Les Schwab employees have been busy the past couple of weeks putting studded tires on cars. Drivers are allowed to have studded tires on their cars between Nov. 1 and March 31 every year.

Fire and ice: DOT winter weather plans draw heat from Snoqualmie Pass commuters

by Paul Balcerak
City editor

The threat of being trapped during a Snoqualmie Pass closure could be a thing of the past if the Washington State Department of Transportation has its way. But at Tuesday's meeting, Pass residents voiced heavy displeasure at one of the WSDOT's plans to cut down on travel problems.

Nearly one hundred people were on hand for the meeting called “keeping Snoqualmie Pass Open,” during which the WSDOT's Traffic Flow Management (TFM) system came under heavy fire.

“One time there was a three-hour backup,” Cle Elum resident Eric Allen said of the system. “You literally had people running out of gas.”

The meeting was called by the WSDOT to consider ideas from the public on keeping the Pass open throughout the winter.

TFM was originally used at Donner Pass, Calif., and was implemented at the Snoqualmie Pass last November. TFM minimizes the chance of large-scale accidents, allows better freeway access for snow plows, and cuts down on snow compaction on the roadway.

TFM will help with the ideological goal of preventing 1-90 of closures altogether, WSDOT officials said.

“We understand what the importance of 1-90 is, and we're going to do everything we can to keep it open all winter long,” said WSDOT assistant regional administrator Casey McGill.

Residents like Allen criticized mandatory delays caused by TFM, arguing that 1-90 traffic can relatively smooth prior to TFM coming into use.

“This freeway has been open for 20 years, and this has never been an issue in the past,” Hyak resident Clint Dean said.

Allen and Dean took issue with the placement of TFM meter areas. Allen said he had to run crackers to children in a car behind him on one occasion because they were growing hungry during the wait.

One WSDOT official at the meeting acknowledged the problems with TFM, but said the system isn't going to simply go away.

“We need to improve it (TFM) and revise it,” WSDOT Regional Administrator Don Whitehouse said. “We have a new plan out that says we will only use it certain days of the week.”

Dean offered a simple remedy for the TFM system.

“Don't meter traffic at an exit where people are going to be stuck with food and fuel,” he said.

Other locals suggested that problems could be averted by providing special commuter lanes for residents. Eastside resident Larry Everett said drivers from outlying areas who aren’t used to driving in the snow are responsible for many accidents on the Pass. Most area residents have at least one four-wheel-drive vehicle and are able to navigate the icy freeway better than unprepared travelers, he said.

“If they had an officer checking your license to make sure you were a Pass resident I... why do you have to spend six hours waiting at the Pass?” Everett said.

McGill said such a system had been considered by the WSDOT.

“We've thought about an I.D. badge system for people who live or work at the Pass so they can be getting services,” McGill said.

WSDOT officials said they'll take public comments from the meeting into consideration and that those same comments will be posted online for other members of the public to view.

“We have to look at those comments and see what they are,” said Dan Floyd, WSDOT assistant maintenance operations engineer. “Whether traffic flow management stays in its current form or goes away (has yet to be deter-

Winterizing your car

Mark McCracken, manager of Les Schwab Tires in Ellensburg, said there are several items essential to a winter car kit, including:

- A flashlight with fresh batteries
- Gloves
- Water
- Flares
- A pair of pliers
- A Phillips' head and flathead screwdrivers

In addition, McCracken said basic car maintenance is important to winter driving. He said student drivers should keep an eye on their anti-freeze, car batteries and tire pressure throughout the winter.

WSDOT Chain Installation Service

The WSDOT will introduce a new program in 2006 aimed at helping motorists who are inexperienced or unable to install their own snow chains. The WSDOT's Chain Installation Service will allow trained, contracted installers to help motorists driving over mountain passes on I-90 and US Hwy. 2. Fees will vary based on the kind of vehicle being used.

Information provided by WSDOT brochure and WSDOT Assistant Regional
“Controversial” children’s books see new light

by Carleigh Love

Violence, witches, alcohol, suicide, nude pictures and Satanism. These are just a few of the reasons why popular children’s books have been banned in various communities.

Now the books the theatre department will be reading are “The ABC’s of Halloween” by Patty Eubank, “A Light in the Attic” by Shel Silverstein, “The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm” by Jacob Wilhelm K. Grimm and “Are You My Mother?” by P.O. Eastman.

