Rash of robberies ravage two more businesses

by Andrew Fickes
Asst. news editor and Tarena Ruehle
Staff reporter

Ellensburg's recent crime wave intensified last week when two local businesses were robbed. The robberies are Ellensburg's third and fourth within the last two months.

"This is certainly the most armed robberies we have had in this amount of time," Captain Ross Green, Ellensburg Police Department, said. "We're very alarmed."

An armed suspect robbed the Chevron station on the 1700 block of Canyon Road. Ken's Auto Wash, located on Main Street, was robbed sometime between 7 p.m. Sunday night and 6 a.m. Monday morning.

Ellensburg Police Department said the suspect of the Chevron robbery's description resembles Cory Wells, a man wanted by Yakima Sheriff's Office in connection with a homicide that occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 23 in Yakima.

The suspect entered the station alone at 2 a.m. on Friday, flashed a handgun at the clerk and asked for cash. He left the station with an undisclosed amount of cash but not more than $500.

The robbery suspect is described as a 6-foot-tall white male with long red hair in his early 20s and weighing 185 pounds. Since Friday, Ellensburg and Yakima detectives have worked closely to try to apprehend the individual. Officials believe he is in the Kittitas Valley.

Ellensburg Middle School student Mitch Pfeifer attempts a nose slide down the rail at the skatepark in Ellensburg.

Central students are encouraged to attend an open forum to discuss the issue of skateboarding on campus.

State law, passed in 1989, prohibits skateboarding on campuses for reasons of liability and safety, as well as clean up and repair expenses. Central has a responsibility to maintain a safe campus.

Skateboarding has become more mainstream in the last decade. Along with its growth and popularity, people were learning to do tricks which resulted in damaged property.

"We were getting a extreme amount of damage occurring on wooden benches and concrete, but primarily wooden structures were getting damaged," Rittereiser said.

The Washington Administrative Codes regulate skateboarding on campus to protect property.

See DISCUSSION, Page 4

Insufficient funding could change Wellness Center next year

by Ken Whittenberg
Staff reporter

Funding for the Wellness Center, which provides student services such as sexual assault awareness and alcohol prevention, has been drastically cut.

State funds, which supported about half of the Wellness Center's budget, were cut from $39,429 to $6,677 because of cuts from the state legislature.

"The balls are up in the air and we don't know where they'll land," Gayle Farmer, director of the Wellness Center, said. "We don't know where our funding will come from next year. The question is not if we're going to be funded, it's how we're going to be funded."

The Student Health and Counseling Center (SHCC) diverted its ledger 2 accounts (reserve funds) to the tune of $87,000 this year to help fund the Wellness Center.

Bob Trumpey, director of the SHCC, said that if it had to dip into its reserve funds again next year to support the Wellness Center the SHCC might not have enough funding for itself.

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See FUNDING, Page 4

Auditor questions director

by Allison Worrell
News editor

Taking paper clips from the office may seem trivial. However, using state resources for personal interests is exactly why Robert Sorrells, Central Washington University director of the McNair Scholars program, is facing a possible investigation by the Washington State Executive Ethics Board.

"I think it was an honest mistake," Central president Jerilyn McNeely said.

Sorrells affirms that his mistake was unintentional.

"I was encouraged to do this by an official," Sorrells said. "I had approval of what I was doing from several people."

The Washington State Auditor's Office released a report on Jan. 9, stating Sorrells "used state resources to organize a lobbying campaign for the forgiveness of student loans."

After an investigation, it was determined there was "reasonable cause" to believe Sorrells used state resources to conduct lobbying.

The Auditor's Office found six emails sent to Sorrells' university email account concerning a loan forgiveness for state funds, which supported about half of the Wellness Center's budget, were cut from $39,429 to $6,677 because of cuts from the state legislature.

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See FUNDING, Page 4

Opinion

BOD abandons legal reason.

See page 6.

Scene

Who are Tyler and Pete?

See page 8.

Sports

Wildcat women win big.

See page 13.
Plans for new music building taking shape

by Shane Cleveland
Staff reporter

Central Washington University is nearing construction on a new music education building to accommodate the music department. The 35-year-old Hertz Hall contains nearly double the number of music majors it was intended to hold.

"The music department, which consists of 260 undergraduate and 20 graduate students, is projected to accommodate 325 majors by 2010," Peter Gries, music department chair, expects that number to be a reality once the new building is complete by 2005.

"If you build it they will come," Gries said.

The university submitted an environmental checklist to the city as required under the State Environmental Protection Act. The checklist allows for environmental impacts of the project to be considered before any decisions are made. The two-story, 60,000 square foot building will be located near the southwest corner of Dean Nicholson Boulevard and Alder Street, next to the Hogue Technology Building.

Construction documents, which are plans and designs for the building, are being completed to make way for contractors to begin placing bids for construction. According to Joanne Hilleman, architect, facilities planning and construction services, the university must choose the lowest responsible bidder, rather than a construction company based on qualifications.

Construction is slated to start before fall quarter. The building is scheduled to be built in two phases.

The first, set to begin construction as early as August, will be complete in late 2003. The 43,000 square foot facility will include a 600-seat concert hall and a 150-seat recital hall among other things.

The second phase will be a smaller, 26,000 square foot facility. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2003 and finish in late 2004. It will contain practice rooms and classrooms, as well as office space for staff.

Gries said the new facility will allow the department to work more productively, and he sees the large concert hall and smaller recital hall as the greatest benefits. Hertz Hall's facilities are too small for large performances and too big for small performances.

"The new building will be a boost to both the music department and the A land use action sign marks the new music education building, which will be located near Hogue Technology Building. It is scheduled to be completed in 2004.

Legal issues continue for basketball player

by Ken Whiteenberg
Staff reporter

Lawyers confirmed that Central Washington University basketball player B.J. Letcher will appear before a judge in a pre-trial hearing regarding his arrest last fall.

Letcher, a junior guard on the Central men's basketball team, was arrested on Nov. 27 for possession of stolen property in the second degree and forgery and theft in the second degree.

Each count Letcher is charged with carries a maximum penalty of five years.

The lead prosecutor in the Letcher case doesn't plan to try the Central basketball player any differently then anyone else charged with the same crimes.

"I intend to prosecute him as I would anyone else," Margaret Sowards, district attorney, said.

Sowards would not comment on any negotiations concerning a Letcher plea bargain or how the state intends to prosecute this matter.

