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Observer

Central Washington University
Mending the wound

High demand for nurses prompts new program

Central's new pre-nursing degree will help fight projected shortage of 17,000 by 2015

by Rachel Thomson
Staff reporter

Twenty-year-old Manda Valentine dreamed of becoming a nurse. She had plenty of experience—a week-long job shadow at a children's hospital in Bellevue and over two years working as a nursing assistant at the Pediatrician -Interim Center in Kent.

She'd just earned her associate's degree at Highline Community College and planned to enroll in Highline's nursing program.

But Highline only had 56 slots for more than 400 applicants, and Valentine wasn't accepted.

"It was frustrating to me," Valentine said, "I was just a number to [the admissions committee] and they didn't look at me as a person."

After an exhaustive search, Valentine discovered Central Washington University's new pre-nursing degree program.

Central added pre-nursing as a specialization to the existing public health degree last fall. The pre-nursing degree gives students the credentials needed to meet the entrance requirements for nursing schools throughout Washington.

Madeline Madlem, public health professor and advisor to Central's pre-nursing program, said the new degree will help combat the growing nursing shortage statewide.

The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis predicts Washington state will have an estimated 17,000 job openings in the nursing field by the year 2015.

The nursing shortage occurs because of several factors, Madlem said. Many nurses currently in practice are approaching retirement age and new applicants will be needed to fill those positions, she said.

Moreover, as the baby-boomer generation ages, nursing schools throughout the U.S. will struggle to keep up with the demand for highly qualified caregivers and nurse practitioners.

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Photo illustration by Ross James Wallette/Observer

Administering shots is a common nursing duty that many say is harder to master than it looks. Moreover, nurses work to educate both patients and the community. Nurses also provide emotional support for grieving patients and families. Nurses can specialize in a variety of fields. There were an estimated 2.6 million registered nurses (RN) in the United States in 2004. Projections push that number up to three million in the coming years.
Summer tuition projected to rise

by Chelsea Krotzer
Staff reporter

The first steps to raise summer ses­sion tuition have been taken by the Budget Advisory Committee as it pre­approves the Summer Session 2007 budget proposal.

The six percent increase for under­graduate and graduate tuition, and rise 10 percent for post-baccalaureate. Reg­istration fees would remain at $40.

It was noted at the meeting that post-baccalaureate and graduate stu­dents share the same educational vision.

“It Central did not have this budget, there would be no Summer Session.”

-Geoff Foy
Asst. director of the office of continuing education

“Most post-baccalaureate students are on their way to getting a graduate degree or a certificate for a job they already have,” said David Solitz, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “The value to students is higher, (and they are) often in smaller classes which cost us more to offer.”

The proposal includes an increase to revenues of the various colleges and fees across campus, such as services and activities and health and counsel­ing fees.

Determining which department will receive a specific percentage of money depends on how many student credit hours (SCH) are generated. The total SCH each college produces will estab­lish the corresponding amount of the budget they will be given. For example, if a college generated 30 percent of SCH they would receive that same amount of the budget.

“The 2007 Summer Session budget enables Central academic departments to continue to offer high quality, high demand courses to students so that degree requirements can be fulfilled and, consequently students can gradu­ate on time,” said Geoff Foy, assistant director of the office of continuing edu­cation. “If Central did not have this budget, there would be no Summer Ses­sion.”

The proposal contains more funding for institutional costs. These costs include an additional $25,132 to the Continuing Education Summer Unit, and a $35,641 cut from Registrar Services. The cuts are due to the fact that Continuing Education is responsi­ble for the summer administration rather than Registrar Services.

Unlike other quarters, Summer Ses­sion is self-supplied by Central, rather than funded by the state. The money is used to pay faculty and other expenses.

The Office of Continuing Education is responsible for Summer Session and will be able to increase marketing efforts among students who need to take summer classes, Foy said.

The proposal does not include funds necessary for facilities maintenance.

“Facilities are not getting any mon­ey,” said Richard Corona, vice president for business financial affairs. “We’re basically taking that out of our regular budget. We need to support the univer­sity as much as possible.”

President Jerry Allen McIntyre will review and submit the proposal to the Board of Trustees.

Central, Eastern and Western Wash­ington Universities are often compared to each other, and in many ways are considered equals.

It seems unfair then, that any one of the three schools would get the lesser end of a certain state administered plan.

Tuition waivers are a percentage of a university’s total tuition, which is deter­mined by the state, used to fund financial aid for students.

Since 1992, Central has had the authority to waive eight percent of its tuition, while Western and Eastern are able to waive 10 percent.

“(Central needs) equity among peer institutions,” Mike Bogatay, associated director of Student Affairs, University’s BOD legislative liaison, said.

Tuition waivers are primarily used for students with a high financial need. They allow students who may not be financially able to attend a university to do so.

They are also used to fund graduate studies and create gender equity in sports by offering female scholarships.

Central has the highest average stu­dent debt rate in the state, and 79 per­cent of students require some sort of financial aid. It seems ironic, that Central, Rising tuition prices would make attending Central less affordable, which in turn will only increase the number of stu­dents who need financial assistance and tuition waivers.

“If tuition continues to increase, state help needs to rise as well,” DuPont said. “We need more accountability.”

Jennifer Oyen, freshman elementary education major, and Brittany Hitch­cock, freshman para-medicine major, are among the 79 percent of Central students who rely on some form of tuition waivers or financial aid.

As freshmen with several more years of school ahead, they both cringe at the thought of not being able to get financial aid.

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As freshmen with several more years of school ahead, they both cringe at the idea of increasing tuition.

“Just that means I’m out of money,” Hitchcock said.

DuPont and Bogatay are asking for student support when facing the legisla­ture. By using the email template on the ASCWU Web site, students can voice their opinions in a timely manner.

While the first hearing will take place next week, DuPont said the tuition waiver increase should be a pertinent issue to Central students today and going forward.

Steve DuPont, ASCWU/BOD vice president for political affairs, works to equalize Central’s tuition waiver authority with Western and Eastern.

Students work to get Central on par

by Clare Jensen
Staff reporter

The first hearing will be next week.

The bill must go through three com­mittees before it is read on the floor, and if passed the bill must be signed for approval by the governor.

“The first fight is to get the bill passed,” Bogatay said. “The second is to get the money to fund it.”

Ultimately, it is up to the governor whether or not the bill will be written into the Revised Code of Washington. Once it is, the 11 percent tuition authority must then be funded by work­ing into the legislative budget.

“It would cost two million to put us up to par with [Western and Eastern],” DuPont said. “The state’s proposed budget for education is 1 billion.”

The governor proposed an annual tuition increase of five percent for com­prehensive schools, like Central. Rising tuition prices would make attending Central less affordable, which in turn will only increase the number of stu­dents who need financial assistance and tuition waivers.