“I think when people see these books actually performed, it will be so clear how harmless and innocuous they are—that they’ve been unfairly targeted for censorship,” said Cynthia Mitchell, chair of the First Amendment Festival and assistant professor of journalism.

“Controversial” children’s books see new light

“Hansel and Gretel” was disputed in 1992 at the Mount Diablo School District in Calif., because people believed it portrayed witches as monsters.

“Hansel and Gretel” was disputed in 1992 at the Mount Diablo School District in Calif., because people believed it portrayed witches as monsters.

The second showing is 6 p.m. at the Tower Theatre.

Freshman Erin Hayes, along with several other theatre education majors and assistant professor of theatre arts Elise Forier acted out “A Light in the Attic” on the second floor of the library Tuesday night for the Big Bad Banned Books program, which is a part of the First Amendment Festival.

“The student performances are charming and funny,” Elise Forier, assistant professor of theatre arts, said. “The books are glorious, the projects are artful and enriching, and oddly enough, considered very dangerous to children by large factions of the population. That’s food for thought. And ‘thinking’ is what we ought to be doing at a university.”

Call for Nominations:

The Center for Student Empowerment needs your input into our annual Women’s Achievement Celebration. This event was created to honor and celebrate women and men who have made significant contributions in women’s issues and achievement in the CWU and Ellensburg communities.

This is your opportunity to acknowledge someone you believe has contributed to women’s achievement in your life or in your community.

To nominate, visit our website at www.cwu.edu/~center for nomination form and information. The deadline to submit nominations has been extended to November 30, 2006.

Save these dates for your one-stop holiday shopping!

Thursday, Nov. 30
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 1
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SANTA COMES TO CENTRAL

Saturday, Dec. 2
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Correction

In last week’s article, “ROTC alum returns for Veteran’s salute,” Shawn Palmer was not in ROTC and served on two Western Pacific deployments, one of which was to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch.

News Brief

Daniel Berthiaume, senior physical education and health sciences major died Saturday, Nov. 4 in Ellensburg. Berthiaume, a transfer student from Olympic College, was from Port Orchard. Services were held Saturday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. at Rif’s Tribute Center in Port Orchard. Central’s Counseling Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Central Washington University

Whitman 31st annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival

in the new Student Union

November 16, 2006 — News — Observer
Cracked floors, an overheating projection room and the "door to nowhere" are addressed and explained

by Korben Cook
Staff reporter

An air of mystery has surrounded the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) since it opened in April 2005. Construction workers have been installing ceiling tiles on first floor rooms and floors appear to be unfinished, and cracks have appeared in cement that could lead to foundation instability. Some people have heard that the SURC doesn't appear to be complete, and problems have appeared, making students nervous.

"The building is up to code and is 99 percent complete," John Drinkwater, senior director of campus life, said. "It's my first building. I wish to heck I would have thought of putting a hallway between the bookstore and dining services to get back to the loading dock, but I didn't." Some people have heard that the SURC is three inches lower on the north side of the building and that the second floor is sloped. These are only a few of many rumors floating around campus, but that is all that they amount to - rumors. (The repairs) are all part of the package, it's natural, it's what we need to do."

The SURC is still undergoing cosmetic repairs, but there is nothing structurally wrong with the building, said Jeff Vertrees, associate vice president for facilities management. Vertrees is responsible for overseeing the contracts between the architect, the construction company, and all others involved with the construction of the SURC.

The SURC is covered by a one-year warranty for which time repairs occur, Vertrees said. The SURC is open because the university had a set deadline. Administrators wanted students to have the services and the facilities in a safe environment as quickly as possible, Vertrees said. Like any construction project, it takes some time after construction is deemed complete to assess what needs to be repaired or improved, Vertrees said.

Students may wonder if there are any extra costs for repairs in addition to the SURC fees. All the money has been previously accounted for, said Jeff Rosenberry, Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors vice president for student life and facilities.

"We will not [increase cost] to the students one bit," Rosenberry said. When the initial planning for the SURC began 12 years ago, a contingency was designed in the budget for repairs and minor touch-ups. The roughly 230,000 square foot structure was planned with a hard budget of $49.6 million. The hard budget comes from the students by SURC fees on their tuition bill.

Cracked floors, an overheating projection room and the "door to nowhere" are addressed and explained

"Day-to-day operations of the building won't be affected by the completion of the punch list items."