Winter Fireside Chat to be held Monday

by Observer Staff

Central Washington University President Jerilyn McIntyre is inviting the university public to her home for another Fireside Chat. The chat is scheduled to be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 4.

McIntyre, in conjunction with 88.1 The "Burg, held the first chat last quarter. The format will be similar for the upcoming chat.

McIntyre and her cabinet will discuss Central's issues and answer Central students' questions. Those students not in attendance can ask questions via 963-2311, The "Burg's request line.

To reserve a space at the Fireside Chat, contact The "Burg by Friday.

Vice president candidates visit campus next month

by Observer staff

Robert K. Bruce and Leslie R. Smith, the two finalists for the position of vice president of university relations, are planning to visit campus next month.

A Central Washington University search committee selected the two from 50 candidates.

During their visits, each will meet with students, administration, staff, faculty, and those in the community concerned with university relations.

Smith will visit Feb. 3 to 5 and Bruce will visit Feb. 18 to 20.
Tuition increases likely to fund new SUB

by Amanda Hickman
Staff reporter

An additional $159 per quarter in student fees could be implemented to pay for a new Super SUB and Recreational facility. The Services and Activities Funding Committee (S&A) and the Board of Trustees (BOT) will decide the answer to that question soon.

At the S&A Funding Committee meeting last Monday, Super SUB/Rec bonding issues were on the front burner. The main issue discussed was how the Super SUB/Rec activities will be supported and who will end up paying for it.

“We need a new SUB,” Lee Antonich, director of financial affairs, said. “But, we have to plan for something like this in advance. Unfortunately, the costs keep increasing. Something has to be done, and we are trying to find the most economical way to do it.”

The Super SUB/Rec facility, which has been in the works since 1995, will bring with it an annual expense budget of more than four million dollars in debt service. Much of the costs will be covered by the sale of bonds and monies received upon retirement of bonds issued 40 years ago for the Bassetties and Residence Hall bonds.

The remaining 70 to 80 percent of the costs will be charged as student activity fees. The fees are estimated at an additional $95 for operation of the Rec Center and $64 dollars for SUB activities. The fees will not be collected until the Super SUB/Rec facility is in operation. The Rec facility is scheduled for operation in 2004, and the Super SUB is scheduled to be operational in 2006.

“A lot of big decisions will be made within the next year — decisions that will change the face of this campus for the next 50 years,” Maren Oates, project assistant with facilities planning, said. “The next phase of the project will be really exciting, and students need to get involved.”

The $550,000 to be received upon retirement of the Bassetties and Residence Hall bonds in 2008 will go directly to the S & A Fund. Guidance from the S & A committee and Central student members is needed to spend that money.

The S&A Funding Committee meeting, the SUB/Rec Project Committee made an official motion to acquire the monies received from the retired housing bonds plus an additional $300,000, which would be transferred into a fund for the Super SUB.

“Sinister things like this never die,” said Maren Oates, project assistant with facilities planning. “People can make a lot of mistakes, take a cut... we could be sacrificing the growth of these programs in the future. Students don’t have the money to pay for both.”

At Monday’s S&A Funding Committee meeting, the SUB/Rec Project Committee is asking for an additional $300,000 in funding from the S&A Funding Committee, bringing the total funding request to $850,000.

“The main point to be made here is if we (S&A Committee) allocate $850,000 to the SUB/Rec Project, it is important to understand that we are taking away monies used to improve programs like Campus Life, the student government, intramurals, Service Learning — a lot of student programs,” Josh Kilen, S&A Funding Committee chair, said. “All of these programs might take a cut... we could be sacrificing the growth of these programs in the future. Students don’t have the money to pay for both.”

Now, the S&A Funding Committee members (six students and three faculty) must make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, who will make the final decision.

“We need student input on this matter,” Kilen said. “We need to make a decision right now on whether to continue working on plans for a new SUB and Rec Center, or work on improving student programs.”

The new Super SUB is expected to be 145,000 square feet, and the Rec Center is 75,000 square feet. A dining hall, copy center, balcony, meeting rooms, the University Store, and student programming offices will be housed in the new SUB.

The Rec Center is expected to include a three court gym, an elevated jogging track, weight training, fitness room, a rock climbing room, multipurpose room, locker rooms and a laundry room.

“I don’t want to have to take that up on my conscience,” Dr. Sorrells, chair of the McNair Scholars Program, said. “I don’t want to have to take that up on my conscience.”

Even if a penalty is assigned to Sorrells, Malarky still has the authority to dismiss complaints under certain conditions.

Sorrells received support from about 70 people.

Dr. Sorrells has done an excellent job as the director of the McNair Scholars Program,” David Hedrick, executive director of international studies and programs and assistant economics professor, said. “I think we can deal with situations like this in a much more efficacious way.”
Mac labs suffer from lack of technicians

by Ken Whittemberg
Staff reporter

Macintosh maintenance services underwent a change in leadership this year. Lynn Linnell, the former Mac specialist on campus, was promoted to an administration position and is now the computer support services supervisor, a part of the Computer Support Services (CSS) management team.

Last year Linnell repaired Macs all over campus, including administrative computers and Macs in the student computer lab.

This year Jeff Knackstedt, information technology systems specialist III, took over the duties that Linnell performed. He and a 19-year-old student are working with him to repair Macs that go down anywhere on campus.

Macintosh computers make up about 40 percent of the computers on campus.

"There are 11 technicians with corresponding students to repair the PCs on campus whereas there is only me and my two students to repair all the Macs," Knackstedt said.

Some students have found repair services are limited and inadequate because of the leadership change and the extra duties Knackstedt has inherited.

"Over the last few months it seems like there has been a void in the services on campus," Scott Slatter, a sophomore, said.

Other computer technicians are also available to help with Mac repair, but they're usually busy with PC repairs.

"The fact is the Macs are capable of being fixed from our offices versus the PCs," Dave Storla, assistant director for Computer Technology Services and Computer Support Services, said. "The Macs are much easier to maintain and operate than PCs."

The most challenging problems facing Knackstedt is the element of "I had more time."

"Some weeks it seems like everything is going well and other weeks it seems like we get calls left and right," Knackstedt said. "I wish that had more time."

Another problem Knackstedt faces is repairing the Macs used by campus administrators.

"Fixing the computers in the labs is easy. The faculty literally can't do their job when their computers don't work," said a disgruntled employee.

"You have to worry about information already saved on their computers, so it makes things a little more tricky."

Would-be banner thieves apprehended by police

Ellensburg Police apprehended a 19-year-old driver and a 19-year-old passenger, both dressed in black and wearing black stockin caps, on January 16 after a car chase took them from Ninth Avenue onto B Street and then onto Tenth Avenue.

