One of the major concerns with the new comprehensive plan is location. By bringing commercial growth into the community, business owners could be faced with shrinking revenues.
Lack of funding limits the power of voice

by Pat Brown
Senior reporter

Freshman theatre performance major Maddie Cartwright has been singing since she was four years old. It's her passion and she hopes to one day work in musical theatre. A musical theatre major is not offered at Central Washington University but Cartwright knows that the right choice for them.

"I was really upset. I really enjoy singing since I was four years old. It's my passion and I hope to one day work in musical theatre," Cartwright said.

To Cartwright's dismay, right before finals week she was told she could not take voice lessons in the music department. The problem facing the music department is that the Washington state legislature's higher education fund appropriates money on a basis of how many credit hours are offered. Since instruction for music lessons is done one-on-one between the instructor and the student, the music department is unable to pay for as many credit hours as other departments.

Peter Gries, chair of the music department, said being understaffed doesn't have enough faculty members to accommodate all their majors. "If there is not enough money to hire more people, it will be more difficult for students," Gries said.

"We can't afford to hire new people or expand our offerings," Gries said. "It's almost miraculous that we are where we are."

-Peter Gries, music department chair

Third priority goes to music minors. Any student seeking music lessons as an elective would be fourth priority. Due to an influx in students and a lack of funding, only first priority students will be admitted to the lessons.

luckily for Cartwright and Smith, both students find it disheartening that the situation. "This is a whole change in philosophy for us since we used to take anyone who showed promise," Gries said. "We need to make the application process more competitive."

Gries and the rest of the music department are doing what they can to make sure a shortage in lesson availability does not happen again. An enrollment management committee was established to combat this problem, said Gries and three other music faculty.

Gries says the music department doesn't have enough faculty members to accommodate all their majors. For this reason, adjuncts have been hired. The hiring of adjuncts is a common practice throughout the university, but the music department has often had to rely on adjuncts to instruct major coursework. "The problem this presents is that if there is not enough money to hire the adjuncts, the classes don't get offered," Gries said.

Central's music program is one of the most highly accredited programs in the state of Washington and receives quite a bit of attention around the rest of the country as well.

An outside evaluator is coming to Central next Monday to determine just where the music department ranks among its competitors. "It's almost miraculous that we are where we are," Gries said.

According to a data survey conducted by the National Association of Schools of Music from the 2004-05 school year, the average total budget-excluding faculty salaries of music departments with 100-200 majors is $200,737. Central, which has 273 music majors, has a total budget of $175,419.

The music department is not offered at Central Washington University but Cartwright knows that the right choice for them is New York. "I love New York," Cartwright said.

"It's not going to last forever. We will probably be able to get them in the future," Gries said. "What we need to do is limit the number of students we accept, to the number of students we can teach with integrity."

Gries said the problem is only temporary. "It's not going to last forever. We will probably be able to get them in the future," Gries said. "What we need to do is limit the number of students we accept, to the number of students we can teach with integrity."

Campus elections kick off this month

by Paul Booth
Staff reporter

Spring is here, and that means the Associated Students of Central Washington University elections are right around the corner. For anyone interested in getting involved or running for office, this is a great time to take action.

Election packets and applications are available in the Samuels Union Building, room 214 and students have until April 19 at 4 p.m. to file for positions.

To be eligible, students must have completed at least 30 credits before spring quarter 2006 with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Potential candidates must sign an application and pay a $25 filing fee that is used to advertise the elections.

Election candidates must also acquire 100 signatures of support from classmates and submit a statement explaining candidacy. At least 150 words. The field of contenders won't be established until the end of the filing period.

For more information, contact Eastern Student Union, 509-963-2689.

Students flock to food fair for National Nutrition Month

Central Washington University hosted a Food Show in the SUB pit Thursday, March 30 from Noon to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Nutrition Science club and CWU Dining Services. Vendors were on hand to let students sample some of the fresh offerings that will be available in the new SUB.

LEFT: Miguel Sanchez, senior accounting major, tries a sandwich at the Western Food booth, represented by Scott Nelson.

RIGHT: Mary Aho, conference staff member, fills out a form on turkey samples.

No final selection was made at the screening process. This process would be a very tedious practice for an already overburdened facul­ty. "This is a whole change in philosophy for us since we used to take anyone who showed promise," Gries said. "We need to make the application process more competitive."

Students interested in joining should contact Executive Vice President Chris Casey, at 509-963-1698.

The money issue:

- A survey by the National Association of Schools of Music found that programs with 100-400 majors had an average budget of $280,000
- Central's music department has 273 majors, and a budget of $175,000

Priority levels for enrollment (in rank order):
1. music majors seeking classes in their performing area
2. music majors seeking classes outside of their area
3. music minor
4. the general student population
Students clean up with new contraption

by Carleigh Lorenz
Staff reporter

The Campus Beautification and Recycling Committee is working to encourage recycling on campus. They have put posters designed by committee member Colin Stewart all around campus, that read, "Recycling is S.E.X.Y. Smart, Economical, X-tremely You." The point of the poster is to get students thinking about recycling as part of their routine.

"It was a collective effort with several people involved with the process including everyone from the photographer, make-up artists, the models, to others involved with the design," Stewart said.

"There is no person that deserves the credit. Everyone had the idea that we were going to promote recycling in a unique humorous way."

The Campus Beautification and Recycling Committee recently sponsored a "Recycling Bin Challenge." Students all over campus could submit designs for recycling bins. On Mar. 7, students voted for one to be the official recycling bin for the new Student Union Building.

"The purpose of the challenge was to help create some awareness of recycling on campus and get students involved with the process," said Jeff Rosenberry, chair of the Campus Beautification and Recycling Committee.

The winner of the recycling bin challenge was the Circle K group. The concept was a three sectioned laundry hamper kind of thing, like a stand that has the three sections, whites, darks and bright colors. You could have aluminum, plastic and glass. We wanted it to be simple and clean, like the building," said Lindsey Jackson, Circle K member and senior cell and microbiology major.

The committee plans to use table tents, residence hall programs and other media to encourage students to recycle and make sure they know that recycling is an important part of Central Washington University.

Swarthout in stable condition after heart attack

by Stephanie Howard
Staff reporter

John Swarthout, associate professor in the political science department, continues to recover since his recent heart attack. Swarthout was moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert.

"He tires easily," said department secretary, Linda Rubio.

There is no timetable for Swarthout's release from Kindred. Once he is home, Swarthout will be moved to a hospital in Portland to be near family.

He "tires easily," said department secretary, Linda Rubio. He suffers from a heart condition after a heart attack. Swarthout spent two weeks in Yakima in critical condition. Swarthout is unable to talk due to breathing and feeding tubes.

He is aware of what is going on," said Department chair Todd Schauer. Swarthout is also able to use writing and talking as a way to communicate. He recognizes people and is alert.

Swarthout moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert. Swarthout was moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert.

Swarthout was moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert.

The committee is working with the Civic Engagement Center to try and host a Campus Wide Clean Up during Earth Week this month.

"This clean up would allow people to volunteer to come out and help improve the quality of their campus," Rosenberry said. "A barbecue would be provided for those that participated. Additionally, we are going to have a rubber duck race where the town canal fills to its maximum level for the year. Students will be able to purchase a rubber duck with a number on it and we will launch the rubber ducks over a bridge."

The prizes for first, second and third place ducks will be gift packs that are environmentally friendly. All money raised will go to purchasing benches that will be along placed along the canal. The goal is for students to be able to sit and enjoy the scenery without having to sit on the grass.

The committee will continue to come up with opportunities for students to improve the campus. They will also be coming up with new ways to increase awareness about recycling on campus.

