.

Root beer and broccoli-and-walnut ice cream for everyone.

Lyceum

Coming to next Wednesday's Lyceum will be a most involving and powerful program. It's one nobody ought to miss.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, Nancy Rawles, a winner of the prestigious American Book Award for her novel *Love Like Gumbo*, will help us celebrate Black History Month with a reading from her spellbinding novel, *My Jim*.

The novel, which has caused great excitement in the literary stratosphere, retells Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of the runaway slave's wife, Sadie.

The following week (Feb. 24) there's another program of great interest as Lewis & Clark College librarian Jim Kopp looks at an odd American phenomena—the advent of pioneer era utopian communities in the Northwest. Be prepared to learn about Willapa Bay, Washington and Aurora, Oregon.

These are must-see Lyceum programs.

Yeehaw! Pump Boys and Dinettes Opens Thursday at Corbet Theatre

Just because you live in a city and hold down a computer-related job doesn't mean you don't yearn for a taste of the old-fashioned country life. According to a gaggle of psychologists and happy theatergoers, therein lies the charm of *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, a popular revue set in a crossroads truck stop somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna, North Carolina.

The blue-collar musical is the winter stage selection for the Centralia College theatre department. It opens on Feb. 11 for a four-day run at Corbet Theatre, then returns to Corbet for three further performances Feb. 18-20.

Show times are at 8 p.m. except for a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 14, and on both Thursdays (Feb 11. and Feb. 18) the curtain rises at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 adult, \$10 seniors/students, and both Thursday performances are half-price.

Pump Boys and Dinettes is a delightful romp, written by a six-person performing group of the same name. Not only did the six members of *PB&D* write the play, they wrote the music and lyrics, and they also directed and starred in the Broadway production. It ran for nearly 600 perfor-

mances and garnered a trunkful of awards.

There have been many revivals of this fun and funny musical and the performance vary according to the abilities of the cast. For the Corbet resurrection director Brian Tyrrell has found an airtight six-person ensemble that can carry off the mad combination of backwoods country-blues-rock-gospel with little effort and lots of humor.

In Tyrrell's remake of this wonderful experience, there will also be a small band on stage to accompany the cast through the twists and turns of songs about catfish, sunburned red necks, drinking and dancing on Friday night, and other countrified desires.

This kind of small, folksy musical seemed outlandishly original when first written—gosh, has it been 20 years?—but don't underestimate the pleasure you can derive from this great, live theatre, high-octane hootenanny at Corbet Theatre.

Get your tickets as soon as you can; call the drama department box office at ext. 525 for information and your reservation for *Pump Boys and Dinettes*.

Catch the Buzz

The Centralia Rotary Club is looking for local businesses, organizations, and community members to participate in the third annual "Catch the Buzz" spelling bee. Catch the Buzz is a fundraiser for Centralia College. Each year the president of the Centralia service club chooses a President's Project fundraiser.

"Catch the Buzz" comes to Corbet Theatre at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. It should be a laugh-out-loud event based on the words that are chosen to test the spellers.

This year the president—Vicki Nupen—has chosen the college because of deep statewide community college budget cuts brought about by the recession. Rotarians realize that tuition doesn't cover the costs of keeping a deserving student in college, so the fundraiser is critical.

The Rotary is busy now lining up teams and sponsors to compete. Participation in the adult spelling bee requires a

tax-deductible entry fee of \$350 per four-person team.

This year's winning team will receive a \$1,200 prize at Shilo Inns Suite Hotels, donated by KELA. Good Health Nutrition donated Best Team Spirit and Best Team Costume awards.

Businesses, organizations and community members willing to sponsor a team but lacking a group of dynamite spellers can underwrite a group of spellers looking for a sponsor. Those who don't spell very well and can't fund a team are still welcome to help in the fundraiser by attending the fun evening at Corbet Theatre. Spectator tickets are \$10, which includes appetizers and they may bid in a silent auction.

There is a no-host beer and wine bar furnished by Heymann Winery.

For more information or to register a team, please call Lynn Ford at 623-1560 or Barbara Greatwood at 736-8200.