Officers previously had seen the suspicious men and their truck in January 16 after a car chase took them from Ninth Avenue onto B Street and then onto Tenth Avenue.

"We will be padlocking banners from now on," said Michele Bradshaw, Jerro's employee. "There's no rhyme or reason to when and where a suspect may strike."

"We want to empower students to work with the university when things may not seem right and when rules don't seem to quite help, instead they hinder," Rittereiser said.

"I've seen. The Wellness Center provides important resources to the students on campus and we want to make sure that they're around for a long time," Charlotte Tullos, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, said. "Gail works hard to make the Wellness Center one of the best social marketing programs I've seen. The Wellness Center provides important resources to the students on campus and we want to make sure that they're around for a long time."

Some students in student government also recognize the value that the Wellness Center provides.

"It's commendable that they've worked as hard as they have even though their funding has been cut," Jessica Sutton, vice president for Student Life and Facilities, said.

CRIME: Recent wave sweeps Ellensburg

Green said the Ellensburg Police Department has no explanation for Ellensburg's high crime rate.

"It's pretty tough to stop this," Green said. "There's no rhyme or reason to when and where a suspect may strike."

"Ken's Auto Wash was robbed when vandals drilled open the coin machines in all four car wash bays and removed the coinage. Approximately twice a week the money in the machines is emptied. The amount of money taken is still uncertain."

Bob Fogle, manager of Ken's Auto Wash, said the machines were closed back up and the damage was not noticeable. The crime was not reported to the police until Monday morning.

There are no suspects at this time.

FUNDING: State budget cuts will affect Wellness Center

Continued from page 1

As of this year the programming at the Wellness Center increased.

"We have more programs this year than we've ever had. We're really hard to get things done," Farmer said.

The expanded services include the HIV/AIDS campaign, S.A.F.E. (Students for an Assault Free Environment), Prime for Life, which offers extensive educational curriculum that focuses on the prevention of alcohol related problems. The center works in coordination with Safe Ride. The center also provides peer educators (student volunteers), and is an educational resource center for issues such as sex, stress, nutrition, alcohol, drugs, tobacco and body image.

"I value her work and what she does," Charlotte Tullos, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, said. "Gail works hard to make the Wellness Center one of the leading programs at WSU."

CRIME: Recent wave sweeps Ellensburg

Continued from page 1

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Daren Schuettpelz/Observer

Health Educator Nicole Otto examines services available at the Wellness Center. Despite funding cuts, the Wellness Center offers more programs this year than it ever has.
Thousands of dollars spent on CWULife's discontinued website
by Emily Bonden
Staff reporter

When a student logs on to a computer, CWULife.com, displays smiling students surrounded by eye-catching icons. But this site is nothing more than a ghost town, all facade and no substance.

The site was discontinued after less than two years of service, with more than $8,000 invested into it. CWULife.com was an advanced site with many capabilities, until it became unstable.

"It was a good idea, but the server was extremely unreliable, functioning only 50-60 percent of the time," Jesse Days, Central Washington University's Web developer, said. "Anytime we need to put something up, it's hard to know if we'll actually be able to see the page."

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Thousands of dollars spent on CWULife's discontinued website
Letters to the Editor

Robert E. Lee was more than one-dimensional racist

I am writing this letter concerning the article in last week's Observer, "Robert E. Lee Day at Casino" by Andrew Fickes. This issue is by no means a new one to me. I was born and raised in Virginia where the debate over commemorating Robert E. Lee has persisted for decades. While both sides make valid points, I think that the manner in which Fickes presented this issue was extremely biased.

It is disappointing to hear about people who are so quick to criticize Lee's remembrance. He was a brilliant general who accomplished the impossible by organizing a successful army from scratch. Robert E. Lee did not stand for slavery, nor did he ever own any. Good grief. I honestly hope the BOD members who voted for this nonsense (Dustin Stahl, Steve Erickson, Emily Ravsten, Alyssa Scary, Nate Harris, and Jessica Sutton) did so out of complete ignorance, and not something more sinister.

Under the BOD constitution, Harris' job is that of public relations official. However, I'm not sure how that makes him the censor king of the student government. The way this proposal is written ("must receive approval"), it supports the censorship of anything or anyone Harris disagrees with.

What Harris and his cronies do not seem to understand, is each of the members of the BOD is an elected official. They are not a private organization; they are public officials. The individual members of the BOD are accountable to the students who voted them into office, not to each other.

On a national scale, this would be the same as the president signing an executive order forcing all members of Congress - Republican, Democrat and independents - to agree with some of the things they fought for. Such an order would not be able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home.

I am not going to argue that the South should have won, nor do I agree with some of the things they fought for. The point I'm trying to make is that despite the fact that Lee fought for the "other" side, he was one of the great Americans in history. And just like we do with other great Americans, we should remember him. The reason this is even an issue is because Lee's birthday ironically falls on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Between three days, I think we can make room to appropriately remember both.

So, if the Observer wants to print a submitted letter arguing that John Walker Lindh should be honored, between the decision to side with his country or with his state. In a letter to his sister, Lee said, "With all my devotion to the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home.

Robert E. Lee was torn regarding BOD businesses must be approved by Nate Harris, the BOD vice president for equity and community service. Good grief. I honestly hope the BOD members who voted for this nonsense (Dustin Stahl, Steve Erickson, Emily Ravsten, Alyssa Scary, Nate Harris, and Jessica Sutton) did so out of complete ignorance, and not something more sinister.

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So, if the Observer wants to print a submitted letter arguing that John Walker Lindh should be honored,
ored, I think the least they could do is be a little more understanding of those who honor Robert E. Lee, someone who didn’t fight for an organization that believed in the killing of innocent civilians.

Jeff Schroeder
CWU student

Central’s band hits tune to complete game

To the editor,

What a great pleasure it was to have a pep band at the CWU-Humboldt State basketball games on Thursday night. The band adds greatly to the atmosphere of the game, especially in view of what normally is played over the P.A. system, and the band has been missed in its long absence.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Don Ringe
Ellensburg resident

Central official notes the irony in Robert E. Lee story

Dear editor,

I would like to point out a line from your article concerning the sign announcing Lee’s birthday. I am from Georgia, and have lived in the south for many years. My comment concerns the allusion to “Southern mentality” in the valley. Isn’t there a word for thinking that a group of people all think the same way? It reminds me of a comment I once heard. “At least we are not a bunch of prejudice hayseeds like the people in the south.” Don’t you just love irony?