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No one pulled the fire alarm, however firefighters still arrived at Farrell Hall. According to Ratcliff there were as many as seven responders to the call because fire engines were nearby. All came upon an unwitnessed scene. There was no actual fire, but firefighters searched the building to make sure, Ratcliff said. Once the firefighters found the cause and made sure the building was safe, students and faculty re-entered the building and continued their day. This is the third time in the last month the Fire Department has been called to campus for fire or smoke related situations. There was no actual fire in two of the three calls upon investigation. There were no injuries reported.

The smell circulated throughout the building and continued its way to the third floor of Kamala Hall. It smelled like burnt popcorn," Jason Miller, senior anthropology major, said.

The aroma was enough to alarm and evacuate students and staff inside the building.

"We were like, "What the heck is that?"" said Bill Kaperak, a resident assistant in the third floor of Kamala Hall.

The smell had become loud enough to warrant a call to the fire department to evacuate the building.

"This harmless prank could have resulted in a more serious matter," DeShields said. "If the water had shorted out the fire system, damaged student property, or a student had been shocked by an electrical outlet, then we'd be talking about the safety of the hall.

"Firefighters and staff reported they could smell vandalism that resulted in more than three hundred dollars worth of repairs for damages in Kamala Hall. The repairs occurred to bathroom sinks and a bathtub being intentionally clogged on the third floor on Jan. 5. Due to the clog, the third floor communal bathroom, known as the "tub room," flooded and caused water damage all the way to the first floor of Kamala Hall.

Residents of Kamala Hall may be faced with an equal assessment of damages charge for the repairs.

"Our housing contract does have a provision that allows for community billing, but no decision has been made to implement this at this time," said Richard DeShields, director of University Housing.

The total repair bill in Kamola Hall was $368.17. If the 212 residents of Kamala Hall all came upon an uneventful scene. There was no actual fire, but firefighters searched the building to make sure, Ratcliff said. Once the firefighters found the cause and made sure the building was safe, students and faculty re-entered the building and continued their day.

This is the third time in the last month the Fire Department has been called to campus for fire or smoke related situations. There was no actual fire in two of the three calls upon investigation. There were no injuries reported.

The Central Washington University housing room and board contract states that "damages in community areas could result in equal assessment of damage charges to members within living community or appropriate members as deemed by University Housing." This means if the student does not come forward, the entire hall will have to pay for one person's actions.

The total repair bill in Kamola Hall was $368.17. If the 212 residents of Kamala Hall are faced with an equal assessment of damages, they would all split the cost in order to pay for the damages that were done. Repairs were made on Jan. 14. That cost would be $1.76 per resident.

Repairs to Kamala include replacing carpet, repainting walls on three of the four floors and clearing the clogged pipes for efficient water flow. Even with the university housing contract statement, DeShields would rather not have it go that route. Instead, he would like the person or persons responsible to take ownership in their wrongdoing and show residents of Kamala Hall and the university respect by taking responsibility of the damages that were made.

"I don't anticipate a community billing," DeShields said. "Someone is aware of the situation and is responsible for the damages that were made."

Safety concerns have been raised in regards to this incident.

"This harmless prank could have resulted in a more serious matter," DeShields said. "If the water had shorted out the fire system, damaged student property, or a student had been shocked by an electrical outlet, then we'd be talking about the safety of the hall."

"Students, housing staff and Ellensburg police are all sharing responsibility on the investigation. For housing contract information contact housing@cwu.edu or call at 963-1831."

Vandalism may cost Kamola residents $1.76 each

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"The Goonies" 7 & 9 p.m. SU Theatre Free movies!
963-1691 for info

"Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip" 7 & 9 p.m. SU Theatre
963-1691 for info

Ski/Snowboard Trip 963-3537 for info

Snowshoe Trip 963-3537 for info
New degree to aid IT workforce

by Alexandra Baum
Staff reporter

The Information Technology (IT) department at Central Washington University has added a bachelor of applied science (BAS) degree. The addition to the curriculum will make employees in the IT field more marketable.

"This program allows transfer students and people who have experience in the field . . . to gain the communication skills necessary for this field," Natalie Lupton, IT program coordinator, said. "It is a field that is continuing to grow, and the communication skills learned in this program will help meet the needs of these jobs."

The new program is directed toward students who have already earned an associate degree in the field of IT, and have approximately one full year of experience. This program, added in the fall, is the first IT program to let returning students obtain a BAS in Washington State.

Through upper level course work, students will gain a better understanding of communication in a working environment and leadership skills in the IT industry.

Students will be taking classes in human resources, administrative management, accounting and IT courses to enable them to become better rounded employees.

"There are many IT industry positions available in the Puget Sound area, but they remain unfilled because prospective employees do not hold all the skills the industry is looking for both experience in the IT field and a degree," Shawn Motzer, IT program coordinator, said.

This program does not affect current IT students, but helps the non-traditional students finish their four year degree.

The classes help meet the needs of students currently working and their employers by offering classes online, in the evenings and on Saturdays.

"This program flexibility works for those who are working full-time, have families, or other obligations that currently hinder them from accessing a higher education degree," Watkins said.

The department hopes to fill the available IT positions in the northwest and let current employees obtain better positions after continuing their education.

For more information contact Natalie Lupton at luptonn@cwu.edu.

CORRECTION

On Oct. 19, 2006, the Observer ran a brief in regards to an arrest made for first-degree burglary and indecent liberties. The person named in the story is incorrect. Vincent Robles-Rodriguez has been charged with these crimes and will appear in court on these charges on Feb. 13.

CAMPUS FIRE INSPECTION LOOKING GOOD

Inspections of academic and administrative buildings were completed Jan. 10 by the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) fire marshal.

The campus looked good, but minor common problems were found on a consistent basis. Problems are advised to be corrected as soon as possible.

The most prominent issues for these winter months include:

• Wedges, fold-down feet or other unauthorized devices that hold open fire doors. In the event of a fire, doors are designed to close off and contain fire and smoke, which cannot happen if the doors are propped open with an unapproved equipment.

• Extension cords as permanent wiring. If an extension cord is used continuously for more than six months it is hazardous. Power strips and surge protectors are suitable replacements.

For more information contact Joe Seemiller at 963-7273.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate assistantship applications for Summer Quarter 2007 and for the 2007-2008 academic year are due by March 1, 2007 in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Barge 305. Applications and information can be obtained on-line at www.cwu.edu/~masters under the "Forms and Guidelines" link or by visiting the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Students interested in the assistantship program are also requested to submit a financial aid application available from the Financial Aid Office or on-line.

Graduate students who are currently employed as graduate assistants also need to submit applications by March 1, 2007 if they are interested in being considered for an assistantship for next year.

Please contact the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at 509-963-3101 with any questions about the assistantship program.

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Nursing faculty positions are also becoming hard to fill. For many students, becoming an adult nurse is more appealing than teaching, Madlem said.