--Jeff Rosenberry
ASCWU-BOD V.P. for student life and facilities

Food and music lead International Education Week

by Beth McCuflin
Staff reporter

Music, food, and culture lead International Education Week (IEW) events this week. Students of Central Washington University enrich their own cultural education and the campus by interacting with students from different countries.

This year's theme is "Many Meanings of Movement." It includes physical movement, food that is involved and will be prepared, immigration debates and movement within culture, religion, political environments and food. It is easy for students to participate in International Education Week," McCarthy said. "Dining services is involved and will be preparing ethnic cuisine all week."

The concrete panels are poured in separate sections, and a few panels settled unequally, resulting in minor sloping. The cracks are part of the drying process as the concrete continues to release moisture and harden.

Kevin Locke demonstrates a Lakota hoop dance last Monday night in the SURC ballroom. The event helped kick off Central's International Education Week, which includes food, dance and discussion sessions. This week's events are funded by the International Studies Program, Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors, and the Diversity Education Center.

According to the IEW website, 88 percent of American college students believe international education will give them a competitive advantage in the work place. Almost 90 percent of students in America believe having international students on campus enriches their own learning experience.

"This week is fun for me. I'm really interesting in the topics and events on campus," Kimberly Jennings, senior history major, said. Jennings said she got a lot of good information from the lecture on the Middle East Monday night and she plans on attending more events. All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact or visit the International Studies Abroad Office, 963-7408.
Akers reacts to road conditions, driver safety

by Ford Harris
Staff reporter

Winter is here and rearing its ugly head in Ellensburg and transportation issues are looming. Snow has already fallen in Ellensburg and on Snoqualmie Pass, so preparations for winter are already being done. There are many things that the city must do to prepare for the cold, and John Akers, director of Ellensburg’s public works department, heads the winter preparation team.

Q: What are the city’s responsibilities for handling the winter weather?

A: The street department is our lead department for winter weather response. Ice control, snow plowing, and surface storm drain maintenance is conducted by this department. When it becomes necessary to mobilize for snow plowing, other employees from other divisions (water, sewer, parks, natural gas divisions) are used to operate snow removal equipment. In extreme snow plowing, other employees from other on-call employee in the street department.

Q: What does your department specifically do to prepare for winter?

A: Winter prep involves calling for contract plow or truck bids, mounting of plow gates on city and contract plow or truck bids, mounting of plow gates on city dump trucks, installation of plow gates on city and contract road graders, and personnel training or refreshers for all employees likely to be called into snow service.

Q: How do you deal with planning for winter’s budget when winters around here are so unpredictable? What happens when you spend too much for preparing? Too low?

A: Winter budget preparation is generally based upon an average historical perspective. We look at what our equipment, labor and material costs have averaged over about 30 years, and factor in inflation. If we need additional resources due to an extreme snow year we rely upon supplemental budget appropriation from the emergency fund in place to address these kinds of shortfalls. If we have a mild snow season, unspent funds replenish the emergency fund.

Q: What are the main types of equipment you have for the winter months? How many plows? Salt?

A: We run one sand or salt truck, three road graders, four plow-mounted dump trucks and one loader-mounted snow blower. If additional resources become necessary, we employ contractors selected on a cost-per-hour bidding process each October.

Q: What is your number one concern for the winter months? Car wrecks? Floods? Snow? Injuries?

A: Public safety is our primary concern. The highest probability of injury exists from failure to properly control roadway ice. Snow slows people down, but ice hurts people. Our focus on ice control relies heavily on the police department monitoring conditions and calling us out when conditions demand.

Q: Is there anything Central students can specifically do to prepare themselves and their vehicles for the upcoming months?

A: Use additional caution and look out for your neighbors. If you’re in a situation where it is necessary to park on the street, be aware that when it becomes necessary to plow, we are not able to avoid plowing in vehicles parked along the road.

I know it is frustrating to wake up in the morning and realize there is a lot of snow trapping your car, but our first focus is to make the roadways clear. It is not possible to spend the additional time and resources necessary to totally remove snow from the roadway. We do a fair job of not plowing in driveways, trapping your car, but again it is sometimes difficult for the operators to see driveway locations in deep snow. This is particularly true when they are plowing in the middle of the night.

The Oak Rail Bar and Grill is one of the few businesses in Ellensburg to be classified as the state as a nightclub. A new law requires nightclub owners to install sprinkler systems for safety.

Ellensburg ‘clubs’ may drown in sprinkler debt

by Sean McPherson
Asst. city editor

Costs and fire safety are at odds as a state law requiring sprinkler systems in nightclubs is coming into effect next year.