The winner of the recycling bin challenge was the Circle K group. The project was a three sectioned laundry hamper kind of thing, like a stand that has the three sections, whites, darks and bright colors. You could have aluminum, plastic and glass. We wanted it to be simple and clean, like the building," said Lindsey Jackson, Circle K member and senior cell and microbiology major.

The committee plans to use table tents, residence hall programs and other media to encourage students to recycle and make sure they know that recycling is an important part of Central Washington University.

Swarthout spent two weeks in Yakima in critical condition. Swarthout is unable to talk due to breathing and feeding tubes.

"He is aware of what is going on," said Department chair Todd Schauer. Swarthout is able to use writing to communicate. He recognizes people and is alert.

Swarthout moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert. Swarthout was moved to Kindred Hospital in Seattle where he is now conscious and alert.

It is our goal to let students know that they have the power to make a difference on campus just by picking up, or putting away, their trash," Rosenberry said. "Empowering our students will create a stronger sense of community and allow more ownership of the campus by the students."
Saving salmon: students plant trees to preserve coho habitat in Yakima river basin

by Kareena Shillman
Staff reporter

Help is on the way. Cascade Land Conservancy and the Yakama Nation, part of the Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP), are hosting a community work party to help restore the critical habitat for Coho salmon.

Lorinda Anderson, director of the Civic Engagement Center and Leadership Development at Washington State University, said that World Health Day should be dedicated to natural resource management, "It is one of the best ways to make you feel like you have really accomplished something valuable.

Volunteers will participate in tree planting and salmon habitat restoration along the Yakima River from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. Volunteers will be able to meet and interact with a variety of community members, learn about the needs of local habitat restoration and mend critical habitat for Coho salmon in the Yakima River Basin.

"Volunteers will not only learn and practice restoration methods, but they will also have the opportunity to dialog with individuals whose professions center on natural resource management," Anderson said. "It is one of the best ways to make you feel like you have really accomplished something valuable.

According to the Office of Protected Resources Web site, Coho salmon, now considered endangered, are believed to have migrated hundreds of miles inland to spawn in tributaries in the upper Columbia River in Washington and the Snake River in Idaho. Benefits of side channel rescue will result in passage improvements, habitat restoration and spawning restoration.

Coho habitat biologist and Central Washington University alumna Kelly Clark-Larimer has helped coordinate the event to help restore the 50 acres of high value flood plain habitat, known as the "Holmes Property." She said she is thrilled about the project and believes public awareness and support for such projects has increased in Kittitas County.

"Our program is fairly complex in structure and function: our main goal is to restore the side channel and flood plain habitat on the property," said Clark-Larimer.

Clark-Larimer, a graduate student with a resource and environmental management degree, is excited to see Central students actively participating in community work and hopes to see many current environmental management students involved in the future.

"There will be a whole bunch of organizations that are good for networking," Clark-Larimer said. "We hope to make it an annual event.

Clark-Larimer said community involvement is strong. Along with Central, other organizations are participating in the event and will serve as key partners.

Although restoration will take several years, organizations are hoping to solicit public involvement along the way. In addition, several elementary students will visit the respective side channel and participate in a few learning stations and release salmon they have raised in their classrooms.

The restoration project will be located at the old Holmes DD Ranch, 191 Klocke Road, near the John Wayne Trail Bridge in Ellensburg. Volunteers can earn a fee Cascade Land Conservancy membership and all volunteers are welcome to enjoy a fun BBQ and potluck afterward.

For more information, directions or volunteer sign-ups, visit the Civic Engagement Center located in SUB 212.

World Health Day addresses global workforce shortage

by Sean McPherson
Staff reporter

Friday, April 7 marks the 56th annual World Health Day. It was set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) to bring attention to health problems that affect people around the world.

This year, the theme for World Health Day is "Working Together for a Healthier World." This year's theme relates to work force shortages in the field of health care.

Arthur DePalma, associate director of Health and Counseling Center, said that World Health Day tends to be more focused on Third World health care than domestic problems. "Health care in this country has a lot of issues," DePalma said.

However, DePalma said that there is a nursing shortage in the United States, which drains nurses from other countries, including those in Africa and Europe.

WHO, in an advocacy toolkit that is accessible at their official Web site, is calling for multiple steps to be taken to improve the health care workforce, including improved education and protection of health workers.

Previous World Health Day themes have been on issues such as road safety, polio, and emerging infectious diseases.

Another health-related event coming up is the Civic Engagement Center's Campaign Against Cancer, a fund raiser for cancer research. Part of the campaign includes giving out purple wristbands to anyone who donates money.

The campaign concludes with the "Walk of Hope" which is scheduled for May 20. The walk will include music and raffles, but will also feature a memorial tribute.

"We want it to be really fun and light-hearted," said Stephanie Oberlan, a sophomore majoring in nursing. "We want people to understand something they didn't before." Gries said. "On any level: as a freshman learning a major minor scale to a graduate student on analytical theories and seeing the light go on.

Music chair's career praised

by Marjorie Allen
Staff reporter

Peter Gries' career reached a grand crescendo when he received a phone call in mid-February. It was a call that he had been selected to be in the Washington Music Educators Association's Hall of Fame.

"I knew it was coming," Gries said. "But I never expected it." To be inducted in the WMEA Hall of Fame is no small feat.

"It's so nice to have someone who's so helpful," Gries said. "It's my love for music that is undeniable, as he often shows off his passion for the art to others. Gries plays Mozart at a 1780s style piano, which he built himself from a kit, to demonstrate the different tone and sound quality it has from modern pianos.

Gries does not only prefer the art form of music, but acting as well. He has performed as key characters in many well-known plays. "I've been Captain Hook from 'Pirates of the Caribbean: The Merchant of Venice,'" Gries said.

Gries has always enjoyed music, and has passed on his zeal for music to his students and the people he meets through this work.

The best part is getting someone to understand something they didn't before," Gries said. "On any level: as a freshman learning a major minor scale to a graduate student on analytical theories and seeing the light go on.

Look forward to updates regarding University Dining and the Faculty Code.

HopeSource

HopeSource is still taking applications for households that have not yet applied for their Energy Assistance Program to help pay household heating costs. The program can help pay for various sources of heat, including electric, gas, oil, wood, propane, and pellets.

Kittitas County residents are encouraged to apply. Eligibility is determined upon income and program guidelines. All types of household are eligible. Please call HopeSource at 962-0427 for more information.
Comprehensive plan prompts major growth

by Taishi Kanamaru
Staff reporter

The city of Ellensburg's comprehensive plan anticipates community changes and strives to manage these changes in a deliberate manner, reflecting the desires and wishes of Ellensburg's residents.

The plan will shape the city's zoning and subdivision regulations, capital improvement programming and budgeting, and other legal and regulatory actions necessary to manage Ellensburg's physical, social, and environmental character.

The plan contains several elements that are required by the Washington State Growth Management Act.

This includes land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and essential public facilities.

The description of transportation, for example, states it will "encourage efficient multi-modal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with the county.

More specifically, the issue of expanding commercial activity in the form of regional retail is one of the more controversial aspects of the plan.

While most residents believe there are needs for commercial growth in town so that they do not have to go far to shop, the city is carefully considering areas for regional retail development.

According to their Web site, Potential areas include the West Interchange, Luptanum Area, South Interchange, and Central Business District.

However, this plan is not only about economic growth, but also about respect for Ellensburg's tradition.

The goal is historic preservation, which emphasizes the importance the community places on historic resources and the need to preserve and restore those resources as a fundamental part of maintaining the community's identity.

Therefore, it seems there will be more people and stores, but with the preserved historic buildings remaining for the future.

Tomonari Ukawa, senior business administration major, feels there needs to be some new businesses on the north side of campus as he lives in University Place Apartments, located on eighteenth Avenue.