"If you're trained to be a nurse, you'd rather be a nurse than a teacher," Madlem said.

Celia Johnson, a registered nurse for the University's Health Center is thrilled about the addition.

"It's a good thing to offer because a lot of women are going into nursing," Johnson said. "Every nurse here thinks it's a great idea and it's an excellent thing to encourage more people to take advantage of it."

Central officials approved the pre-nursing specialization last spring; too late to list in the fall 2006 catalog.

According to Central's enrollment records, only three students declared pre-nursing majors for fall quarter 2006. However, Madlem said she expects that number to increase as more people find out about the new degree option.

After completing their bachelor's degree in public health, students can transfer to a two-year nursing school to earn their Associate's degree in nursing. Depending on the years of experience on the job, nurses can earn up to $70,000 annually.

Carolyn Booth, Central director for the Purser Paramedic Program, helped plan the curriculum for the pre-nursing degree by surveying state nursing schools about their prerequisites. She noticed nursing school wait lists were often long for those needing a two-year wait. However, students who have completed Central's public health degree can use it to become health educators at state clinics.

"They'll have a marketable skill to use while they wait," Booth said.

Valentine is in the middle of her junior year and pursuing a double major in Spanish. The extra major will be waived.

"They get to keep their summer to help low-income families with little or no access to health care. During breaks in her studies, she is working in Kent for infants born to drug-addicted mothers.

Valentine's mother, Maureen, supports her daughter's determination.

"I'm really proud she's doing something she loves," Maureen said. "I'm thankful for all the opportunities she found at Central."
Storefront car crash

New park offers educational bonus

County leases land to Central, restoration should increase local recreational options

By Meagan Lind

Staff reporter

Gladmar, behind the Thorp Fruit & Antique Mall, was once a place for hopeful fishermen, but has since been neglected for years. The county recently decided to lease the park to Central Washington University for restoration.

The park became inaccessible after the winter of 1996, when the river washed away a footbridge across the Yakima River. Since then, the only way for people to reach the park has been to wade across the river.

As soon as the snow melts, Central will start making the park more accessible to the public. Central has been talking to the county about the project for the past four years.

"It will be a good arrangement. People will be able to use it (the park) more than they used to," Perry Hutson, former county commissioner, said.

Central will rebuild the footbridge and put in parking spaces, restrooms, a picnic area and walking trails. The goal is to make the park available for science students to observe the wildlife and environment.

"I think it's a wonderful resource, so there's going to be all kind of uses for it," said Mary Bottcher, biology science technician at Central. "It's definitely going to be a great thing."

The idea is to make the 40-acre park usable for everyone from kindergarteners to grad students.

"This is what I would call a good collaboration between the county, university, and Cascade Land Conservancy to provide a richer source for faculty and students to study the habitat," said Wayne Quark, associate vice president of Grad Studies and Research.

Student, resident troubles put on hold

by Chelsea Evans
Ass. City editor

Quiet nights once again grace neighborhoods of once-sleepy, deprived areas, Ellensburg residents hope the noise will not return with spring just around the corner.

Last fall, Ellensburg neighbors experienced run-ins between Central Washington University students and permanent residents.

Residents were calling police due to excessive noise and students were retaliating with more noise and vandalism.

Now, Jane Doe, who lives north of Central’s campus, and wishes to remain anonymous, said everything has calmed down considerably.

"I don’t think students understand that not everyone can stay up all hours of the night," Doe said. "But if I could go back and talk to them instead of calling the police, I would."

Police officers were called by residents to intervene and with student’s excessive traffic, speeding and alcohol-induced negligence.

All these activities around neighborhood children was of most concern to residents, Doe said.

"It got so bad to the point where people put their houses up for sale," Doe said.

Mike Kelley, senior exercise science major, said permanent residents are not the only ones with all the problems.

Kelley, who previously lived with three other Central residents a “party house,” said even if him and his roommates were not partying, neighbors would trespass on their property to yell at them.

“We never had any problems with our next door neighbor because we went and talked to them; it’s all about communication," Kelley said.

Kelley and his roommates dealt with continual harassment.

“Take back our neighborhood," flyers were sent to surrounding neighborhoods, displaying a map of Kelley’s area.

All houses that were rented by college students were marked on the map with the landlord’s information underneath. The purpose was for residents to have contact information if problems with noise or vandalism occurred.

see RIFT, page 6

Additional wind farm projects proposed

by Addy Lee
Staff reporter

After recent rejection on past wind farm proposals, two new projects are in the works for consideration: the Desert Claim Wind Power Project and the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

The Desert Claim project is in the beginning stages of the planning process, and an application for approval was submitted on November 25, 2006.

At 7 p.m. on January 30, there will be a public hearing at the Kittitas Valley Event Center Fairgrounds, to determine if the project is consistent with Kittitas County land use and zoning. If approved, the wind farms will be located eight miles north of Ellensburg and will have approximately 90 turbines.

The Kittitas Wind Power Project is now in the final stages of the approval process.

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council will decide by the end of February if the plan is approved. The Kittitas Wind Farm will be located halfway between Ellensburg and Cle Elum and will have 121 wind turbines.

Sagebrush Power Partners is the company applying for the Kittitas Wind Power Project and Desert Claim Wind Power LLC is the company applying for the Desert Claim Wind Power Project.

"I think the wind farms would be a great source of energy for our state," Danie Touissant, Ellensburg resident said.

While the locations for the wind farms are new, the use of wind power for energy already exists in Ellensburg. The Wildhorse Wind Farm is located at the east end of Kittitas.

“When I look out my window I want to see mountains, not an unattractive machine.”

—Danie Touissant
Ellensburg resident

It provides 210 megawatts of pollution-free electricity to the Northwest; enough energy to supply up to 73,000 homes a year.

The Wildhorse produced $1 million annually in property tax revenue and has brought new jobs to the county.

"I understand that some residents don’t want to look out of their backyards and see the wind farms, but the wind farms will be generating a huge amount of energy for our homes which is the more important," Touissant said.

However, some of Ellensburg’s residents are apprehensive about the new wind farm plans and have negative feelings about the farms being located in town.

"The public’s feelings are that it will make negative visual impacts, and that their property values will decrease," said Allen Fiksdal, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Manager.

"When I look out my window, I want to see the mountains, not an unattractive machine," Touissant, Ellensburg resident said.

see RIFT, page 6
New changes to offer more downtown parking

by Seth Williams
Staff reporter

In an effort to make parking more accessible downtown, the Ellensburg Downtown Association is partnering up with city officials to reduce timed parking lots in high traffic areas. This alleviation of parking stresses came when a petition was presented to the Ellensburg Downtown Association by a special downtown taskforce that included many business owners from the area.

"The first thing we needed to do was get an accurate inventory of parking spaces available downtown," said Timothy Bishop, Ellensburg downtown association executive director.