The law is that all state-designated nightclubs have to install a sprinkler system by Dec. 1, 2007. The state defines a nightclub as a business which can hold more than 100 people, has a primary revenue source in the sale and consumption of beverages and provides live entertainment or recorded music conducted by an employee.

Rick Ells, deputy fire chief, said the law does affect a few businesses in Ellensburg, including the Oak Rail Bar and Grill and the bar in the Ellensburg Inn. The law was written to prevent incidents like the nightclub fire in Rhode Island, where a fire broke out during a live performance and killed around 100 people. Ells said.

Sprinkler systems help; no one ever died in a building with a fully functional sprinkler system, Ells said. Most of the time, sprinkler systems aren’t installed unless they are required by law, because they cost a lot of money.

Teddy Collman, owner of the Oak Rail, said the law was a huge burden on small businesses. He said that a sprinkler system would cost $50,000 to install. There are many other requirements for fire prevention as it is, Collman said. The dance floor, for example, was made to be fireproof.

“You couldn’t burn this thing down,” Collman said.

Collman said the law’s definition was poorly worded, as other businesses could avoid the nightclub classification by serving food as a primary source of revenue instead of drinks. Collman said he has called his lawyers and will fight the law.
The holidays seem to come earlier and earlier as the years go by. When I was shopping the week before Hal­loween for candy and a costume, win­ter holiday decorations were already on the shelves. I am all for getting holiday shopping done early, but when trees and Santa start showing up the stores in late October I think that is a little too soon.

I love Thanksgiving. There is not much stress about buying presents, it is just time to hang out with the family. It is time we kind of skip over Thanksgiving and move straight into Christmas as well.

I went to Alderwood Mall last week­end and the holidays are in full swing. Santa was already around for photos. Why isn’t Santa checking on all the good little boys and girls? The first week of November we started to hear holiday music on commercials. I know that as soon as Christmas passes, I will be able to start buying Sweethearts but by the time Valentine’s Day comes around I will be sick of the commercialized and the meaning of the cele­bration of them has been lost. It seems that people are more worried about buying presents and shopping sales than celebrating what the holiday is really about. Holidays now overlap with other holidays and they just do not seem important. Don’t get me wrong, I love candy, music and shopping. I guess I just miss the excitement of each holiday on its own.

I used to think that the day after Thanksgiving was the real start of the holidays, I’m coming to realize the start of the holidays was back in August when Halloween decorations and cos­umes came out.

I tried to be politically correct and say Christmas, so you will notice

SURC: Lydig workers are still working and will be until all problems are fixed and the University signs off

The university is using punch lists to determine how the project is pro­gressing.

"Go down to Fred Meyer and look at their stained concrete floor and the cracks..." —John Drinkwater senior director of campus life

The building was not designed to support heavy equipment down flights of stairs, Drinkwater said. "It’s not a mistake." The building was not designed with an elevator up to the third floor, so a door was built on the outside of the SURC to move heavy machinery in and out of the mechanics room on crane or lift ways. Individual students do not have to move heavy equipment down flights of stairs, Drinkwater said.

"It’s the safest way to do that," Rosenthal said.

The door is locked so there is no danger of falling out. The building is waiting for its daily activity in the SURC, major repairs will happen during winter break.

The Observer is a student-run newspaper. Students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.
Winemaker dinner will be with winemaker Don Corson of Camaraderie Cellars. The next monthly winemaker dinner is set for Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Yellow Church Cafe. The dinner will feature food and wine from Ellensburg WineWorks.

"Ellensburg needs to be the first place people stop for wine and we really want to be the premier wine shop in Central Washington," said Wollen.

EUGENE, Ore., Jan. 31, 2006 - The eight members of the cast and crew from the theatre arts department have had an experience beyond the traditional rehearsal and performance. They have assisted in workshops in the schools they will be performing at, and have taught the students about theatre and are giving them a chance to be creative.