Robert Sorrells, PhD
Director of McNair Scholars Program

Observer — Opinion — January 31, 2002

Have a story worth publishing?

Drop by our office in Bouillon 222, give us a call at 963-1073, or email us at: observer@cwu.edu.
Everybody agrees: Tyler and Pete create confusion and curiosity with posters

by Susan Bundy
Asst. scene editor

"Tyler and Pete" are infiltrating campus.

"Do you agree with Tyler and Pete?" is becoming an infamous question on campus.

Orange posters and flyers are becoming a regular sight in residence halls, dining halls, buildings and newspaper ads. A banner asking the question hangs across 8th Avenue.

The program is run by S.A.L.S.A., an organization recently recognized by Club Senate that includes most of the Christian groups on campus.

"Tyler and Pete are the figures," Dave Hunter, a S.A.L.S.A. adviser, said of the activity. "The program was my idea."

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness about issues Hunter said are important.

Peter Briggs and Tyler Critchlow are "Pete and Tyler." Both are members of S.A.L.S.A and have known each other for a couple of months. They first heard about the activity in the middle of fall quarter.

"I was approached with the idea," by Shawn Mitchell, a member of S.A.L.S.A. "It's a waste of paper."

-Sophomore Stephanie Senon

Students who pass by the posters are asked why they agree with the campaign.

"We are asking people to wait. It's not deceiving," Briggs said of remaining silent on the topic of the campaign.

Around campus, the reluctance to release information is causing tension between people who know the purpose behind the posters and people who don't have any idea.

"It's a waste of paper. They are trying to make a point, but I have no idea what it is," Stephanie Senon, a sophomore, said.

People involved in the campaign are keeping tight-lipped on the subject.

S.A.L.S.A. members, along with SALT Co. and Campus Crusade, are hoping people will come and listen in search of answers to what the program is about.

"We wanted to get people very, very curious so that they will come and listen," Hunter said, "People need to relax. There's no reason to be getting upset."

Speakers celebrate Black History Month

by Meredith Willingham
Scene editor

Black History Month begins this week for the full month of February. The celebration of African-American culture and heritage was originally started in 1926 as Negro History Week, later becoming Black History Month.

February was chosen because of the birthdays of two leaders in the month, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. The 15th Amendment was passed on Feb. 3, 1870, granting blacks the right to vote.

On Feb. 6, speaker Melanie Denise Cunningham will speak on issues dealing with global relations and African-Americans in business. She will also be premiering a 30-minute documentary called "Shattering Images" for the lecture.

"It will be real exciting," Richard Penton, Black Student Union leader, said. "The next Wednesday, Feb. 13, percussionist Rodney Turner will play a variety of drums in the SUB Pit. He will also present a lecture detailing the progression of music from earlier African music to modern-day hip-hop and reggae.

Tuner has performed with people and groups like Marvin Gaye, Destiny's Child and Puff Daddy.

The last Wednesday of the month, Feb. 20, Robert Penton, and ex-Black Panther, will be speaking in the SUB about his past experiences and explaining what the organization is about.

"We just want to get the word out, and let people know our perspective," Penton said.
“Orange County” director Jake Kasdan’s sophomore film, could have been a bit more fresh-squeezed. Written by Mike White, who can take credit for the hilarious and bit ters “Dead Man on Campus,” “Orange County” debuts Tom Hanks’ son Colin, as Shaun Brumder, a surfer turned scholar after an epiphany resulting from the death of a close friend. All Shaun wants to do is attend Stanford University and become a writer, but with so much hope and anticipation lying on his acceptance, the inevitable twist of fate found in all good teen movies eventually appears—Shaun does not get in. How, you ask, could something like this happen? His guidance counselor, who can’t seem to even remember his own name, sent out the wrong transcripts to the university. Lily Tomlin gave this character exactly what they must have been looking for when writing this part. Shaun’s mother, played by Katherine O’Hara, seems to be in permanent holiday since divorcing from Shaun’s dad, played by John Lithgow, and does not hide her happiness about this, while his brother Lance, played by comic genius Jack Black, is too far in his constant stuper of pills to have an opinion one way or another.

With a dating girlfriend on the side, played by Sissy Spaceck’s daughter Schuyler Fisk, friends that can’t seem to have the ability to form coherent sentences, and a family that could have been made up of Jerry Springer guests, it’s no wonder Shaun wants to get out of Orange County...or does he?

The movie follows his path to acceptance into Stanford, while eventually finding acceptance of himself, his family, and the place where he’s lived all his life. “Orange County” has its great points and its bad. The plot of the film seems to head in the same direction every other teen movie goes: the main character is always struggling with something, which he hopes to overcome. Then something will happen to throw him off track, and the rest of the film is spent dealing with these issues. The end is more often than not a happy one, leaving you saying “I knew it!” as you leave the theater with your half-eaten tub of popcorn and melted ice in your cup.

Colin Hanks, in his first starring role, puts something into the movie no other actor could have. A face somewhat fresh to the movie screen, Hanks is a welcome interruption in the recycled list of actors that typically star in the overwhelming slew of teen movies. Hanks seems to take after his father when it comes to dedication and talent, showing a bit of something new into a movie that, in ways, seems to have been done a million times. There is, however, something else different and superior about this somewhat predictable movie. And that something can be summed up in two words: Jack Black. Black, the other half of the hilarious music duo Tenacious D, and credited with such films as “High Fidelity,” “Shallow Hal” and “Saving Silverman,” lends a highly hysterical and spontaneous side to this film. His antics throughout the film always produce a laugh, even from those not accustomed to his wall-of-humor, and are really what lead the comedy in the movie.

When you hear a laugh in the theater during “Orange County,” Jack Black is almost always behind it. For those coming to see this movie for Jack Black, a minor disappointment might be in your future. It seems there is not as much Black that the film promised before release, and might leave you wanting more. But the rest of the movie does prove to be enjoyable, with a good mix of madness and something more solid.

This movie is ideal for those who want a good laugh, and the perfect family movie to take your family crazier than your own—just when you’ve begun to think it can’t get any more weird than it is now.

Alternative music added to Thursday nights

by Jennifer DeJong

The Ellensburg Inn will soon welcome a new sight of musical entertainment as a hip alternative to the usual boring Thursday night bar scene. Luke Dier, a 21 year old local, has put together a live music techno night to be held every Thursday at the Ellensburg Inn. He welcomes “One...in the beginning there was a beat” on Jan. 31 and hopes to have others widen spinners in weeks to come.