Two parking lots in particular are being looked at.

The lot on the corner of Main Street and 3rd Street will be changed from two-hour parking to unrestricted parking.

"We realized that there are 2,452 spaces in the core area of downtown, many of which are not being utilized," Bishop said.

The lot on 5th Street and Pearl will also change to unrestricted parking, but not without some work.

"That parking area is a little different," Bishop said. "It is currently county-owned so we have no jurisdiction over it as of yet. But we are working with the City of Ellensburg on a land swap so in the parking there can be public and unrestricted." As well as transforming timed lots into unrestricted parking, the Ellensburg Downtown Association is improving the financing to remaining downtown lots that are not well identified.

New signs will be placed in key areas identifying parking as unrestricted or timed. Signs will cost $100 each.

These changes will not wipe out all of the timed parking downtown, but will help alleviate congestion and help increase parking availability for shoppers and employees.

The spaces in front of some downtown businesses will still keep two-hour parking to promote retail, Bishop said.

The parking changes were made based upon a utilization survey done by the Ellensburg Downtown Association, using a block radius from 4th Street and Pearl as a model.

Downtown employees add their two cents

Reesha Kohler
Art manager
Pearl's on Pearl

"We're lucky because we don't open until 4 p.m., but anything they can do to help out the parking problem is great."

JoAnne Wise
Director, Writers Art Association

"It's a great change. They don't take into consideration that people have to work around here when they have timed parking."

Jennifer Tardiff
Employee
DaSilva Cafe

"It's a good change. They don't take into consideration that people have to work around here when they have timed parking."

Brian Beechinor
Employee
Mt High Sports

"I've never had a problem with it. Downtown is small enough that you can get around with no problem. I'll be riding my bike soon anyway."

Juxtaposition: Program puts an emphasis on limiting underage drinking at Central

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"If someone would have asked us directly and nicely, we would have worked with them, but the people who call the cops and just yell, that just doesn't work," Kelley said.

Lynne Harrison, the director of the Campus Community Coalition, said problems began to resolve in the fall after an emphasis was put into a six-week underage drinking program.

The grant provided Ellensburg Police Department supplements to issue alcohol violations.

The grant will be in effect for two years with additional enforcement added over time.

I believe that efforts thus far have been successful because of the willingness of students, residents and the police to communicate with each other and develop common understandings," Harrison said.

Central is working on its own grant application for a neighborhood relations program so community residents and students can be surveyed for better data on relationships and problems. Harrison hopes issues can be addressed with this program.

Also a "party partner" program will provide on-campus education for students cited for infractions resulting from a party.

Although good results have come, Doe said she hopes the quietness is here to stay.

"My fear is that as soon as it gets nice out, everything will start over again," Doe said. "I guess the true test is what happens in the spring."

Kelley said there is no question that neighborhoods will soon change again with good weather, but also because of Central.

"It's a growing college and things are going to change," Kelley said. "People who say they want to retire two blocks away from the college, I suggest they move; because, the campus is only going to get bigger."
Humans are destroying the planet. Our development is pushing wildlife out of their natural habitats into the ones we're creating. Cougars wandering into backyards and deer crossing highways is just the beginning.

The Waterbird Population Estimate, released Tuesday, concluded that 44 percent of the 900 waterfowl species worldwide are declining in population. This is the fourth such report, conducted every four years. The numbers, according to an Associated Press article related to the topic, are lower than they were the last time Wetlands International, based in the Netherlands, conducted the research.

The raw data, population sprawl and resource depletion were among the top culprits. Birds aren't the only species in decline, and the list doesn't just include animals. South American rainforests are burned to provide a year's worth of fertile soil for poor farmers, and that destruction is decimating hundreds of thousands of flora and fauna. It is estimated that 20 percent of the forests have been destroyed since the seventies, and another 20 percent will be gone by 2025, according to the Charleston Gazette.

The argument might seem far off, as if Washington, the “Evergreen State,” is sale from this epidemic. We're not. Governmental officials recently unveiled a 20-plus year plan to rebuild and protect Puget Sound. Salmon, integral to almost every conversation about Washington, are experiencing rapid declines in population.

**OBSERVANCE**

**Q: Who do you think named the Dodo bird?**

*a. The same people that killed all the dodos*

Petrol conglomerates are salivating at the opportunity to sink drill bits into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR); federally protected land. The same government that is currently protecting the environment has been trying for years to backdoor those conglomerates into it.

Ellensburg is a great example. For those of us who have been here for several years, the area has definitely changed. North campus used to extend to 19th Street and parts of Timothy Park. Now developers consistently apply for permits to construct hundreds of lots for new housing. Not only are we churning up acre after acre of land, but we're displacing all of the species that live on it.

Ellensburg isn't a unique case. Anyone going to Seattle might not really know where the suburbs start and the city ends. Take a freeway drive through Renton and gaze lovingly at the hills covered in rows of duplexes only feet apart.

There are two results of this. One, we're destroying the environment. As we cram more and more people into this country and onto the planet, we make less room for everything else. Second, we lose out. As conditions deteriorate (whether that manifests itself by cramped conditions or loss of vegetation) the human experience takes a hit there just isn't the room or resources for all of us.

The solution isn't simple. Governments need to follow through with protection measures, and we need to watch over them. People need to stop being silent about the ever-increasing number of highways and bypasses, and argue for public transportation. We also need to be prepared to change our way of life. The planet just can't sustain almost seven billion people operating machinery on top of it forever.

So stand up and smell the roses, they might not be here next year.

Patrick Lewis is the Editor-in-Chief of the Observer and can be reached at Observer@cwu.edu
January 25, 2007 — Scene — Observer

This week in Scene

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5 Minutes With: Meet Joyce Kennedy, president of the Equestrian Club. PAGE 11

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"Lost Boys of Sudan": Read about the documentary showing on campus. PAGE 12

Fill in the 'Blank' at world premiere

"Blankity-Blank!" opens tonight at Milo Smith Tower Theatre

by Taishi Kanamaru
Staff reporter

Central Washington University's Central Theatre Ensemble (CTE) will present the premiere of the musical "Blankity-Blank!" tonight, but three of the main characters' names are still unknown.

"Blankity-Blank!" will start at 7 p.m. tonight in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. The show brings a unique angle to the theatre by allowing the audience to participate in the show.

Before the show, the audience will use fill-in-the-blank forms to decide upon key characters, plot information and determine one of four possible endings.

Seattle-based playwright Scott Warrender wrote the music, lyrics and script for the musical and will be attending the show on Saturday, Jan. 27 to conduct the audience talkback. The talkback is a chance for audience members to meet and ask questions of the director, cast and writer.

"I thought there was something about creating a piece of theatre that feels like it is just happening for the first time," Warrender said. "I wrote the simple and silly scripts and took out as much as I could, and that is the information the audience can improvise."

This kind of show has never been produced at Central.