"Not only am I directing the play, but I'm in charge of doing a lot of workshops," Peoples said. "It's a great opportunity for the direction that I hope my career will take me."
November

16  "Hard Times" performance, 6 p.m., McConnell Auditorium
   • Village Drum, 7 p.m., SURC Ballroom
   • Brass Choir, 7 p.m., Music Building Concert Hall

17  "Hard Times" performance, 6 p.m., McConnell Auditorium
   • Confessions of a Prairie Bitch, 7 p.m., SURC Theatre

18  "Hard Times" performance, 6 p.m., McConnell Auditorium
   • Seattle International Stand-up Comedy Competition, 9 p.m., SURC Theatre

19  "Hard Times," 2 p.m., McConnell Auditorium
   • Chamber Choir and University Chorale, 4 p.m., Music Building Concert Hall

20  BANFF Film Festival, 7 p.m., SURC Theatre
    • Ware Fare, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., SURC

21  Ware Fare, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., SURC
    • Classic Film Series: "On The Waterfront," 7 p.m., SURC Theatre

22  Ware Fare, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., SURC
    • No class!

23  Thanksgiving Day

24  Biggest shopping day of the year!
    • No class!

25  Moments to Remember Downtown Ellensburg

26  Ware Fare, 8 p.m. to 10 a.m., SURC

27  Last Monday of the quarter!

28  String Studio, 7 p.m., Music Building Recital Hall

29  Kittitas Valley Youth Orchestra, 7 p.m., Music Building Concert Hall
A 'prairie bitch' to entertain central crowd

by Seth Williams
Staff reporter

TV fans around the world remember Alison Arngrim as hateful Nellie Oleson, the acid-tongued hellcat who tormented pure, sweet Laura Ingalls for seven years on TV's "Little House on the Prairie." And although she has gone on to success in many areas, Nellie has remained a centerpiece of Arngrim's public fame.

Arngrim will be performing her one-woman show, "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch," about her infamous role, this Friday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre. The show will benefit the Central Washington University Division Center Gay & Lesbian programs.

"It was tough being an ex-child star, especially because I played a character that was such of a, you know, bitch," Arngrim said.

In addition to her role on "Little House," Arngrim guest-starred on such television classics as "The Love Boat," "The Love of May," and "The Last Place that was such of a, you know, bitch," Arngrim said. "And my whole family was in that, my parents and siblings, plus my whole family was in that show, "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch.""

After the passing of her "Little House" co-star Steve Tracy, who died of AIDS in 1986, Arngrim began volunteering at AIDS Project Los Angeles, providing AIDS education to various institutions. She has supported AIDS research causes across the country. Along with her helper, who is the National Association to Protect Children - PROTECT, for short.

Arngrim arranged to have all the proceeds from ticket sales for the show to go to Diversity Center Gay and Lesbian programs.

"Since coming here is a great way to get the info out on Gay and Lesbian programs and bring light on the issue of family being cut for these programs," said diversity education center program coordinator Dustin Jarrel.

In "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch," Arngrim's audience can expect the unexpected and more than a little Nellie Oleson-style wickedness on this hilarious ride through the twisted heartland of America.

"I talk about being an ex-child star and all the Hollywood lifestyle that comes with it," Arngrim said. "I also talk about my crazy family and all the celebrities I grew up around. I mean - my father managed Liberace."

I paint abstractly and usually fast.

Tickets are on sale at the Student Union ticket office and are $5 for students, $15 for non-students and $25 for VIP tickets, which includes a backstage reception.

Q: What is your job as the president of the Student Art Council?
A: I hold the meetings to decide what we need to do in order to put things together, such as the auction. I try to make sure that we are involved in the things that go on around the campus. I also try to get the artists to come to campus for speeches or workshops.

Q: What do you like the most about art?
A: I like doing it because this is the way to express yourself. For the auction, the Student Art Council helps students in the department express themselves and be able to show their works to other people.

Q: What is your plan after the graduation?
A: I plan to do an internship in Seattle or the Portland area. I like design, however, lately I've also been thinking of being an account executive, which is the contact between the designer and client.

Annual art auction to fill Sarah Spurgeon Gallery

Tina Ou, sophomore graphic design major, is the president of the Student Art Council, a student organization dedicated to offering students opportunities to further develop their understanding of the visual arts.

Q: What is your job as the president of the Student Art Council?
A: I hold the meetings to decide what we need to do in order to put things together, such as the auction. I try to make sure that we are involved in the things that go on around the campus. I also try to get the artists to come to campus for speeches or workshops.

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Fashion show educates students

As part of International Education Week students from nine different clubs put on a fashion show representing both traditional and modern clothes from areas around the world. (Left to right) Amanda McBride, Christine Payne and Danielle Martinez.

Observer

Comedy contest winner to head to semi-final round

By Heather Elliott
Staff reporter

Rising stress levels at the end of fall quarter creep up on the students at Central Washington University every year. Attending the Seattle International Stand-Up Comedy Competition should be a great way to relieve some of that anxiety. The event starts at 8 p.m., Nov. 18, in the Student Union Theatre.