“There is a lot of local talent in the area that I would like to see gain some recognition,” Dier said.

Opening night will begin at 9 p.m. and go until about 2 a.m. The event will be held at the Ellensburg Inn Bar on South Canyon Road. The cost is three dollars at the door, ladies free until 11 p.m. The event is for anyone 21 years and older.

“This is live entertainment, not just a person in a booth with CD’s,” Dier said. “There will be cheap drinks and people from all over the state.”

Dier also has coordinated with Safe Ride to have the van pick people up every 45 minutes.

“One of my first concerns was to find everyone a safe ride home,” Dier said. “Safe Ride was more than willing to drop by.”

Dier has talent lined up for many Thursday performances to come, including DJ. Kril, formerly of 88.1 the ‘Burg and DJ Rusty, who spins techno spinners in weeks to come.

“Dier has talent lined up for many Thursday performances to come, including DJ. Kril, formerly of 88.1 the ‘Burg and DJ Rusty, who spins various other techno spinners in weeks to come. Dier said. “Safe Ride was more than willing to drop by.”

Dier also hopes to add other night performances mixing in hip-hop and possibly rock. “I want hip hop artists “Off the Hook Boys” have already agreed to play at the Inn. “I want to please every different musical preference while giving back to the city,” Dier said.

For more information about the performances, Dier can be contacted by email at insaughle22@hotmail.com.

Harsh Kittitas winters attract snowmobile fans this year

by Heather Abhold

Ellensburg on Reecer Creek Road, is a great place for beginners to put around in the vast meadows and also holders an area for advanced riders to test their thrills on the many jumps.

“Kittitas County hosts a number of trails that will satisfy all riders from the beginner to the advanced,” said.

While a majority of people try to flee from the harsh winters of Kittitas county, to Reecer Creek in the lower county. Snowmobile riders usually boring Thursday night bar scene.

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Harsh Kittitas winters attract snowmobile fans this year

Ellensburg on Reecer Creek Road, is a great place for beginners to put around in the vast meadows and also holders an area for advanced riders to test their thrills on the many jumps and steep hills to climb. Riders can head to the top of Blewett Pass and check out the amazing view from Tahoma Mountain.

South Fork Mountain, south on South Highway, with an elevation of 2,580 feet, is another popular place for riders. With hundreds of trails, riders have the choice to ride to Cle Elum, Easton, Cascade Park in the Wenatchee Whistling Jack Lodge on Chinook Pass.

“Riders can ride all day, stop, gas up, and grab a bite to eat and then ride all night,” Bryan Jewell, senior, said.

Taneum Creek, not as well known as Reecer Creek and the South Fork, also has some of the best riding in the state. North on Elk Highlands Road, with an elevation of 2,580 feet, Taneum Creek is a great place to ride without running into too many other snowmobilers.

“Taneum Creek is my favorite place to ride. It has awesome groomed trails and you don’t have to worry about running into cross-country skiers,” Nate Arland, senior, said.

For more information on groomed trails or where to ride call the Cle Elum Forest Service at (509) 674-4411.

Check out the Observer Online!

www.cwl.edu/~observer
Comedian laughs at self

by Andrew Patrick
Staff reporter

Club Central's first comedy night in February could be a night full of contrasting perspectives and firsts for students. The event will be at 8 p.m., Feb. 1 in Club Central. "It's the first Friday of the month, the first day of the month, and the first time comedians Jim Wiggins and James Johann have come to Central to entertain students with their takes on life."

"Usually when we have a regular comedy night, we have an opener who does half an hour to an hour, then we have a headliner who does a half-hour comedy act as the headliner, but the opener does not have as good a chance to a comedy night, Anchors says it is a great way to start out your night, if given a try. "Students need to wake up and smell the coffee and face that there is programming out there and that they should attend out there and try it," Anchors said. "Everybody says, 'I don't want to go, it will cut into my bar time!' It's not going to. It goes over at 10 o'clock and bars don't start hopping until 10:30 or 11:00. So I think it's a great opportunity to come sit and watch some good comedy and then go out and have a good time." The comedians Wilson has booked for Club Central have had a really good time in the past, and Wilson said it is because of Anchors and Scott Drummond. "I think it will be one of the better shows. Comics like coming to Ellensburg because of how well they are treated," Wilson said.

The reality that the comedians have a designated place and time to perform, instead of being thrown into a cafeteria trying to break starving students concentration on feeding themselves, is another draw for the performers. As people complained that there is less and less to do in Ellensburg besides inhibiting intoxicated liars to the point of incoherence, Campus Life and activities continue to offer alternatives. "Our programming is not an end-all means to your weekend plans, but it would be nice to see students turn their focus away from drinking, to having some fun and then going out," Anchors said.

Kill the clichés

by Observer staff

Throughout our day, we toss around familiar clichés during typical conversation. We say them without realizing where they come from and what connotation they used to have with them. Here's the breakdown of some of our favorite clichés: Raining cats and dogs: Back when straw was used to build the roof of a house, animals, such as cats and dogs, would sleep in the hay to stay warm at night. When it would rain, the hay would get slippery and the cats and dogs would slide off the roof and onto the ground. Thus, a rainstorm could be described as 'raining cats and dogs.'

Kick the bucket: During the Revolutionary war, soldiers were placed on the top of towers serving as look out for nine day shifts. They were not allowed to leave the tower during their post, so a bucket was used as the resident toilet. If a soldier knocked the bucket over, the stench on top of the tower could become unbearable. The others often revolted and beat the soldier mercilessly, many times until he died or, as the phrase was coined, "kicked the bucket." Being gypped: The Gypsy pick of pocketing was to throw their babies at a person, and then steal their money. The person would not drop the child, therefore making it easy to take their money. Because of this, being taken advantage of is often called "being gypped." Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey: On a ship, sailors placed cannon balls on brass plates known as brass monkeys. In the cold, the brass would shrink and the cannon balls would fall off. This made it "cold enough to freeze the balls of a brass monkey."
Hike tackles 4000 feet in four miles

by Allison Worrell
News editor

Driving winds, cramps and ice axes, life-threatening conditions, utter isolation and solitude are all elements of mountain climbing. Visible from Interstate 90, Mount Si contradicts each of these generalizations, and can easily be summited in a few hours, usually in the company of a few hundred climbers.