"All of the major grocery stores are only on the south part Ellensburg, and it is hard for me go there when I'm hungry," said Ukawa. "I'd like to see some development around my house in the future."

One major concern of community members with the comprehensive plan is the competition local businesses will face if "Big Box" companies move into Ellensburg. If there is more growth on the outer edges of the city, near freeway exits, people will be more likely to go to those businesses than venture deeper into the city.

In addition to a favorable public opinion, the proposed project must also adopt a sub-area plan for the wind farm, receive a zoning classification that would label the 6,000 acre area the "Wind Farm Resource Overlay Zoning District," get a development permit, and adopt a development agreement. The agreement will take approximately a year to build and will be effective for roughly 20 years or more.

The benefits received from the project include creating a $1.8 million tax revenue, improved roads along the site area (the project will have a separate road fund), and lower electricity costs. However, the proposed site could affect property values and real estate businesses are the most affected, because it is hard to sell land near the 64 turbines. This could, in turn, affect the real estate and current homeowners in that area.

The Houston-based company Horizon, which is responsible for the project, has been operating and developing projects in more than a dozen states. In the past two years, Horizon has built or announced the construction of more than 800 megawatts of wind power, with the Kittitas County project being the latest one.

The planning commission of Kittitas County unanimously denied the project on Feb. 13, 2006, but agreed to hold an open record hearing on Mar. 29 and 30 after much debate.

In order to be built, the project would need an open hearing on March 29 and 30, 2006, with the Kittitas County commissioners deciding whether to grant the project the necessary permits.

The Kittitas County planning commission will hold an open hearing on March 29 and 30, 2006, to determine whether the project is in compliance with the county's comprehensive plan.

If the project is approved, it will open the floodgate of possibilities.

Turbine farm location proves major concern

by Kyle McCormick
Staff reporter

Citizens of Kittitas County are divided on whether or not they are in favor of the proposed 64 wind harnessing turbines that will be placed on a 6,000 acre area by Highway 97 and Bettas Road.

"We need to fight for the economic security in our community," said Terry Petrie, Ellensburg resident.

People like Skip Littlefield, however, like the project but were against something else.

"We are in favor of the project, but the location should be changed," said Littlefield.

Others against the project cited reasons such as it disturbs the natural view of the county and it affects property values.

Ellensburg's City Council has a big decision to make and Citizens Against Sprawl (CAS) is trying to encourage a different plan.

Washington state law requires that all counties outline a comprehensive growth and development plan to combat future urban growth, and are required to reassess the plan every 10 years.

It has been 10 years since and the plan has come under scrutiny.

This scrutiny pertains to "big box" retailers and zoning areas.

CAS is a small, grassroots group based in Ellensburg, and is trying to persuade Ellensburg's City Council to keep "big box" retailers like Wal-Mart and large strip malls from setting up shop near the west interchange by the Wild Grove Casino.

"We're not against Wal-Mart, in particular, but we want to keep these large retailers in the downtown area to keep people in town," said Barbara Newman, CAS spokeswoman.

CAS has a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to save downtown Ellensburg.

According to Newman, members of CAS are currently attending City Council meetings and have written several letters to the editor of Ellensburg's local newspaper, The Daily Record.

"There is a lot of land around Fred Meyer on Third Avenue, which seems

Patrick Lewis/Observer

With the construction of the new wind farms, the county is expecting to receive $1.8 million in tax revenue and lower electricity costs.

If the wind power project is approved by the public, it could open the floodgate of possibilities.

Comprehensive plan gets criticism

by Joshua Gaettener and Carly Petersen
Staff reporters

Ellensburg's City Council has a big decision to make and Citizens Against Sprawl (CAS) is trying to encourage a different plan.

Washington state law requires that all counties outline a comprehensive growth and development plan to combat future urban growth, and are required to reassess the plan every 10 years.

It has been 10 years since and the plan has come under scrutiny.

This scrutiny pertains to "big box" retailers and zoning areas.

CAS is a small, grassroots group based in Ellensburg, and is trying to persuade Ellensburg's City Council to keep "big box" retailers like Wal-Mart and large strip malls from setting up shop near the west interchange by the Wild Grove Casino.

"We're not against Wal-Mart, in particular, but we want to keep these large retailers in the downtown area to keep people in town," said Barbara Newman, CAS spokeswoman.

CAS has a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to save downtown Ellensburg.

According to Newman, members of CAS are currently attending City Council meetings and have written several letters to the editor of Ellensburg's local newspaper, The Daily Record.

"There is a lot of land around Fred Meyer on Third Avenue, which seems

Patrick Lewis/Observer

With the construction of the new wind farms, the county is expecting to receive $1.8 million in tax revenue and lower electricity costs.

If the wind power project is approved by the public, it could open the floodgate of possibilities.

Comprehensive plan gets criticism

by Joshua Gaettener and Carly Petersen
Staff reporters

Ellensburg's City Council has a big decision to make and Citizens Against Sprawl (CAS) is trying to encourage a different plan.

Washington state law requires that all counties outline a comprehensive growth and development plan to combat future urban growth, and are required to reassess the plan every 10 years.

It has been 10 years since and the plan has come under scrutiny.

This scrutiny pertains to "big box" retailers and zoning areas.

CAS is a small, grassroots group based in Ellensburg, and is trying to persuade Ellensburg's City Council to keep "big box" retailers like Wal-Mart and large strip malls from setting up shop near the west interchange by the Wild Grove Casino.

"We're not against Wal-Mart, in particular, but we want to keep these large retailers in the downtown area to keep people in town," said Barbara Newman, CAS spokeswoman.

CAS has a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to save downtown Ellensburg.

According to Newman, members of CAS are currently attending City Council meetings and have written several letters to the editor of Ellensburg's local newspaper, The Daily Record.

"There is a lot of land around Fred Meyer on Third Avenue, which seems

Patrick Lewis/Observer

With the construction of the new wind farms, the county is expecting to receive $1.8 million in tax revenue and lower electricity costs.

If the wind power project is approved by the public, it could open the floodgate of possibilities.

Comprehensive plan gets criticism

by Joshua Gaettener and Carly Petersen
Staff reporters

Ellensburg's City Council has a big decision to make and Citizens Against Sprawl (CAS) is trying to encourage a different plan.

Washington state law requires that all counties outline a comprehensive growth and development plan to combat future urban growth, and are required to reassess the plan every 10 years.

It has been 10 years since and the plan has come under scrutiny.

This scrutiny pertains to "big box" retailers and zoning areas.

CAS is a small, grassroots group based in Ellensburg, and is trying to persuade Ellensburg's City Council to keep "big box" retailers like Wal-Mart and large strip malls from setting up shop near the west interchange by the Wild Grove Casino.

"We're not against Wal-Mart, in particular, but we want to keep these large retailers in the downtown area to keep people in town," said Barbara Newman, CAS spokeswoman.

CAS has a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to save downtown Ellensburg.

According to Newman, members of CAS are currently attending City Council meetings and have written several letters to the editor of Ellensburg's local newspaper, The Daily Record.

"There is a lot of land around Fred Meyer on Third Avenue, which seems

Patrick Lewis/Observer

With the construction of the new wind farms, the county is expecting to receive $1.8 million in tax revenue and lower electricity costs.

If the wind power project is approved by the public, it could open the floodgate of possibilities.
Ellensburg's comprehensive plan addresses areas of growth including "Big Box" companies, as well as smaller issues including transportation and housing. Some people are concerned that companies like Wal Mart and Target would hurt local smaller businesses.

PLAN: Community reflects on how plan will affect local businesses

While some students want more businesses in this town, there are some concerns for current local business owners.