There are about 150 pieces of information the audience gets to determine, said Terri Brown, professor of musical theatre and history and director of the musical. "This kind of show has never been produced at Central."

Since it is the first time CTE has presented this kind of musical, the actors and actresses have been working in rehearsals with fake suggestions to become comfortable with the improvisational play style.

"The main difficulty of this is creating true ensemble, trusting every single person on the stage with you," said Isaiah Crowson, senior Theatre Arts and performance major. "At any point of time, suggestions could go wrong, and you have to trust the people to help you out."

Crowson will play the handsome leading man, whose name will be determined by the audience at each show.

The audience also has control over the occupation of each character. During rehearsals, Crowson has acted as a sweatshop worker and rollercoaster cleaner.

"It was a little crazy when we first started working with suggestions, trying to figure out how to work, but it is becoming second nature now," Crowson said.

Sara DeGrave, junior Theatre Arts and performance major, will play the heroine, and the audience will get to determine not only her name, but also her deep, dark secret.

"I know it's going to be fun for the audience to see something different," DeGrave said. "I feel both nervous and excited."

Top: (from left) James Frasca, Allison Wooldridge, Sarah DeGrave and Isaiah Crowson practice for tonight's opening performance of "Blankity-Blank!" Above: Crowson, DeGrave and Leslee Cail rehearse possible plot changes. Left: DeGrave sings a solo during rehearsal. The unique script of "Blankity-Blank!" allows the audience to make plot decisions by using ballots to choose options such as character names.
Downtown swarms with Winterhop festivities

by Bryant Phillips
Staff reporter

The bikes are lined up, a few stained and peeling chairs are scattered throughout the room, the band is doing mic checks in the corner and Fred Johnston is wondering where the beer is.

Last Saturday, the Recycle Bicycle Shop, owned by Johnston, on Main Street was one of 10 venues hosting the third annual Winterhop Brewfest. But there was just one little problem: with only 20 minutes to go until the noon kickoff for the event, neither of the breweries scheduled for Johnston's shop had arrived.

Just as the clock struck twelve, one of the breweries turned up. They were delayed while crossing Stevens Pass. The band struck up the guitars, the keg was tapped and the first patrons for the third annual Ellensburg Winterhop Brewfest began to arrive.

"We've been a part of Winterhop since its first year," Johnston said. "We wanted to open the shop to musicians and bands so they would have a place to hang out and host lots of people here to enjoy music."

The band playing in the corner was Rasin Wolf, fronted by Jamey Bilyeu, a local resident who has been a part of Brewfest all three years.

"We love a rapt audience," Bilyeu said.

Unusual Hosts

Many venues like Audio Attic and the Recycle Bicycle Shop kept their products on display, despite the crowds, forcing patrons to maneuver around the shop. Some venues became congested because of merchandise.

Mountain High Sports suffered from this type of congestion, with an almost claustrophobic atmosphere caused by tents hanging from the ceiling and clothing racks on display throughout the store.

The line for the single brewery in the store was so long it prevented some patrons from getting to the exit, much less the beer, and left no room to move around.

Unusual Venues

The abandoned Grand Central Theatre was certainly unique, with stripped walls, an uncarpeted and dusty floor, outdated movie posters and three breweries filling the old lobby.

"Compared to Mountain High Sports, this venue is a lot more open," said local resident Jen Bogan about the Grand Central Theatre. "It's a lot easier to meet people here."

Patrons didn't seem to mind the conditions, and many were entertained by the giant cardboard posters for films like The Da Vinci Code and Ultrasuede. Another unusual venue was The Daily Record, which joined Brewfest for the first time and hosted two breweries. Giant 1,600-pound cardboard cylinders, used to contain rolls of newprints, were converted into tables for the event, which worked quite well given their height of about 4 feet.

The smell of ink and beer may have been a strange combination, but the ample elbowroom and live music near the back created a very welcoming atmosphere.

Plenty of Lines, But No Incidents

There were a few problems that arose due to the number of patrons attending the event. For the first two hours a long line extended from the Rotary Pavilion, where patrons waited to exchange their tickets for glasses and script. Although it was clear, a strong wind left many people cold as they waited.

"Everyone showed up at the same time this year," said Ron Cridlebaugh, executive director for the Chamber of Commerce. "We had three lines going, but it wasn't enough. We're probably going to add more lines next year and possibly more volunteers as well, but it takes a lot of people to run this event."

Despite these setbacks, Mike Filippo, one of the Liquor Enforcement officers who patrolled the event, said he had been at all three Brewfests and had never seen one run so smoothly.

People continued to socialize after the event ended at 5 p.m., with many restaurants staying open late and drawing in plenty of business.

"The restaurants were full the next morning too," Cridlebaugh said. "A lot of people stayed the night in Ellens-
Open Mic Night showcases Central talent

by Jon Schuler
Staff reporter

Move over “American Idol.” There’s a new way to showcase musical talent, with a crowd much more forgiving than Simon Cowell.

Hundreds of Central Washington University students gathered last Thursday to witness the debut of Central’s Open Mic Night, and vote for their favorite performers.

The program featured 16 aspiring musicians, all from Central, performing a variety of musical styles. Most students supported their vocals with backup guitar, while some preferred the sounds of an out-of-tune piano. The whole event had a “coffee house” feel, and yes, coffee was provided-free of charge by both Starbucks and the Thomas Hammer Coffee Company.

At the end of the show, spectators were asked to vote for their favorite musician or group. When the ballots were tallied, sophomores Beth Vierra and Ashley Leffler were recognized as the winners, and were invited to compete in the People’s Choice Finale on June 1st.

“We heard about the Open Mic contest and decided to enter, because we had never played together,” Vierra, sophomore undecided, said. “We’re going to make a million dollars and save the world with our guitars.” Vierra and Leffler have each been performing independently for more than a year. This was their first combined effort. The crowd, which exceeded 200 spectators, was impressed by their effortless harmonies and energetic stage presence.

“It’s pretty scary to perform in front of a large crowd,” Leffler, sophomore undecided, said. “But it is the biggest high after you’re done. It was something I always wanted to do when I was little, so it’s pretty cool to be actually doing it.”

Musical talents varied from quiet, piano-led songs to vibrant adaptations of Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville.”

One of the more colorful performers in the contest was Chad Opitz, junior vocal performance major, who performed a medley of original songs with his keyboard. Opitz’s playlist included “Aborted Fetus Man” and “Kick to the Junk.”

“That keyboard guy was rad,” Vierra said. “Ashley and I pretty much want to date him simultaneously!”

Three more People’s Choice events will be held between now and the grand finale on June 1. The winner of each event will be invited to perform at the finale, where the format will be slightly different.

The final competition will be held on the east patio of the Student Union Recreation Center. Each of the winners will be given thirty minutes and a full band to make their case for People’s Choice Champion.