The temperature hung in the low forties and it was raining steadily in North Bend last week-end as I drove to the trailhead. Unenthused about the task ahead of me, and feeling sluggish after an enormous lunch, I drove slowly to put off leaving the shelter of my Subaru. However, it was only a ten minute drive from the freeway to the trailhead, elevation 650 feet, all on paved roads.

One of the most accessible trailheads in the state, the Mount Si trail attracts thousands of hikers each year. I was only a little surprised to find myself hiking with only a few hundred climbers. The trailhead to the base of the Haystack, an enormous rock at the summit of Mount Si. Each half-mile was clearly marked, and at about one mile was a viewpoint, the first on the route.

By this time I had surrendered to the rain and removed my hood, and was enjoying slopping through occasional muddy patches. The trail continued to switchback, and, at one and three-quarter miles, after Snag Flat, the trail climbed into the middle forest. I was pleased when the trees provided protection from the rain.

The trail began to gently climb, and a series of long switchbacks followed. The path is well graded and even more well traveled: kids buned in parks, men laden with high-tech gear training for more extreme climbs, tourists and old-timers all shared the trail.

It's an eight-mile-long round trip from the trailhead to the base of the Haystack, an enormous rock at the summit of Mount Si. Each half-mile was clearly marked, and at about one mile was a viewpoint, the first on the route.

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Parents solve murder mystery

Andrea Vanhorn/Observer

Dessert, deception and detective work. The Murder Mystery Company of Portland visited Ellensburg Saturday, Jan. 26. They entertained Central students and their families by performing the act “Al Capone’s Place.” The night included dessert, murder and audience participation in solving the case.

Art Walk showcased at local eateries

by Meredith Willingahm
Scene editor

Local art galleries, restaurants and museums will have a chance to showcase their material before the community in the First Friday Art Walk tomorrow.

First Friday Art Walk is a collection of local businesses and eateries showcasing varieties of art to the public.

Sweet Memories, the Valley Deli and Wineshop, and D&M Coffee Downtown all present the casual diner an opportunity to look at local artists’ work while eating and drinking the fare they have to offer. Local antique stores are being added to the list of places to visit this month as well.

The Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, located on the Central Washington University campus, will have a spot on the monthly walk. The Clymer Museum is presenting the works of local artists as well as the permanent exhibits of John Clymer.

The Central Washington Gallery of Fine Art, formerly the Amby Edinger Art Gallery, will feature poetry readings and the normal collection of paintings and sculptures normally seen.

“In here, there are people from Ellensburg, the Yakima River valley, China, Mongolia, South America, Russia and Belarus. This gallery is international,” Reuben Edinger, gallery director, said.

Edinger founded the gallery five years ago, but has since converted the structure of the gallery to a non-profit organization headed by a board of directors. Edinger and the board have compiled an art collection that doesn’t present the normal vision of an art gallery.

“We do lots of different art mediums; everything from the visual concrete art, to the performing arts, to the literary arts,” Edinger said.

The gallery presents international art to an audience who wouldn’t normally be able to see work from around the world.

“A lot of people in this community don’t necessarily travel internationally, so what we’re doing is we’re bringing all these cultures in to central Washington, to familiarize people with other cultures,” Edinger said. “We’re also developing pathways out for artists from central Washington to exhibit all over the world.”

The Gallery of Fine Art will be highlighted with a visit from Central professor Mark Halperin, who will be reading poems from his latest book, “Life Poetry.”

Halperin will add a vocal element to the work presented at the gallery.

“He’s widely traveled. He will add the American opinion, the American viewpoint. He is the American who is culturally diverse,” Edinger said. “He will add the literary human element to what otherwise is considered sometimes to be static art.”

The Central Washington Gallery will present a dollhouse exhibition next month for the next First Friday Art Walk.

Reuben Edinger, director of the Central Washington Gallery of Fine Art, sets up the Stephen Abhaya paintings to include in the First Friday Art Walk. Mark Halperin will be reading from his latest book, “Life Poetry” and signing copies for listeners who wish to buy the book.
Wildcats knock off nationally ranked Seattle Pacific University

by Duane Shimogawa
Staff reporter

Coming in against the Seattle Pacific University Falcons, the Wildcats knew they would have to play a near perfect game and that's exactly what they did with an 84-82 overtime win.

"All the facets of our game are running on all cylinders and we just beat a terrific basketball team," head coach Jeff Whitney said.

Central used a balanced scoring attack with five players in double figures and was able to shut down Washington State transfer Kelley Berglund, who scored only eight points while spending most of the game on the bench with foul trouble.

The Wildcats, number eight in the West Region rankings, scratched away from a 21-all tie with a 7-0 run late in the first half. Central led 36-31 at the end of the first half, which featured four ties and 11 lead changes.

"I felt good about our team at the half as we came out and held our own, not letting them take control of the game," Whitney said.

Central came out in the second half with a purpose running off nine straight points and leading by as many as 22 points. With 6:30 to go in the game, senior center Rose Shaw hit a driving lay-up that seemingly put the Wildcats up for good.

Wrong.

See HOOPS, Page 16

Male and female swimmers win big against the University of Puget Sound

by Staci Miller
Assoc. sports editor

Lap after lap after lap, is what every member of the Central Washington University Wildcat swim team endures everyday. They have to.

In order to do well in an extremely competitive league, every member of the Wildcat team must turn it up a notch and perform to the best of their ability. The Wildcats proved they were up to the challenge when they hosted a dual meet against the University of Puget Sound last Friday. For the first meet in over a month, Central drowned the Loggers with a 121-82 victory for the men and a 129-76 victory for the women.

"I'm happy with the way everyone is swimming," captain Cliff Brooke said. "I like the way the team has worked as a group and I think we've risen to the challenge Candl (Eslinger, head coach) has set for us."

Early in the meet, sophomore Wildcat Cliff Brooke took control of the water with a win in both the 200-yard (1:45.75) and the 500-yard (4:48.31) freestyle. For the women, junior Vicki Schmaltz clobbered the Loggers with a victory in the 100-yard (54.56) and 200-yard (1:59.22) freestyle. Freshman Shelbi Settlage pushed the Wildcats ahead with powerful wins in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:07.48) and the 200-yard individual medley (2:12.20).

Thougt both the men and the women were victorious over the University of Puget Sound Loggers, they struggled to stay afloat at the Central Washington University Mini-Invite Saturday afternoon.

"I didn't know what to expect," said freshman Kyle Munsch. "I think we are a little tired because we haven't had a meet in a while."