Tom Hamborg, owner of Showplace Antique Mall, agrees with the idea of bringing more businesses downtown, but worries that big-box stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target might affect his business.

"Wal-Mart is known to close every small town business," Hamborg said. "I also can see that whatever is brought in shouldn't compete with local businesses or drive them out of business."

John Moer, owner of Moer's Mens Wear, sees the importance of bringing more people to Ellensburg. "I think they need to bring more industries," Moer said. "Without industry, business won't survive."

Although Moer runs his business downtown, he does not mind big-box stores coming to Ellensburg.

Ellensburg museum tells of rich history of town that was almost state capital

by Kayla Roumeliotis

Staff reporter

The city of Ellensburg has been around for over one hundred years and continues to increase its growth.

According to the Ellensburg Museum, in 1866 settler William (Bud) Wilson, a frontier man living with Kittitas Indians, came to Ellensburg and built the first log cabin in 1866, which is now located behind the liquor store.

Fredrick Ludi and John Goller, prospectors, built a cabin in the winter of 1867. Goller moved, but Ludi stayed becoming the first permanent resident to live in Ellensburg.

In 1868 the Tillman Moser family, originally from Seattle, was the first family to reside in Ellensburg. Cowboys A.J. Splawn and Ben Burch opened "Robbins Roast," in 1870.

In 1873, John Shoudy started postal service and five years later named the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1878, the first train to reach Ellensburg on the Northern Pacific Railroad did so on Mar. 31, 1886. The city's water system, sewer, electric plant, and telephone services were installed in 1889. According to City Hall, when Washington became a state in 1889, Ellensburg could have become the capital if a fire had not destroyed most of the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1894, the post office officially opened and changed the spelling from Ellensburgh to Ellensburg.

While some students want more businesses in this town, there are some concerns for current local business owners.

Tom Hamborg, owner of Showplace Antique Mall, agrees with the idea of bringing more businesses downtown, but worries that big-box stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target might affect his business.

"Wal-Mart is known to close every small town business," Hamborg said. "I also can see that whatever is brought in shouldn't compete with local businesses or drive them out of business."

John Moer, owner of Moer's Mens Wear, sees the importance of bringing more people to Ellensburg. "I think they need to bring more industries," Moer said. "Without industry, business won't survive."

Although Moer runs his business downtown, he does not mind big-box stores coming to Ellensburg.

Ellensburg museum tells of rich history of town that was almost state capital

by Kayla Roumeliotis

Staff reporter

The city of Ellensburg has been around for over one hundred years and continues to increase its growth.

According to the Ellensburg Museum, in 1866 settler William (Bud) Wilson, a frontier man living with Kittitas Indians, came to Ellensburg and built the first log cabin in 1866, which is now located behind the liquor store.

Fredrick Ludi and John Goller, prospectors, built a cabin in the winter of 1867. Goller moved, but Ludi stayed becoming the first permanent resident to live in Ellensburg.

In 1868 the Tillman Moser family, originally from Seattle, was the first family to reside in Ellensburg. Cowboys A.J. Splawn and Ben Burch opened "Robbins Roast," in 1870.

In 1873, John Shoudy started postal service and five years later named the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1878, the first train to reach Ellensburg on the Northern Pacific Railroad did so on Mar. 31, 1886. The city's water system, sewer, electric plant, and telephone services were installed in 1889. According to City Hall, when Washington became a state in 1889, Ellensburg could have become the capital if a fire had not destroyed most of the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1894, the post office officially opened and changed the spelling from Ellensburgh to Ellensburg.

While some students want more businesses in this town, there are some concerns for current local business owners.

Tom Hamborg, owner of Showplace Antique Mall, agrees with the idea of bringing more businesses downtown, but worries that big-box stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target might affect his business.

"Wal-Mart is known to close every small town business," Hamborg said. "I also can see that whatever is brought in shouldn't compete with local businesses or drive them out of business."

John Moer, owner of Moer's Mens Wear, sees the importance of bringing more people to Ellensburg. "I think they need to bring more industries," Moer said. "Without industry, business won't survive."

Although Moer runs his business downtown, he does not mind big-box stores coming to Ellensburg.

Ellensburg museum tells of rich history of town that was almost state capital

by Kayla Roumeliotis

Staff reporter

The city of Ellensburg has been around for over one hundred years and continues to increase its growth.

According to the Ellensburg Museum, in 1866 settler William (Bud) Wilson, a frontier man living with Kittitas Indians, came to Ellensburg and built the first log cabin in 1866, which is now located behind the liquor store.

Fredrick Ludi and John Goller, prospectors, built a cabin in the winter of 1867. Goller moved, but Ludi stayed becoming the first permanent resident to live in Ellensburg.

In 1868 the Tillman Moser family, originally from Seattle, was the first family to reside in Ellensburg. Cowboys A.J. Splawn and Ben Burch opened "Robbins Roast," in 1870.

In 1873, John Shoudy started postal service and five years later named the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1878, the first train to reach Ellensburg on the Northern Pacific Railroad did so on Mar. 31, 1886. The city's water system, sewer, electric plant, and telephone services were installed in 1889. According to City Hall, when Washington became a state in 1889, Ellensburg could have become the capital if a fire had not destroyed most of the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1894, the post office officially opened and changed the spelling from Ellensburgh to Ellensburg.

While some students want more businesses in this town, there are some concerns for current local business owners.

Tom Hamborg, owner of Showplace Antique Mall, agrees with the idea of bringing more businesses downtown, but worries that big-box stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target might affect his business.

"Wal-Mart is known to close every small town business," Hamborg said. "I also can see that whatever is brought in shouldn't compete with local businesses or drive them out of business."

John Moer, owner of Moer's Mens Wear, sees the importance of bringing more people to Ellensburg. "I think they need to bring more industries," Moer said. "Without industry, business won't survive."

Although Moer runs his business downtown, he does not mind big-box stores coming to Ellensburg.

Ellensburg museum tells of rich history of town that was almost state capital

by Kayla Roumeliotis

Staff reporter

The city of Ellensburg has been around for over one hundred years and continues to increase its growth.

According to the Ellensburg Museum, in 1866 settler William (Bud) Wilson, a frontier man living with Kittitas Indians, came to Ellensburg and built the first log cabin in 1866, which is now located behind the liquor store.

Fredrick Ludi and John Goller, prospectors, built a cabin in the winter of 1867. Goller moved, but Ludi stayed becoming the first permanent resident to live in Ellensburg.

In 1868 the Tillman Moser family, originally from Seattle, was the first family to reside in Ellensburg. Cowboys A.J. Splawn and Ben Burch opened "Robbins Roast," in 1870.

In 1873, John Shoudy started postal service and five years later named the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1878, the first train to reach Ellensburg on the Northern Pacific Railroad did so on Mar. 31, 1886. The city's water system, sewer, electric plant, and telephone services were installed in 1889. According to City Hall, when Washington became a state in 1889, Ellensburg could have become the capital if a fire had not destroyed most of the city on July 4, 1889.

In 1894, the post office officially opened and changed the spelling from Ellensburgh to Ellensburg.

While some students want more businesses in this town, there are some concerns for current local business owners.

Tom Hamborg, owner of Showplace Antique Mall, agrees with the idea of bringing more businesses downtown, but worries that big-box stores, such as Wal-Mart and Target might affect his business.

"Wal-Mart is known to close every small town business," Hamborg said. "I also can see that whatever is brought in shouldn't compete with local businesses or drive them out of business."

John Moer, owner of Moer's Mens Wear, sees the importance of bringing more people to Ellensburg. "I think they need to bring more industries," Moer said. "Without industry, business won't survive."