Sarah Grant, Christina Zakhary and Kati Sheldon are three students involved in organizing the event.

“This little college has a lot of talent,” Scott Drummond, director of Campus Activities, said. “And it’s not like they’re all in the music program.”

For information on the next Open Mic Night contact Sarah Grant at 963-1450.
Students saddle up to form club

Horse lovers giddy over equestrian competitions

by Leah Halterman
Staff reporter

With no program through the school for students to compete in horse shows, a group of Central Washington University students took the initiative to form The Equestrian Club.

The Equestrian Club gives students without horses a chance to compete in horse shows. Students can participate in different events and disciplines, such as hunt seat, western horsemanship and various riding styles.

"I founded it because I wanted it," Ashley Brewer, senior community health education, said.

Brewer posted an announcement last spring advertising an open meeting for students interested in forming the club. "Central was one of the only universities in Washington that didn't have an equestrian club," Emily Kelly, senior nutrition and club treasurer said.

During the meeting, members discussed how to make the idea for the club to become a reality. By fall quarter 2006, Central's Equestrian Club was officially up and running.

Central's Equestrian Club is part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. The IHSA has designed its competitions in such a way that students, regardless of experience, accessibility or financial situation, have the opportunity to compete.

"You don't get any warm-up time," Sarah Bessey, freshman English, said. The horse is warmed up by its owner. The rider gets on the horse right before competing with no time to adjust. Other challenges include adjusting to saddles or stirrups that are provided and whether or not the owner will allow the use of a crop.

Events are divided into different classes of skill and experience, with designation dependent on rider ability. Classes range from Walk-Trot for beginners to Open for the advanced riders.

"You can really start from nothing," Leonard said. "If you've never been on a horse before you can start competing." As for learning to ride, Equestrian Club members take lessons and are able to practice at facilities in Selah on weekends.

"You get to ride with different people, and it's a little cooler because you don't have to bring your own horse," Bessey said. "You just have to show up and ride your horse."
Guest speaker discusses benefits of new bio-fuels

Photo courtesy of BIOWA
by Observer staff

Michael Ott, executive director of the BIOWA Development Association, has been invited to be a part of the Presidential Speaker Series this year.

"The past, present and future of bio-fuels" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31, in the SURC Ballroom.

BIOWA is an Iowa-based trade association whose goal is to replace petroleum based products, such as diesel and gasoline, with biomass based products, such as ethanol.

"Michael Ott was a person whose name came to us from within the community," President Jerilyn Mcintyre said.

BIOWA was created in 2003 by a board of volunteers. Ott was the first person hired, and public awareness of bio-fuel benefits has been growing ever since.

"Spreading the word about this field is an important mission of my job," Ott said.

Ott is well known for his depth of knowledge and dedication to field of bio-fuels. This is a great fit for the 2006-2007 speaker series theme, "sustainability," Mcintyre said.

Ott has found that many factories in Iowa can use their huge supply of corn for the production of bio-fuel. He hopes to spread this technique across the globe.

Ott gives roughly 75 speeches on bio-fuels a year. He has been speaking to many state and federal government groups lately, but he is also ti1king his cause overseas.

He took a trip to Ireland last September to and is currently planning a trip to the Ukraine.

"Everything has come together like a perfect storm of activity," Ott said.

Ott’s education was primarily focused on the sciences, leading him to a master’s degree in bio-inorganic chemistry from the University of Iowa. Since then, most of his work experience has been in the area of finance.

In his current position, however, he is able to bring the two fields together by promoting the benefits of bio-fuels and working with communities to help them achieve a more environmentally safe way to use bio-fuels.

Several events at Central have been planned in coordination with Ott speech, including tours of renewable energy projects in the area and an alternative energy forum.

Tickets for the speech are $15 for reserved seating, $7 for general seating and free for Central Washington University students with I.D. To purchase tickets or for more information call the Central Box Office at 963-1301.

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Tour of renewable energy projects
9:30 a.m. – noon
Location: SLRC first floor
Puget Sound Energy’s Wild Horse Wind Power Project
Central Washington Biodiesel, LLC
CCU Industrial and Engineering Technology’s working fuel cell
The City of Ellensburg’s new Community Solar Project

Alternative Energy Forum
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Student Union Theatre
Michael Ott, moderator
Speakers from: Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
WA Dept. of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED)
Horizon Wind Energy
Central Industrial and Engineering Technology

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Classic Film: “Kiss Kiss BangBang”

by Lisa Jones
Staff reporter

Comedic wit pairs with ideal casting in “Kiss Kiss Bang Bang,” showing at 7 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 30 the Student Union Theater as an installment of Central Washington University’s Classic Film Series.

A screenplay by Shane Black, creator of the “Lethal Weapon” series, this 2005 film stars Robert Downey Jr. as Harry Lockhart, a thief and con-artist who stumbles into a film audition and takes the part of a detective. Downey is teamed with private investigator Perry van Strike, played by Val Kilmer, whose job is to prepare him for his role.

The plot thickens when Harry falls into the classic trap of trying to impress a girl. In this case failed actress Harmony Faith Lane, played by Michelle Monaghan. To get the girl, Harry must convince Perry to help him solve a real-life murder mystery.

Nominated for several awards, the movie won the 2003 Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Overlooked Film of the Year. Kilmer received a Satellite Award for his supporting role as Perry van Strike.

“Kiss Kiss Bang Bang” is rated R for language, violence, and sexual/nudity.

Tickets to all Classic Film movies can be purchased at the CWU Box Office for $3 per ticket. For more information call 963-1301.

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Lost Boys of Sudan

by Lisa Jones
Staff reporter

In 2001 thousands of children, left their homeland of Sudan to relocate to the United States as part of an International Rescue Committee program.

Many of these had been orphaned by a brutal 20-year-long civil war in Sudan.

"Lost Boys of Sudan" is a documentary produced by Megan Mylan and John Shenk.

The film tracks the journeys of two boys, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor, as they transition from life in a Kenyan refugee camp to Houston, Texas and Kansas City, Mo.

After leaving the dangers of their native country, the boys are forced to tackle the challenges of persevering through cultural barriers.

The Ellensburg Public Library, Central Washington University’s African Student Organization and Diversity Education Center have teamed together to present "Lost Boys of Sudan" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at Hall Holmes Community Center 209 N. Ruby Street.

After the screening there will be a discussion featuring Deng Lual, a Central student and a "real" lost boy from Kenya. Lual will speak about his personal experiences and respond to the documentary.

“Lost Boys of Sudan" has brought attention and advocacy to the current plight in Darfur, Sudan.

Leslie Webb, Diversity Education Center director, said that the Ellensburg Public Library approached the university about bringing the film to the community.

“This program is beneficial to the campus and community in that it gives an opportunity to understand the impact of this situation today," Webb said.

For more information contact Leslie Webb at 963-1685.