Tired indeed. Taking on California Baptist University, Seattle University and Whitworth College might have been a little more than the Wildcat men could chew. By the end of the five-hour meet, the Wildcat men walked away with a fourth-
Central lets its guard down
Wildcats lose to St. Martin’s for the first time in four years

by Casey Steiner
Asst. sports editor

Unfortunately for Wildcats fans, basketball games are played on the court and not on paper. “If you don’t think our guys showed up,” Greg Sparling, head coach, said. “They may have been looking ahead to the Western game. They just didn’t stick to the game plan.”

Central Washington University outscored a 133-23 all-time record, including eight straight, against the Saints coming into the contest. Despite a 3-5 conference record, the Wildcats were heavily favored on paper against their 4-4 opponent. “Play hard, play smart, play together,” Scott Freymond, point guard, said. “That’s our team motto.”

SMC strode into Nicholson Pavilion Saturday and beat a lack-advised Wildcats team 75-20 in front of 1,500 fans. “We’re not playing real well at all,” Justin Thompson, senior, said. After wins over undefeated Humboldt State and Western Oregon the Wildcats looked to be heading in the right direction. A tune-up contest with SMC stood between the Wildcats and matches-up with conference-else Western Washington and Seattle Pacific. “We’re playing real inconsistent,” Sparling said. “We played real well against Humboldt State and Western Oregon. Then we blew it against Saint Martin’s.”

The light at the end of the tunnel shined bright in the eyes of the players. But by the end of the game the Wildcats stood stunned like a deer caught in headlights. “We just didn’t stick to the game plan,” Freymond said. Before the season began Sparling spoke of an ultimate goal of “winning the national championship.” After adding talent and depth to a team that lost in the regional semifinals a year ago, a national championship didn’t seem too far-fetched. “Our whole team is disappointment.”

“We just didn’t stick to the game plan.”

— Scott Freymond

By Lauren McKean
Staff reporter

Senior power-forward Justin Thompson lays the ball in with close pressure from a Saint defender against Saint Martin’s College. Thompson led the Wildcats with 18 points and seven rebounds in the home loss. Central travels to Western Washington University (6-3) and nationally ranked Seattle Pacific University (6-3) today and Saturday.

Southern Oregon and the Oregon take down Wildcat wrestlers on road

by Lauren McKeon
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University wrestlers migrated south to Southern Oregon University in Ashland on Friday and University of Oregon in Eugene on Saturday, to add two more losses to their dual meet record (4-9).

“We went into the Southern Oregon match knowing that we could beat them,” Jay McGuffin, head coach, said. “They were tough. There was a big crowd and we were the outsiders trying to overcome them on their home mats. It’s hard to go up against a tough team and beat them, and even harder to do that on their territory.”

Losing 20-6 to Southern Oregon, Central was only able to put out three wins on the mat. Southern Oregon continued to add to their 18-straight winning streak against Central, upping the defeats to 19.

Jaime Garza (125) started his match against Mark Harris by getting down quickly, 4-1. He fought back hard to win the match, 17-8. “He just kept fighting and came back and ended up breaking his opponent,” McGuffin said.

Shaine Jaime put in a great match at 149 pounds, giving Central another win (6-2) over Shawn Bover. “Jaime dominated his whole match. He’s been wrestling very well and I think he might end up being a national contender,” McGuffin said.

Franco Santiago (184) was the third to put in some points for the Wildcats. He won with a technical fall over Chris Wilson. “If we wouldn’t’ve won the close matches, we wouldn’t’ve won overall,” Thompson said. “We should’ve been a better position.”

Now with a 10-7 overall and 3-6 conference record, the Wildcats will be lucky to qualify for the playoffs. “We have to win out and let the NCAA figure it out,” Sparling said. With nine games to play, Central can afford no more lackluster performances like the one last weekend. Even a perfect 9-0 run to end the season may not be enough. Central now resides in seventh place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and must make its way into the top six in the NCAA Division II West Regional poll in order to qualify for the post-season. “We have to get focused,” Sparling said. “We weren’t focused against Saint Martin’s and we weren’t focused (in losses) against Northwest Nazarene or Seattle U.”

The comeback trail starts tonight in Bellingham. The Wildcats will be looking for revenge upon the 81-84 overtime loss Dec. 8 against the much-hated Vikings. “We’re thinking nothing but revenge,” Freymond said. “They (SPU and WWU) came into our gym and beat us in the two craziest games I’ve ever been involved in. We want our revenge.” There are also playoff implications on the line. “Whoever loses the Western-Central game will probably be out of the playoffs for sure,” Sparling said. After losing in the semi-finals a year ago, WWU sits in seventh place in the regional poll. The Wildcats will have to average 12 or more points per game.

“It’s going to be a crazy environment,” Sparling said. “At this point it’s probably going to come down to what they do and they know what we do. It’ll come down to who makes the big plays.”

On Saturday Central travels to Seattle for a rematch with eighth nationally ranked Seattle Pacific University. The Falcons escaped Nicholson Pavilion with a 101-100 double-overtime victory Dec. 6. With a 15-1 overall record SPU is the second ranked team in the region. “We played them well the first time,” Thompson said. “We need to get some wins and set a plateau for the rest of the season. A win will help us come together and play team basketball.”

The Falcons have the talent to back up their high ranking. Junior forward Yusef Aziz, at 16.5 points per game, leads the Falcons. Also providing firepower is preseason All-America forward Brannon Stone at 10 points, 5.1 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game.

“People are going to have to elevate their play,” Sparling said. “It’s going to be a fun game. Whoever wins this game is going to have to be clicking on all cylinders.”

Central returns to home next week to start a four-game home stand with Alaska Anchorage Thursday and Alaska Fairbanks Saturday night.

The Wildcats were somewhat handicapped not being able to send in Shane Jaime. He did not wrestle because of an ankle injury from the previous match and McGuffin decided to keep him off the mat. “Even though we lost against Oregon on Saturday, I had the feeling there was more intensity there than against Southern Oregon,” McGuffin said. “We are having confidence problems. The physical aspect of the game is there, but the mental aspect is one of questionable whether or not they’re going to win, they should go out knowing they’re going to be victorious.”

The Wildcat’s next match will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 4 at Montana State University-Northern.

“If we wrestle tough, we should win,” Roberts said. “The end of the season is coming up and we have to pick it up a notch.”
Central Athlete of the Week
Settlage sets the pace for Wildcats
by Staci Miller
Asst. sports editor

Eat. Sleep. Swim. Eat. Sleep. Swim. For freshman Central Washington University swimmer Shelby Settlage, this is a normal routine.