Although Moer runs his business downtown, he does not mind big-box stores coming to Ellensburg.
Ellensburg is the type of town I like to call a college town. Where the population, depending on the time of year, increases to about double in size. If you couldn't guess, the reason for that is because of the university. For about nine months out of the year, Central Washington University students take over this otherwise quiet rodeo town. Over the years as the number of student increases, so has the number of residents in Ellensburg. As a result more houses are being built, more cars are being driven on the streets and more "Big Box" companies are in demand. Depending who you ask, this increase is good for the town. I think it sucks. I like my small college town the way it is. It's one of the main reasons why I chose to come to central. It's true that graduating from a bigger well-known university looks better on a resume. But that doesn't say anything about the quality of that education. Who wants to sit through a lecture where you are just seen as one of 300 faces? Or being in a class full of people who are supposedly in the same major but you don't recognize a single face? I like walking in the first day of class and shooting the breeze with the entire room. Also I like knowing that if I miss a day, I still know what's going on.

Understandingly more housing is needed with the increase in population. So the only choice is to expand the limits of town where there were once only two or maybe three houses in a one-mile area. Residents who are used to seeing their neighbor's cows grazing in the fields now find that they are surrounded by a cluster of developments. I remember my freshman year when my friends and I would take drives in the spring out on the roads just north of campus. There was barely anything out there those days, just a two-lane highway and a few houses just north of campus. There was barely anything out there those days, just a two-lane highway and a few houses. And not only that, Depot Deli wouldn't be around and I came to find that year and as a resident, I was promised free meals for the entire spring quarter in order to compensate for having to live in the confines of a construction site.

The year wasn't all that bad, unless I wanted to sleep in past 8 a.m. (when I used to tell them that I wanted to sleep in past 8 a.m. (when I went in for my first meal, all of the workers looked at me like I was insane. No one had bothered to tell them that Green Hall residents were supposed to be able to eat there for free.

That was the last year I lived on campus. I had put up with a year of noisy, uncomfortable conditions for a few sandwiches that left a really bad taste in my mouth. So you can understand my annoyance at seeing the full $64 posted for room and board in the first week of April.

The Observer has been covering the construction of the new SUB/REC pretty closely, so I'm fairly familiar with the project. My qualm is not with the opening date being changed. I understand that construction is a time-consuming process that often encounters unexpected delays (look at the Wendy's restaurant in town. What really bugs me is the fact that the language on the SUB/REC Web site states this building will be "paid for" through a self-imposed student fee, which only goes into effect after the facility is open. That's weird, because I just checked my financial account status and the university has already posted the full charge of $64, even though the facility isn't currently open. If it was rated, like the REC center's fees are in the summer (from $95 to $75), the actual cost of the fee for this spring quarter would be approximately $37. That's almost half of the current fee which the university is charging each student on this campus for that facility of none of us are using.

Think that $27 extra dollars doesn't mean much? Multiply that by the number of students and you get around $26,000. Now I don't claim to be a mathematician or can have any idea about budgeting large projects, but that seems like a lot of money to be usurped from students in a Matthias dishonest way.

The same can be said about the small college towns. It's a quaint feeling that I could walk around downtown area. The great thing about shopping in small towns is the unique flavor of products and services they offer that you wouldn't normally get in a mall. That's something you won't find at Fred Meyer.

But the fact remains; the university has a big influence over the changes Ellensburg has gone through. As a student I feel these changes are necessary to fill the demands of the growing student body. But I also feel there should be a balance between Ellensburg and the university. During the school year Central students are working and shopping at local businesses keeping them alive. Business owners and residents who work in town should embrace the fact that students are creating an economy.

Without students there would be no need for the variety of shops and restaurants downtown. Without housing needed to be built, local contractors and construction workers would have to find jobs somewhere else.

For as long as I've been at Central, there has been a rift between local residents and the university. The community and the university should work together to keep the small town feel that is Ellensburg but also to fulfill the demands of Central students. It's time we close that rift for the sake of Ellensburg and Central.

Welcome to your new SUB/REC...April Fools!
Yard reflects art in Ellensburg

by Caitlin Kuhlmann
Staff reporter

On the corner of First and Pearl in downtown Ellensburg lies an ever-changing, ever-growing piece of art that has attracted national attention. Its owners and designers are two Central Washington University alumni who also happen to live inside the incredible masterpiece. The art piece is called Dick and Jane's Spot, which is a house ago they completed a second studio in the house.

"It took a couple of years to realize we were doing this," Dick said of how he and Jane started the collection of yard art. The interior art was added to make the house livable, while the outside art was a fun project.

"We're very fortunate to have it," said William Folkestad, chair of the art department. "[It] is an example of public art outside the confines of a gallery or museum ."

Dick and Jane's Spot is dedicated to the philosophy of "one hearty laugh is worth ten trips to the doctor," according to Dick and Jane's Spot

About 40 percent of the outside art was created by Dick and Jane while the remaining pieces are contributions from friends and Central graduates.

"It's a major collection of over 35 different artists' work," Dick said.

The house includes artwork made from mediums that vary from industrial grade reflectors to oil paints. However, Dick said the yard is very free form with ranging mediums, colors and concepts.

"I think it's unique," Kathryn Moran, senior family studies major, said of the house. "I saw it [for the first time] at night and the house was all lit up."

Dick and Jane both graduated from Central in 1971; with majors in art. Although they left Ellensburg after graduating, they returned about a year later because they felt it was an accepting community in a good geographical location to continue their dream of creating art. Dick became a distinguished Central alumnus in 2000.

Dick and Jane have been supportive of the university for many years by employing students and graduates as art assistants. Their current employee is Joel Brenden, who graduated from Central in 2004 and will be leaving in August to get his master's degree at the University of Buffalo, in New York. Brenden has been working for Dick and Jane for three and a half years.

"It's a place that nurtures creativity," Brenden said. "They [Dick and Jane] have always been supportive of the art I've been working on."

Brenden works full time helping Dick with commercial art commissions and creating new projects for the yard. Brenden said he produces about one new major art piece per year for the yard.

"There's a lot of discipline in the yard," Brenden said. "It's not careless." Jane's work will be showcased in a painting exhibit at Central in fall 2007 at the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery. Aside from painting, she also has written a book that features her own illustrations. She said the paintings in the book were completed first and the story was created to bring them together.
Travelers on I-90 are given the opportunity to stop and stretch their legs at this family-owned landmark.

by Andrea Rust
Staff reporter

You have driven past it. It is huge, white and has big red letters you can read from a mile away, even while you are going 70 miles per hour down I-90. It is the Thorp Fruit and Antique Mall, or as Central Washington University students more commonly refer to it, the Thorp Fruit Stand. However, it is what is inside this Washington landmark that really counts.

The company is family owned and run after being started by Myrl and Ina Rowley in 1944.

"My folks started the company in Yakima," said Bill Rowley, second-generation owner and manager. "In the 60s they had nine places, but opted to change and have one large one. The location is great, my dad was a genius, and we get a lot of repeat business from our location. He was a good businessman."

In 1968 the company moved to Thorp, and the current building was rebuilt 18 years ago after a fire. Today, the Thorp Fruit and Antique Mall boasts everything from salt water taffy to specialty gourmet foods.

"We try to have the best quality with competitive prices," said Rowley. "We sell the best selection of gourmet foods in the Northwest."

If you can think it up, the mall probably has it. They sell jams, jellies, preserves, marinades, meat rubs, salas, salad dressing, wines, fresh fruit, dried fruit, bread dips, mustards, teas, soups, sugar free products, desserts, espresso, antiques and other specialty items.

"It's endless, we have hundreds and hundreds of specialty foods," said Rowley. "If you can't find it somewhere else, you can find it here. We sell seasonal, local and foods from other parts of the world."