The semi-final competition consists of 10 comedians from all around the country who will be judged on their timing, presentation, and originality of their material.

"Each comedian will be competing for the final five spots in Seattle," said Scott Drummond, Campus Life and Student Union Director of Campus Activities, said.

The audience will play a big part, judges will pay close attention to the audience's response. Allison Arngrim, who played Nellie from "Little House on the Prairie," will do some of her own stand up comedy as a guest comedian, as well as be a celebrity judge. The comedians are timed and penalized if they go over the time allotted to them.

Central has hosted quarter finals twice in the past, but this is the first time Central is hosting the semi-final competition said Drummond.

"We've done quite well with comedy on Friday and Saturday nights," Drummond said. "It's a nice stress reliever and relaxation for the end of a work week:"

"I would go, because on a daily basis we don't laugh as much as we should," Jessica Egeland, junior aviation management specialization major said.

The originality of each comedian allows for a variety of stories and entertainment to the audience.

Women, in particular, provide a great and unique view with their stories. It is these comedians that put guys on edge and that it's fun to watch that Drummond said.

"Stand-up comedy is the heart and soul of the comedy profession," Rowena Erhard, senior history education major said.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Student Union Box Office. The price is $4 for students and $6 for non-students.

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Observer — Scene — November 16, 2006 9
Central football season ends poorly in Omaha.
pg. 11

Senior transfer looks to help Wildcat women's hoops.
pg. 11

A quick look at area ski and board mountains.
pg. 12

Men's basketball starts season nationally ranked

by Nolan Teasley
Staff reporter

If championships and trophies were handed out in November, the Central Washington University men's basketball team would have a ticket punched to next March with their pre-season accolades. Considering the season won't come to an end until March, it's going to be awhile until we find out if the pre-season predictions come true.
Currently ranked 12th in the nation and picked to finish on top of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, the Wildcats have a lot of work to do before they can prove these predictions correct. The good news is they know what they need to do to make it happen.
"Our goal of course is to win a national championship, but we're going to take it one game at a time," sophomore guard Colton Monti said.
Assistant coach Ty Zacinec is a former player at Central and has played on some great teams. He still feels that on paper this team is every bit as good if not better than teams of the past. Merely having talent is by no means an accomplishment, he said. The coaching staff seems focused on reminding this year's squad of that fact.
"There's as much talent as I've seen since I've been here, including both playing and coaching," Zacinec said. "But talent doesn't always translate to success, we still have a lot of work to do.
Nine lettermen are returning this season for the Wildcats including senior forwards Lance Den Boer and Julien Wright.

"Being ranked first doesn't mean anything now, it's pre-season. But it means everyone is going to be gunning for us and we have to bring our 'A' game every night."

-Bryan Freshwater
Senior center

McMillen, senior center Grant Assink and sophomore guard Johnny Spevak. Derek Groth, who started at guard during the 2004-2005 season, red-shirted last year but returns this season after averaging 14 points a game two years ago. Den Boer can score from anywhere on the court, McMillen is an athletic as they come, Assink brings size and Spevak can play defense with the best of them. Senior center Bryan Freshwater, a transfer from conference foe Alaska-Anchorage University, adds depth to the front court with his all around game, and Highline Community College transfer Nate Jackson will team with Spevak and Groth to ease the loss of last seasons point guard Chris Banish.
"Banish will be tough to replace, being a character and scoring a lot of little things for us," Zacinec said.
Two juniors, center Bryce Daub and guard Tyler Monk, team with senior guard Tremaine "TC" Curry to add another element to the Wildcats. Although starters haven't been named yet, players seem to know and accept their roles, having a team first attitude.
"I like keeping the energy level high off the bench, that's my role and I'm cool with that," Curry said.
The Wildcats possess a lot of veracity. It seems starters could change from game to game to take advantage of mismatches at certain positions, which means that in a lot of cases Central could have players of starting caliber coming off the bench.
"We have a number of lineworks we can go with," Freshwater said.
The Wildcats seem prepared to bring a serious winning attitude to the court each and every night.
"Being ranked first doesn't mean anything now, it's pre-season," Freshwater said. "But it means everyone is going to be gunning for us and we have to bring our 'A' game every night."
Hopefully that "A" game can bring "A' national championship to Central very soon.