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Theatre:
Playwright to attend play
continued from page 7

Allison Woodrige, senior theatre arts and performance major, will play the Character of “Missy” as the name will be determined by the audience.

The musical is funny and just a "joke after joke after joke." It’s a lot of high energy, it’s just nonstop," Woodrige said.

"There’s no time to sit back in the stage to catch a breath.

During the show, the audience will receive help from Lisa Clarke, junior theatre arts and performance major.

Sitting in the audience, Clarke will laugh and clap to cue the audience. The show is very fast pace and the audience may not know when it’s appropriate to laugh and clap.

"Audiences just have to bring a creative mind and a good sense of fun and humor," Brown said. "It’s a party from the beginning to the end. Just expect to have a good time."
Men's rugby team adds talent

by Nick Scott
Staff reporter

It's been a long time since the Cen­
tral Washington University Rugby Club has taken the pitch against an oppo­
tent.
In fact, the last time they set foot on a grass pitch was a one-sided hearing handed down to Western Washington University last November.

Despite the long break, Central rugby is looking forward to starting out the second half of the season with one of the deepest, and possibly best teams they've ever had.

Gofbriugby.com, an online maga­
azine covering North American Rugby, has Central ranked 17th in its weekly top 25 poll.

The new year brought some fresh faces to the squad. Most notably, trans­
fer student Justin Sturrock, an outside center from Washington State, brings experience and depth to an already tal­ented, very fast back line.

The second half of the season also marks the return of prop Jonathan Dou­
glas, who missed the fall half of the season where he was out of state.

Both Nicholson Pavilion, is under six inches of ice, making it impossible to practice.

Central will play their first game of the season against Walla Walla University to Central left is President McIntyre, Athletic Director Jack Bishop, head coach Beau Baldwin and wife Nicole.

Eastern Washington University football team loses offensive mastermind to Central as Beau Baldwin scores coaching job

by Joel Jodock
Staff reporter

Now that the rigorous interviews have come to an end, Beau Baldwin has been named Central Washington University's new head coach.

Prior to being Eastern Washington University's offensive coordinator for four years, Baldwin was an assistant coach at Central for nine years learning from coaches Jeff Zenisek and John Zamberlin. Baldwin was also a mem­ber of the Wildcat football team from 1996-1993 as Central's quarterback.

"I remember him as being a very smart coach and knowing how to use his players in the right situations," sen­
ior offensive lineman buddy Anderson said. "I liked Zamberlin, but I think Central needed a change."

Anderson was coached by Baldwin as a freshman five years ago. He remembers Baldwin as a "real player's coach" and said that he really gets to know his players.

With 17 seniors leaving the team and Zamberlin being replaced by Bald­
win, one might expect the Wildcats to be a bit nervous for the upcoming sea­
son, but they're not worried. Many of the players are excited to see what their new coach has in store for them.

"I expect to have a successful sea­son and obviously to have a better sea­son than last year," Anderson said. "I think with John Graham running our offense, we will have a better offense, together they will make a great team."

Baldwin is not the only Eagle to recently become a Wildcat. Chris Anderson, sophomore fullback, trans­
ferred from Eastern Washington Uni­

versity to Central last fall. He was coached by Baldwin for two years.

"He was a good coach. He was an offensive minded coach, but he worked well with all the players, and all the players trusted him," Chris Anderson said. "He seemed to call the perfect plays at the right moment. He made Eastern's offense one of the best in the nation while I was there (2004-2006)."

Baldwin made quite a name for himself while at Eastern. In 2005, he coached Erik Meyer, Eastern's quarter­
back, to win the Walter Byatt Award. The Award is given to the best offensive player in Division II-AA football.

Another claim to fame of Baldwin's is that he helped coach two of the best quarterbacks in Central history.

John Kitna, who is now playing for the Detroit Lions, and Zik Hill, a for­
er All-American, are two prime examples of Baldwin's quarterbacks.

Baldwin is still close with Kitna who gives him his full support on turning Central into what it used to resemble.

Now that Central has decided on Zamberlin's replacement, hopes are high for this year's football season.

"I think this is a good change and I have no worries for this upcoming sea­son, in fact I am excited," Anderson said. "I am definitely glad Baldwin is here now. I think he's gonna improve our offense a lot and make us more dis­
ciplined."

Baldwin feels back at home now.

Women's basketball wins two over the weekend

pg. 14

Central's Bryan Freshwater is making heads turn

pg. 15

Freshman Shaina Afoa looks sharp early on

pg. 15
Wildcats dismantle Kielpinski, win 58-52

by Brianna Berg
Staff reporter

"Kielpinski is an All-American player," Whitney said. "She is going to get Central beat Anchorage 58-52.

Last year, Central was able to hold Kielpinski to only eleven points in Ellensburg. When the Wildcats played in Alaska, Kielpinski brought in 31 of the team's 70 points.

Anchorage had a 14-2 record coming into the game against Central, and because of the loss last year, senior center Laura Wright said they were the team to beat.

"This was a huge game, and I specifically, have been thinking about Anchorage since we lost last year at their place," Wright said.

Central and Anchorage both came out strong and played a tough game. At halftime, the Seawolves were up by six, but Wright said how important it is to go out and play how the Wildcats women are capable, especially on the road against Seattle and keep it going against Northwest Nazarene.

"We really have to get some wins on the road if we want to advance to the national tournament," coach Whitney said. "Our goal is to go on the road and come back with 2-0."

If Central comes home with two wins they will have a 5-2 conference record, one of the top records in the GNAC.

"We just need to keep playing like we're capable," Wright said.

Wildcats run wild against Nanooks

by Brianna Berg
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team is on a four-game winning streak, taking two games on the road and two games on their home court. The Wildcats are playing strong and taking this streak on to the road against Seattle University and Northwest Nazarene.

Tonight at 5:30 Central will face off against the Seattle University Redhawks, with an overall record of 12-4, and a Great Northwest Athletic Conference record of 4-2. The Wildcats' loss than the Redhawks' GNAC record with 3-2, but bettering Seattle's overall record with a record of 14-2.

"I'm excited to prove that we can play good on the road," senior center Laura Wright said.

Still on the road Central will play against Northwest Nazarene on Saturday at 7 p.m. The Crusaders' GNAC record is 1-3, and overall they are 9-7.

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Women's basketball team takes four-game win streak on road

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Staff reporter

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"We just need to keep playing like we're capable," Wright said.

Central outscored Fairbanks by 28 points, but the game came down to the last 20 minutes with Nanooks scoring more points.

"We had quite a lead and got a little complacent," senior center Laura Wright said. "That's something we can't do against any team, because in the GNAC all teams are good and can make a come back."

Without the 28 point cushion from the first half, the game would have been a struggle. When the Wildcats on the bench came in to play they really pulled through for Central.

"Central's bench players are extremely important," Whitney said. "They helped maintain the intensity and lead that we had."