The part of the mall which is strictly antiques is on the second and third floors. There are more than 40 dealers who bring antiques and collectibles in from all over the country. It is the one part of the store that will keep visitors busy browsing for hours.

"There is a lot of vintage stuff that is good for student apartments," said Lindsay Durant, junior sociology major. "There is new stuff that is always changing."

The Rowley family is focused on keeping the business a friendly place that puts their customers first.

"We have hired a lot of Central students, and we hire selectively," said Rowley. "It's a great place for college students to work, and it's a fun place to work and shop."

Summer is the busiest season, with fresh fruit being brought in by the truckload every day.

"Summers are fun because it is always a fast, busy pace," said Durant. "It's a great place with a family atmosphere."

The Thorp Fruit and Antique Mall is open year round. Currently, the hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, and in the summer they will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

For more information, visit their Web site at www.thorpfruit.com, call 964-2474, or stop by exit 101, off I-90.
Dick has artwork in 24 schools, as well as numerous pieces in public establishments, including the Sea-Tac Airport and the Yakima Sun Dome.

Dick’s artwork is characterized by industrial grade reflectors that are arranged in colorful, elaborate designs. Dick was inspired to use reflectors artistically in the early 1980s when the colorful beacons caught his attention while driving county highways at night. He said he was drawn to the brilliant intensity of the reflectors, so he began experimenting with them artistically.

“It was fun because it was a light reactive [medium],” said Dick.

Dick buys the reflectors in large quantities from a factory. His pieces are usually composed of two reflector sizes in about five different colors, although he said he uses other specifications for certain projects.

“We’ve met some wonderful people here,” Jane said of the tourists, students, and local residents they come into contact with.

After 27 years in the house, Dick and Jane said they always get positive feedback from the community, and appreciate the fact that most onlookers enjoy the artwork from the sidewalk. The two have only received one negative phone call in the time that they have been living in the house. “It’s meant to be seen from the outside,” said Dick.

Jane said her inspiration for the yard has been to encourage kids who pass by to become artists themselves. Jane was not aware that being a professional artist was even an option growing up and she wants to help kids realize their potential and artistic opportunities.

“There will never get finished, we’re always changing things,” Jane said of the house.

For more information about Dick Elloe, Jane Orleman and their house, visit their Web site at www.reflectorart.com.
Flowmotion will play tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. This will be the second time this academic year they have played at a First Friday Dance.

Flowmotion returns for some Friday funk

by Jackie Molzhon
Staff reporter

Back by popular request, Flowmotion, a jam/funk band from Seattle, will return to the Moose Lodge tomorrow to play at the First Friday Dance.

Flowmotion performed the First Friday Dance in September of this year and was requested to return to Ellensburg for an encore.

"They play incredible music, they're great people, incredibly talented and fun to dance to," said Ren Albright, who books the bands for The First Friday Night Dance Club.

Flowmotion played at the Bummer-Shorts Music Festival 2003 in Seattle, the White River Amphitheater in Auburn and the Crystal Ballroom in Portland this year. They also played with other popular bands such as Wu-Tang Panic and G-Love and the Special Sauce.

Flowmotion will also be playing in the Samuelsion Union Building pit tomorrow from noon to 1 p.m. before their evening performance in the Moose Lodge.

The First Friday Dance is come about when a survey was sent out to Central Washington University students about what changes could be made about the dance. Many responded they wanted something to do afterward, such as a dance. For three years now, the non-profit organization, The First Friday Dance Club, has been putting on dances with live, danceable music for the Ellensburg community to enjoy.

"One of the best things about First Friday Dances is that everyone dances, no waiting around to be asked, if the spirit moves you, go out to the dance floor and start dancing," said Mollie Edson, a committee member of The First Friday Dance Club in a letter to the Observer. "It is a really cool thing to see people of all ages out on the dance floor enjoying themselves."

The bands are paid by money made at the door, and because more students and people from the Ellensburg community have been going, The First Friday Dance Club has been able to get some bigger name bands from Seattle such as Flowmotion.

First Friday Dance takes place every first Friday of the month. Doors open at 8 p.m. tomorrow night at the Moose Lodge on N. Main and Flowmotion will be playing at 8:30 p.m. Admission is $7 at the door and $5 with student ID. Bar with ID.

Last month the Moose Lodge closed its doors because it hit maximum capacity, so be sure to show up early.
Wildcats fall to GNAC leaders

by Jordan Montgomery
Staff reporter

Last weekend hosted an important series for Central Washington University baseball. The Western Oregon Wolves came to Tomlinson Field to continue a great tradition of Wildcat rivalry. The Wolves would come away with a four-game sweep which featured two come-from-behind victories.

The Wildcats, who are in need of a win, played the first two games of this important four-game series on Sunday, April 2. The team, eager to play their long time rivals on their home turf, played well, but could not secure a victory in either game. These two losses added to the five-game losing streak the team had from their series against Hawaii Pacific University the week before. Though the team played well, certain fundamental errors prevented any wins in that series. The team looked to prepare for their rivals, Western Oregon.

“We need to put that behind us, and get over this slump. We just made some key mistakes,” said Coach Desi Storey. “They are a good program [Western Oregon] and we have to play good baseball.”

As the tension could not build any more, the series, which was supposed to be hosted by Western Oregon, was moved to Ellensburg due to wet weather conditions, giving the Wildcats home field advantage. The day finally came that would start the series; however, the condition of the field forced more delays and the eventual cancellation of the double headers. On Sunday, the weather had much anticipated match up finally started and it did not disappoint. Although the weather put a wet chill to the air, the action kept spectators watching.

In the first game the Western Oregon Wolves took an early lead in the top of the first when the Wolves’ junior outfielder Boo Christeson hit a long ball over the fence. This run was the only one given up by Wildcat starter Isaac Finch until the very end. The Wildcats held the Wolves to a one-run lead for eight innings. Meanwhile, the Wildcats could not get it done offensively. Wolves starter Nick Waechter held the Wildcats to only five hits in his eight innings on the mound while walking three, eventually earning himself his sixth win.

In this very close game, the tension would break in the top of the ninth, when the Wolves erupted, scoring a six-run game. With two outs and two men on, Wolves shortstop Paul Fisher hit a three-run bomb over the left field wall. With that hit, the Wolves opened up and the Wolves brought in another three runs, two from a double to centerfield by Western Oregon's first baseman, junior Travis Coursy. The Wildcats could not rise from such a deficit, nor put any numbers on the board, and the game would go in the books as a loss, 7-0.

Central starter Isaac Finsch delivers to Western Oregon slugger Nick Skudrick during the opening matchup of a four game set this past weekend against the Western Oregon Wolves. The Wolves took game one 7-0.

Softball struggles to find rhythm

by Lander Sholdt
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s women’s softball team had an unfortunate four game loss in last weekend’s series in Turlock, California against San Bernardino (1-6), Grand Canyon (0-2), Sonoma State (2-3) and San Francisco State (1-2).

“I am not discouraged and neither is the team” said coach Gary Frederick, “We have the potential to do so well.” The potential to do well was shown in their last game vs. Notre Dame de Namur (12-5). Although the series had an unfortunate amount of losses, Central will be heading into their next series with a strong win.

“Softball is a game where a couple of runs is all you need,” said Frederick. Although the first run of the Central vs. San Francisco State game was made in the second inning by Central first baseman Mallory Holtman, it was not enough for a win. Wildcat shortstop Liz Ashworth hit to short stop allowing Holtman to score. San Francisco State caught up soon enough when Nicole Hartfield singled up the middle and Danielle Russo scored. Still tied in the third inning, Central centerfielder Jenna Bellamy scored, putting the Wildcats ahead 2-1. Barthola may scored after Lauren Dowell hit a ground ball to short

Rugby primed for playoffs this weekend

by Elliott Stock
Staff reporter

The University of Idaho rugby squad, showed up 15 minutes late, one player short and hurriedly overmatched. The Central Washington University Wildcats used Idaho’s lack of preparation to their advantage, running a full field practice to better prepare for the game, and winning 79-0.