Women's hoops season opens with a win

by Courtney Naccarato
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University 2006-2007 women's basketball team is ready to prove it has what it takes to make it to the national championship this year. Central played an exhibition game last Thursday against the Northwest All-Star to start off their season. Leading the offensive attack for the Wildcats was senior guard Brandi Bounds with 13 points and three rebounds in the 86-76 victory.
Last season the Wildcats walked away 15-11 overall. The women came in 9th in the West region, falling one game short of advancing for nationals, proving they have what is needed to go far.
"We have the talent and depth to have a better season," head Coach Jeff Whitney said.
The Wildcats lost their leading scorer, forward Jamie Corwin to graduation.
Two seniors, center Bryce Daub and junior post Laura Wright will lead the team as a senior leaders, Whitney said. The two wilt meet twice this season.
Junior center Bryce Daub and senior Ashley Blake will also start this season.
Senior Laura Wright shoots a free throw during Central's scrimmage. She averaged just under 14 points and eight rebounds a game last season.
College along with three other players. Both women are expected to be key impact players, Whitney said. "Elyse has a strong ability to score and has the total game package," Whitney said. "Brandi is an immediate impact at forward."
This team has set up a good dynamic game with returning and new players. The team is able to create plays for themselves and they often do not need to set up play, Wright said.
"This will be a strong asset when going against the Vikings. The Wildcats and Vikings have been rivals in basketball for the past nine seasons. The two will meet twice this season. It's a pride game, Whitney said. "They come off as cocky," Wright said. "They are a Western team and talk a lot of trash about their team."

"We have a number of lineworks we can go with," Freshwater said.

"It was exciting to play a chance to play one of the best teams in the nation."

-Sophomore guard Colton Monti says.

Sweep at regionals ends volleyball season early

by Melanie Lockhart
Staff reporter

Despite their best efforts, the Central Washington University women's volleyball team ended their post-season being swept in three games by California State University San Bernardino last Thursday in Cal Poly Pomona.
The Wildcats entered the NCAA Division II Pacific Regional tournament as the eighth seed in the playoffs after finishing the regular season 19-7 overall and 10-6 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.
Central took on the CSUSB Coyotes, who held the number one seed in the tournament. The Coyotes were ranked fourth nationally going into the playoffs.
"It was exciting to get a chance to play one of the best teams in the nation," senior outside hitter Stephanie Powell said. "There were, of course, a few butterflies in my stomach, but that slight nervousness is what got me revved up and going confident into the match," Whitney said.
CSUSB took a quick lead in the first match and scored four points before the Wildcats got on the board. Central came back to tie the game three times before an ace by senior setter Lindsey Doliente gave the Wildcats a 20-19 lead. The Wildcats went on to sweep the Coyotes by maintaining the lead and taking a five point lead at one point in the match (18-13). Central eventually lost 20-17 before the Coyotes stepped up to take control of the game.
CSUSB scored six consecutive points to take the lead from Central. The streak was broken briefly after a kill by senior outside hitter Katie Pasley. But the Coyotes answered with five straight points, increasing their lead to 22-21. The Wildcats lost the first match 18-23.
Central took the first lead in the second match with a kill by Powell. The Coyotes kept the match close, tying the game up 12 times before the Coyotes once again took control in the match tied up 20-20.
A few attack errors by the Wildcats helped CSUSB take the lead. Despite two kills by Pasley and an ace by freshman middle blocker Erin see VOLLEYBALL, page 11
Elyse Mengarelli left the basketball court without looking back in 2002. She was done with playing. The last thing she wanted to do was step back onto the court.

Mengarelli had no intention of being a part of basketball again, but Mengarelli’s friend, Angie Rachel, convinced her to play for Yakima Valley Community College. “I just got burnt out on basketball at Montana State. Even when I got back here (Central) I was burnt out,” Mengarelli said. “But then I just started to miss it a lot. Angie talked me into playing.”

For Mengarelli, the transition back to the court was easier than she thought it would be.

While at YVCC, Mengarelli earned a spot on First Team All-NorthWest Region. For the first time in her collegiate career, she was enjoying basketball.

Mengarelli’s tenure at YVCC began after she left the Montana State University basketball team as a freshman, where the workload for basketball too much with four to five practices a day.

NCAA rules prohibit athletes from spending more than 20 hours a week practicing or playing games. She was one of three players who left the team because of too much practice.

Although this is her third year at Central Washington University, it will be her first on Nicholson Pavilion court.