At the age of 10, Settlage began her swimming career in her hometown of Bothell and quickly developed a love for the sport. By age 12, she qualified for her first Zone, a yearly swim competition, in the breaststroke.

"It was definitely a different experience at that age," Settlage said. "It was a big deal."

Though she did not place high in her age group, she came away from the competition with a fire to perform well.

Over the years, Settlage swam for the Bothell High School swim team and on her local club team, proving to be very successful. As her senior year rolled around, she had a difficult decision to make. Not only did she have to decide which school she wanted to swim for, she had to make the decision whether or not to stay in state.

"I didn't know I was going to come to Central until the last minute," Settlage said. "I wanted to go out of state all through high school, until my senior year. I didn't want to go anywhere in Washington, then my senior year I got scared and didn't want to leave and I didn't want to go to far from home.

After re-evaluating her location decision, Settlage had another decision to make. Following careful consideration of teams from Washington State University and the University of Washington, Settlage narrowed it down. Last March, following a recruiting trip to Central, Settlage chose to swim for the Wildcats. With a drive to succeed and a full tuition scholarship under her belt, she has made quite a name for herself among her teammates.

"She works hard and it shows in her daily performance," teammate Jessica Spriggs said. "We are all excited to see her swim at the Washington Open this weekend."

With two-day practices and morning practice starting as early as 5:30 a.m., Settlage has given up almost all of her social life for the one thing that she has worked eight hard years to accomplish: swimming excellence.

"It definitely takes away from my social life," Settlage said. "But that's something you have to give up if you want to do something that's so different from everyone in the world, something a lot of people can't do."

But Settlage can still find the positive aspects of a not-so-positive social life. When she is not fine-tuning her breaststroke or swimming sprints to improve her time, she tries to hang out with her friends as much as possible, especially on the weekends. Settlage also looks at swimming as positive activity in her life. "It's a year-round sport so it keeps something positive in my life everyday after school," Settlage said. "It has taught me dedication and discipline.

Miss. It also always taught me to do my homework, taught me what's right and what's wrong. There is so much discipline."

As for the rest of the Wildcat team, Settlage has no regrets choosing Central as a starting point for her swimming career. Sharing the pool with her co-ed teammates is just one of the details Settlage looked for when picking a school. For eight years, she swam for co-ed teams in Bothell and loved it from the beginning. Making the decision to swimming for Central is no exception.

"Everyone's so different on the team and we all get along very well," Settlage said. "Everyone sees each other as they really are. They see you without make-up; they see you when you're down and when you're happy. You know the person when you are on a team like that."

When Settlage ends her Wildcat career she would like to be remembered for her energy in and out of the pool and the knowledge that she did her best no matter how she felt.

"I would like to be remembered as somebody who didn't give up," Settlage said.

But giving up is not in the vocabulary of this 18-year-old swim star. For her first season as a Wildcat, Settlage has already put up some impressive times. In the 100-yard breaststroke, she is a mere four-tenths of a second off the national time of 1:07.29. Settlage also has yet to regain her personal best time of 1:04.91.

In order for Settlage to fulfill her goal of making it to the National Championships in March, she has to stay focused and disciplined in the sport in which she has poured all of her time and energy. She has made swimming a priority and it shows in her performance to be able to perform with the fire she found when she was just a 12-year-old.

Ryan White/Observer

Freshman swimmer Shelby Settlage is on her way to making the National Championships with only four-tenths of a second to trim off her 100-yard breaststroke. She is aiming to make the cut this weekend.

Observer Classifieds 963-1026

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HOOPS: Wildcat women play for their sixth straight victory

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SPU came roaring back, headed by freshman forward Emily Faurholt and sophomore forward Kristin Poe who combined for 15 of the Falcon's 27 points in the second half. SPU junior guard Kerrie Hughes completed a 27-5 run with a three pointer with 12 seconds in regulation, knotting the game at 74 and sending it into overtime.

"I wasn't surprised with the comeback..."

― Rose Shaw

"I wasn't surprised with the comeback, they don't give up and that's why they are a nationally ranked team," Shaw said.

In overtime, both teams traded buckets and with the game tied at 80, Shaw hit one of two free throws with 49 seconds to go, but the Falcons answered as Faurholt was fouled while attempting a three pointer and hit two of three from the line to put them up 82-81.

Central wouldn't quit as Shaw hit guard Dawnita LiaBraaten wide open on the left wing to hit nothing but the bottom of the twine putting the Wildcats up for good 84-82.

Just moments later, Hughes took the inbound pass coast to coast and despite the tight defense by LiaBraaten, put in the supposed game tying bucket, which originally was called good but after a discussion with the other referees, the call was overturned and an ecstatic Wildcat squad came away with the 84-82 victory.

"This game taught us a big lesson as to never give up and to keep working hard," LiaBraaten said.

The Wildcats were led by Shaw with 26 points and 14 rebounds. Junior guard Meggen Kautzky dropped in 18 points, junior forward Karissa Martin added 14, junior guard Angela Jensen chipped in with 12 points, and LiaBraaten rounded out the double digit scoring with 10.

Faurholt led SPU with 26 points and freshman guard Trisha Hermanson came off the bench to score 17 points.

Central hopes to extend its five game winning streak when it hosts St. Martin's tonight and Northwest Nazarene Saturday.

SWIMMING: Central swimmers gear up for Washington Open

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place score of 93 compared to the winning CBU (211.5). On the other hand, the Wildcat women squeaked by CBU (171 points) and the rest of the pack with a 177-point win.

Even with both teams drained of energy, impressive times and wins were still plentiful in the Wildcat pool.

In the 200-yard individual medley, the women demonstrated power and grace in the water with Settlage (2:12.49) taking first, freshman Brianne Kelson (2:15.90) grabbing third and Kristen Landers, Elizabeth Scott and Anne Miller rounding out the top 10 seats. Captain Vicki Schmaltz (Jr.) also grabbed a huge victory in the 500-yard freestyle (5:15.37).

For the Wildcat men, wins were hard to come by. Brooke wrangled up a third-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle (4:47.59) and Munsch placed third as well in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:21.21).

Eslinger said the team's structure this season is shaping up to be possibly one of the best in years.

"They are a lot tighter as a team, not just a bunch of individuals," Eslinger said. "We do have those swimmers that are faster but I think as a whole they work together really well and you have to do that. It's not just one person, it takes a team effort."

The season is now tapering down to its final few meets with the Washington Open this weekend in Federal Way and conference finals, Feb. 17-21, in Long Beach, Calif.