“Idaho’s lateness gave us more preparation and perhaps just a bigger drive to win,” said John Douglas, who did not play against Idaho due to injury. The Idaho team lacked experience and size against a more skilled Central team, with four of Idaho’s fourteen players having never played a game of rugby before.

Douglas, one of Central’s leaders, is sure that this is one of the strongest teams Central has ever had.

“Our team has a lot of heart” Douglas said. Along with their great team chemistry and constant drive to get better, the Central rugby program is moving forward. Central compete with divisional teams such as Washington State University, University of Washington, University of Oregon, Oregon State, and rival Western Washington University.

This season, Central has lost only one divisional game, to Washington State, which is ranked number 10 nationally.

Central, who are 8-3-1 this season, is continually gaining more and more recognition for its rugby program, which recently received honorable mention at the national standings.

This weekend, Central rugby is hosting the first round of the playoffs for the first time in Central rugby history. The action starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, when the University of Utah will take on the University of Washington. Following that game, Central will take on Saint Mary’s at 12 p.m.

If victorious, Central will play the winner of the Oregon-Utah game for a chance to compete in the Sweet 16 in New York. The winners of both games on Saturday will play on Sunday at 2 p.m., while the losers of Saturday’s game will play Sunday at 12 p.m.

“It will be a tough game, and we’ll have to play hard to win” said Eddie Sakala, a first-year player for Central.

Sakala, who scored two tries against Idaho, is confident in Central’s ability, which will have a healthy team going into Saturday’s game. The Wildcats played Saint Mary’s twice this season, resulting in a tie and loss both times when the Wolves brought in another three runs, two from a double to centerfield by Western Oregon's first baseman, junior Travis Coursy. The Wildcats could not rise from such a deficit, nor put any numbers on the board, and the game would go in the books as a loss, 7-0.

“With that behind them, the Wildcats had another chance to get their win and get out of their slump in the regionals game. Once again, the Wolves struck first by putting three runs on the board from a combination of aggressive base running and solid hitting. They put one more on the board in the second inning before the Wildcats could answer back.

In the bottom of the fourth, Tanner Sepanski displays talent on the diamond

-page 15

Rugby looking towards playoffs

-page 12

Lacrosse shows heart in weekend losses

-page 14

see Baseball, page 9

see Softball, page 16

see Sports, page 13

see Soccer, page 16

see Softball, page 16
Sepanski does it all for Wildcat baseball

by Jon Mentzer
Senior reporter

When coach Desi Storey was filling out his fall season lineup card for the Central Washington University baseball team, senior catcher and utility player Chris Sepanski was scratched from the lineup. That was then. Now Sepanski is not only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

Central Washington catcher/pitcher Chris Sepanski warms up for practice during a chilly February afternoon. Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

"We got Scotty, D-Jack, Finch and Moose who are throwing great. I was just the fifth man in the rotation."

—Chris Sepanski
Senior catcher/pitcher

only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

Central Washington catcher/pitcher Chris Sepanski warms up for practice during a chilly February afternoon. Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

"We got Scotty, D-Jack, Finch and Moose who are throwing great. I was just the fifth man in the rotation."

—Chris Sepanski
Senior catcher/pitcher

only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

Central Washington catcher/pitcher Chris Sepanski warms up for practice during a chilly February afternoon. Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

"We got Scotty, D-Jack, Finch and Moose who are throwing great. I was just the fifth man in the rotation."

—Chris Sepanski
Senior catcher/pitcher

only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

Central Washington catcher/pitcher Chris Sepanski warms up for practice during a chilly February afternoon. Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

"We got Scotty, D-Jack, Finch and Moose who are throwing great. I was just the fifth man in the rotation."

—Chris Sepanski
Senior catcher/pitcher

only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

Central Washington catcher/pitcher Chris Sepanski warms up for practice during a chilly February afternoon. Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.

"We got Scotty, D-Jack, Finch and Moose who are throwing great. I was just the fifth man in the rotation."

—Chris Sepanski
Senior catcher/pitcher

only catching for the Wildcats again, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun."

After Sepanski spoke with Storey about his future, and when family troubles and personal issues came into the picture, he decided not to play his senior season. On the verge of graduating with a business degree, Sepanski had thought of attending Central Washington full-time, but pitching too. "This year I am just having fun. Everyday I come out here and I get to hang out with all these guys and it's just a lot of fun." Sepanski has had a stellar season for the Wildcats, hitting .346 while splitting time behind the plate.
The Central Washington lacrosse team look to rally together during this weekends' track meet in Woodinville.

Sophomore Cameron Bailey rises to the challenge in preparation for this weekends' track meet in Woodinville.

The rain falling from the sky wasn’t the only thing putting a damper on the outdoor season, Coach Kevin Adkisson said. “But we’ve had some really good track teams this season.”

The Wildcats’ 4x100 meter relay finished first with a mark of 43.37 seconds. It was good enough to set the GNAC top performance for this season, passing their previous conference-best by just three-one-hundredths of a second (43.40).

Senior Jason Roberts, who was part of the 4x100 meter relay, ran with the men’s 4x400 meter relay, which also posted a season-high mark, giving them a first place finish. They broke the previous conference-best (3:24.21) with a 3:23.2 mark, finishing just two-tenths of a second behind the University of British Columbia squad.

Sophomore Robert Edwards, a member of the 4x400 meter relay, also ran in the 110 meter hurdles, taking first in that event, finishing with a mark of 15.59 seconds.

Other notable men’s performances include the triple jump in which sophomore Cameron Bailey finished second with a jump of 44 feet, 2 inches. Junior Ian Wells came away with a second place finish in the javelin throw with a distance of 164 feet, 9 inches. In the 10k meter Run, freshman Jonathan Rark finished second as well, running a 32:04.21 minute marathon. Senior Mike Kelley also finished second in the 800 meter event, finishing just over two seconds behind the leader at 1:58.36.

Senior Group Watson, a member of the first place 4x100 meter relay team, competed in the WWU Spring Forward Multi-Events on Sunday and Monday in the decathlon, finishing second with a score of 5,713 points while sophomore teammate Scott McCoy placed third (5,265).

Junior Cameron Neel, who received All-American Honors and a third-place finish at the 2006 NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships in Boston this winter, did not compete last weekend; however, he has already set a provisional national qualifying mark in the shot put.

“It is good to see he is there,” Adkisson said. “But we’ve had some really good track teams this season.”

As the season moves on, the competition gets tougher and Adkisson thinks that his teams can deal with the adversity.

“We are going into the (middle of the) outdoor season,” Adkisson said. “And it’s hard because we are transitioning from the indoor season to the outdoor season. Spring break is always tough because the (athletes) are expected to train on their own time, so getting back into the routine of practices is always difficult.”

The teams are scheduled to compete in the Spike Adt Invitational on Saturday, April 15 at Tomlinson Stadium. For most of the athletes, it will be the last chance to qualify for the GNAC Championships on April 24 and 25.

The Central Washington lacrosse team look to rally together during this weekends' games against Western Washington and Whitman.

Lacrosse falls in tough weekend contests

Nolan Teasley
Staff reporter

The rain falling from the sky wasn’t the only thing putting a damper on the Central Washington University men’s lacrosse team. Losing consecutive games to two conference rivals was as gloomy as the weekender weather.

The Wildcats fell to archrival Western Washington University 17-7 on Saturday and then came up short against Whitman College losing 9-6 on Sunday.