Now a senior, Mengarelli has decided to add to the already potent attack of the Wildcats, bringing her five-tool resume to the court. She can defend, drive, shoot, post up against anyone. She’s a pretty special player,” head coach Jeff Whitney said. “She can get to the rim and create a shot.”

Mengarelli is the type of player who can play any position on the court. Whitney said that her abilities on the court make her a very tough person to guard and that she is one of his players that bring the entire package to the court.

Even during practice, the comfort level is there for Mengarelli. Her leadership skills are impeccable, bringing to the team a natural ability to pull Central together at any moment.

“As she grows into her time, she will become a leader,” Whitney said. “When you need a big shot she can provide.”

Central is ranked second in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference pre-season coaches’ poll.

“It is a nice honor to be capable of having number two in the pre-season poll,” Whitney said. “But we have a long way to go.”

If there is one thing that people should know about Mengarelli, it’s that she is ready at any moment to do something special.

While still in high school, Mengarelli earned MVP honors in 2002, along with first team all-tournament in 2000 and 2001. She also holds the tournament career record with 50 assists, 98 free throws attempted and 69 free throws made.

“I want to go to the tournament and leave on a good note,” Mengarelli said. “It is her first year of playing basketball at Central. She recently played at Montana State and Yakima Valley.

“I think that during Thursday’s game the Mavericks tore up the Wildcat defense, managing to gain 482 total yards with 400 of them coming on the ground. “Our defensive line was a little even our element and score on them effectively.”

The third and final match for the Wildcats proved to be more difficult. The Coyotes dominated, letting the Wildcats go scoreless throughout the whole game.

Central could only score two consecutive points at best throughout the entire match. The Wildcats’ 9 kills in

**FOOTBALL:**

Wildcats dominated by fourth ranked California State University early in tournament

continued from page 10

Norris in the final stretch. Central could not overtake the Coyotes and ended with a 30-23 defeat for the second time this season.

“I want to go to the tournament and leave on a good note.”

—Elyse Mengarelli

Senior guard

by Casey Donovan

Asst. Sports editor

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“This is the end of my career, and I want

something to show for it.”

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Central Washington University's women's soccer club spent the weekend participating in the Ellensburg Veterans Day Soccer Tournament. Central played Gonzaga University and the University of Oregon. The University of Washington was scheduled to be the fourth team to participate in the tournament, but inclement weather prevented their arrival. According to sophomore forward Monique Cornier the team is basically a new group, with six players from last year.

On Saturday, the Wildcats squared off against the Bulldogs in the first game of their double-header. Central easily won the game.

The teams spent the nights in the Student Union Recreation Center because no hotel rooms were available due to the Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls Conference.

The women's soccer club has one more game for the fall this Saturday in Seattle against the University of Washington and will resume game play again this spring.

FOOTBALL: Central's defense gives up 400 yards on the ground continued from page 11

in the fourth quarter. However, it would end up being the final score of the season for the Wildcats but the Mavericks increased their lead with two more touchdowns, taking the decisive victory.

"I think that the all of the travel in season and being out of playoff contention was a lot of the guys' minds," Reilly said. "I think as a team we just kind of threw in the towel."

Senior defensive back Ryan Andrews led all players with 11 tackles, finishing up his four-year career in the crimson and black with 102 tackles. Sixteen other Wildcats suited up for their final collegiate football game on Saturday, including Bennett who carried the ball nine times for 20 yards and the aforementioned receiving touchdown in the loss.

"It was a very disappointing way to end a good year and it reminds us as we have a long way to go to get to the program where we want," Reilly said.

Central finished its inaugural season in the North Central Conference (NCC) with a 6-5 overall record and a tie for fifth place in the conference standings at 3-2.

In the first half of the game and played Gonzaga the second half of the game just to have fun.

"It was pretty good to play an even match," Reilly said. "It was a pretty good way to end a great year.

The athletes have visited some of the same mountains and offered differing views on which sport is more fun. "I prefer snowboarding to offer than people give it credit," said Aldous.

"I think that the all of the travel in season just down the road from the mountain," said Gardner. "And that's about the best maintained ski area in the state, the design is innovative and fun, just down the road from the mountain," said Aldous. "But there are some of the same mountains and different views on which sport is more fun. "It was a very disappointing way to end a good year and it reminds us as we have a long way to go to get to the program where we want to," Reilly said.

Central's defense was nicked up and it showed against Nebraska-Omaha.

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