“Western just came ready to play and got on top of us early” said John Mack, senior midfielder.

The Wildcats trailed four to zero early in the game and couldn’t get enough goals past the Western defense which holds statistically the best goaliekeeper in the conference. Even though Mack scored four goals for Central and fellow senior midfield assistant T.J. Serrianne led the team with two assists, in the end the Vikings discipline and ball control proved to be too much.

“It was a hard fought game but unfortunately we came up on the losing end,” said Serrianne.

Sunday’s game was much more competitive as Whitman and Central exchanged goals early in the first quarter.

After a tough game the day before, however, fatigue seemed to set in with the Wildcats trailing five to three at the end of the first half.

The Central defense led by senior defenseman Rich Albo, tightened up by pitching a third quarter shutout until Whitman added four more goals in the fourth and final stanza to seal the game.

After beginning the season with two straight losses to conference foes Albertson College and Western Oregon University the Wildcats seemed to be an afterthought.

Still the team never ran out of optimism, effort or sheer determination. After an upset win over a strong Southwest Oregon University squad and another solid victory soon following over Lewis and Clark College later in the season the Cats entered last weekends' games with an even record and a chance to make up some ground.

In order to become eligible for a playoff spot Central needs to be one of the top two teams in the Pacific Northwest College League Lacrosse Conference. Unfortunately, after failing to take advantage of their home stand and now having a record of just two wins and four losses, Central will face the difficult task of having to win all three of their final games for a shot at the playoffs.

Regardless, confidence and fortitude run aplenty through these Wildcats and they seemed to have found the sunshine through the clouds and drizzling weather.

“As two tough losses this weekend we learned a lot, and we are going to use those lessons to get the best of Pacific Lutheran and UPS,” said senior attacker Alan Colombo.

Following the teams’ last two home games this coming weekend against Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Puget Sound, they will travel to Montana on April 15 to finish up their season against a very good Grizzly team that made the national playoffs last season. After all the persistence the Cats have shown this year the Lutes, Loggers and Grizz may need all the help they can get.
Swanson brought in the Cats’ first run in 12 innings with a double up the middle that scored senior catcher Kevin Knutsen in. In the fifth, Wildcat senior designated hitter Chris Sepanski brought in the next run with a sacrifice fly to center field. Regardless the game ended with the Wolves victorious, 4-2. This double header brought the Wildcat record to 10-12 on the year and 0-2 in the GNAC (Great Northwest Athletic Conference).

The Wolves, considered one of the GNAC’s top teams, took an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning. The Cats answered with a three-run seventh inning for the first time this season, including a two-run home run from third baseman John Pacheco. The Wolves continued to hammer the Cats with five runs in the eighth inning. The ninth inning proved the turning point, with the Cats scoring two runs. Pacheco doubled and scored on a wild pitch by Wolves reliever Zach Schaller. Second baseman Tyler Roberts followed with a mammoth two-run home run over left field. Despite the battering, the Cats improved their run total from 12 to 16, putting Western Oregon on the ropes for the remainder of the game.

The Cats held the lead for one more inning and brought the series to a close with a 2-1 win over the Wolves in 11 innings, scoring on an eighth-inning hit by senior left fielder Paul Fisher. The Cats, who had faced the Wolves only once before, met them again in an elimination game on May 25 and won again by a score of 1-0 to advance to the GNAC championship game. The Cats then fell to the Americans in the championship game, 8-2, but still enjoyed a landmark season.

The Cats went on to win their first GNAC regular season title. They also played in the GNAC tournament and earned a trip to the NCAA West Regionals. The Cats faced the Americans again in the regional final, but fell short in a 7-1 loss. The Cats finished the season with a 34-15 record, their best season since 2001. They ended the season with a 1-0 loss to the Americans in the NCAA West Regional final, but still enjoyed a historic season.

Wildcat shortstop Jamie Nilson started the inning off with a bunt. Justin Marshall then blasted a ball over the left field wall, bringing in two runs and giving the Wildcats the lead once again.

That lead lasted one inning when the Wolves found a new determinist and scored two runs in the seventh, one in the eighth, and six in the ninth, leaving the Wildcats in their wake. The Wolves had a problem with inconsistent pitching and struggled to put runs on the board. They dropped all four in the series, proving that they still have problems against Western Oregon. The Wildcats struggled to put runs on the board throughout the weekend and held up an improved pitching staff. The first two games of the series set the tone for the entire weekend. In both games, the pitching staff threw well, but the offense failed to put enough runs on the board. The Wildcats walk away from the series 10-14 in the league. They are 0-4 in GNAC.

The Wolves now are 17-11 in the league. They come ahead 6-2 in GNAC.

"Hopefully we won’t continue with the dumb mental mistakes," said Desi Storey.

The traditional rivalry between the two teams rages on with the Wildcats holding the edge in the series. The Wildcats have a history of success in the past and have won every game of the 2005 series against the Wolves, the seven inning game went into extra innings when a two run lead was given up. The Wildcats went on to lose the other two games.

Now that the Wolves have won this series, it has been eight straight games in a row that the Wildcats have lost to the Wolves on their own turf. If this was professional baseball, consider the Wildcats the Red Sox and the Wolves the Yankees.

Central catcher Kevin Kutsen (right) leads the Wildcats off the field after successfully shutting the Wolves order down in game one on Sunday.

Central is strong in their pitching department. They can also hit well.

For the Wolves, team chemistry and hustle is what gets them far yet inconsistent pitching seems to be a problem.

"Central holds the same passion as we do," said Western Oregon’s head coach Jeremiah Robbins. The Wildcats had a problem with inconsistent pitching and struggled to put runs on the board. The Wolves found a weakness in Wolves starter Adam Hoffman, and started a five-run rally in the second. With a four-run lead, Wildcats starter Mike Morris kept the Wolves offense off the toes up until the fifth where the Wolves shrank the Cats lead to one. As it were inevitable, the Wolves tied up the game in the top of the seventh. With a double from their third baseman Aaron Sutton, the Wolves found themselves with a man in scoring position, two outs and a chance to pull ahead once again. With Sutton on base, every Cat fan hoped for just one more out to give Central the win. Sutton came home by a miraculous double which landed just fair of the right field line by Wolves first baseman Kevin Corrigan. Going into extra innings the wolves starters another rally, adding three runs to the board in the tenth, thus sealing the series fate. The Wildcats could not recover and were swept in this series.

"It’s kind of a mystery," said second baseman Tanner Swanson. "There really wasn’t that many errors, it is our mind set, we forgot what it’s like to win. ‘We’re confident we can turn it around, if we can just do the little things it takes to win.”

The Cats play again at Tomlinson Field on April eighth and ninth at noon against Northwest Nazarene in which they have had success in the past. They get another shot against the Wolves on Western Oregon again on the weekend of April 29-30 down in Monmouth, Oregon.

Isaac Finch throws heat versus the Wolves at Tomlinson Field.
The university store is relocating to the Wildcat Shop.

Join us for our moving sale!

You'll find new bargains throughout the store everyday.

---

SOFTBALL: Softball team drops its sixth straight in recent slide

---

Never say, "I should have."

Whether you're fresh out of college or freshly retired, you really owe it to yourself to explore our extraordinary ALL-EXPENSES-PAID OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES.

Find out if you qualify by applying now at www.peacecorps.gov. You're also invited to join us at our next informational event. Do bring friends and family. The event is free and open to all.

Wednesday - April 19, 2006
7 to 8:30 p.m.
Central Washington University
Hal Holmes Center
209 N. Ruby St. Ellensburg, WA

---

The best things in life are FREE

You'll find newspapers at the REC Center, Student Union Building, North Village Cafe or Tunstall Dining Hall. Courtesy of the Central Washington University Readership Program.