Wright was the top scorer Saturday night with 18 points and four blocks. Elyse Mengarelli, senior guard, said how important it is to go out and play hard for a full 40 minutes. "It doesn't matter what kind of team you are playing, you have to stay focused the entire game," Whitney said.

Baldwin: wants students to succeed in classroom and on field

He is excited with the opportunity to return to his stomping grounds.

Realistically, Baldwin expects the Wildcats to compete for the conference title and then the national title.

His players believe that something special could happen in 2007.

"Coach Z [Zamberlin] did a good job here, but it didn't work last year," Reilly said. "But Baldwin is a real fire, a real excitement and energy to us. That's exactly what we need and it's what he brings."

Not only does Baldwin bring these characteristics to Central, but he brings a rich history in Central athletics.

He brought in Central's offensive system and left for Eastern Washington University in 2003. While he was gone, the same offensive system was still intact while Zamberlin was coach. Now that he is back as head coach, don't expect the same old offense to take the field in 2007.

"There are always going to be tweaks to what we do," Baldwin said. "I want to bring ideas to our football team that haven't been seen in the past four seasons."

Zamberlin left Central by the wayside after 10 years of coaching.

"When you are at a place for so long, things get mundane," Reilly said. "Zamberlin's leaving the Idaho State gives the Wildcats the chance to start off fresh, something that Central needs after disappointing 6-5 season in 2006."

Mountain snow pack levels

Alpental Ski Resort
At 5120' has 95"

Crystal Mountain
At 4480' has 79"

Mission Ridge
At 5800' has 48".

Mt. Baker
At 5780' has 160"

Snoqualmie Pass
At 3000' has 87"

Stevens Pass
At 4500' has 100"

White Pass
At 5780' has 109"

Grades

Here are the grades for Central last weekend. Central is 4-2 in conference play heading into this weekend.

Offense

B Central focused more on defensive efforts against Alaska Anchorage, but outscored Alaska Fairbanks. The Wildcats came out with two wins.

Defense

A- The Wildcats held Alaska Anchorage's Kielpinski to just 14 points, but still allowed the game to stay close. They made 28 defensive rebounds against Alaska Fairbanks.

Coalition

Whitney recognized the defensive challenge against the Seawolves but took a risk getting too confident against the Nanooks in the second half.

Overall

B+ The Wildcats gave fans two wins at home against a very talented Anchorage team and blew out the Nanooks.
Fresh start for Freshwater
by Melanie Lockhart
Asst. Sports editor

The 23-year-old stands at 6'8", making senior center Bryan Freshwater the second tallest player for the Wildcats. His height, however, is not what makes him a key player.

Freshwater is one of the leading scorers and rebounders for the Central Washington University basketball team. His 565 field goal percentage and the four rebounds per game give fans and opponents something to watch for. He brings a lot of size to the team, head coach Greg Sparling said. "He has good foot work down at the post and a lot of good experience."

Freshwater began his basketball career as a freshman at Columbia River High School in Vancouver, Wash. As a kid, his interest was soccer, but the high school basketball coach told him he had to join the team. "He basically forced me," Freshwater said. "My parents put a little pressure on me as well."

From that moment on, his interest was in basketball. "It was a love of the game that kept me going," Freshwater said. "I didn't want to play soccer anymore."

After graduation, Freshwater went on to play at Lower Columbia College where he claimed the 2004 championship in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges.

He was recruited out of Lower Columbia in 2004 and given three options: California Baptist University, University of Alaska Anchorage or Central Washington University. "It was a bit of a salty thing," Freshwater said. "The coaches weren't too happy."

When friend and Red Devils teammate Chris Bannish joined the Wildcats, many expected Freshwater to follow him. Instead, he accepted a scholarship at Alaska Anchorage and became part of the Seawolves' team.

After one year at Alaska Anchorage, Freshwater, now closer to home in Washington, started to attend Central. Due to NCAA regulations regarding transfer students, he sat out last season. Now he's a starter for the Wildcats.

"He brings a lot of size to the team," Sparling said. "He works well in groups and is great at establishing friendships both on and off the court."

Freshwater claims that the biggest challenge he faces is himself. He said he's "body of the game" and six rebounds per game. "It wasn't too strict in Alaska. The system here fits everybody."

In addition to the extra freedom, he also has gained many friendships among his teammates. "He's a very good people person," Bannish said. "He works well in groups and is great at establishing friendships both on and off the court."

Freshwater says that the biggest challenge he faces is himself. He said he tends to be hard on himself, but tries not to get his head down when he makes a mistake. Despite the mistakes, basketball is what comes naturally.

"On the court I feel at home and at peace," Freshwater said. "It's like there's no other world. You just do what you love to do."

Currently, Freshwater is working on completing a general studies in social sciences while at Central. Due to credit transfer issues, he decided against his original plan to major in business, but still hopes to minor in it.

Outside basketball, he's the typical guy. He enjoys lifting weights, video games, spending time with friends and tries to focus on his studies. He also enjoys road trips. "Two years ago, I drove down here from Alaska," Freshwater said. "I really enjoyed the trip."

He has a huge interest in aviation as well. Ever since he was little, Freshwater has loved planes and flying. He mentioned working a little air traffic control while in Alaska and hopes to pursue a career involving aviation.

Freshwater suffered a back injury early in the season, hampering his ability to play to his full potential. "Bryan having a good second half of the season," Sparling said. "It started slow due to his back injury, but he improves everyday and practices hard." Now, he's focusing on helping the Wildcats finish out the year as best as they can.

"We're having a rough season," Freshwater said. "But it's all about having fun and that's what we're doing."

Bryan Freshwater looks to the hoop against Seattle University. The senior center transferred from Alaska Anchorage in 2005 to join the Wildcats.

Alaskan Afoa has strong season going
by Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter

Making the transition from high school to college is a difficult switch for any freshman. It's even harder when that freshman travels more than 2000 miles from her hometown to play basketball. That is precisely what Shaina Afoa of Anchorage, Alaska is experiencing during her first year at Central Washington University.

Despite being recruited by the University of Alaska-Anchorage and Adams State University, Afoa chose to attend Central.

"I really liked the program here and I wanted to get out of Alaska," Afoa said. "Our conference includes the University of Alaska and Alaska-Anchorage so I get to go home to play every once in a while."

"Coming out of Dimond High School in Anchorage, Afoa was an important part of her team's two Alaska State Championships during her sophomore and senior seasons."

"I didn't play a whole lot my freshman year, but I learned some things," Afoa said. "I think that I'm catching on this year."

Afoa is among the top scorers and rebounders for the Wildcats.

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Wildcats drop two in overtime

by Brooke Saul
Staff reporter

If fire and passion is what Central Washington University thinks will win basketball games, they need a new recipe.

After dropping two conference games in overtime this past week, Central is now 7-10 overall, and 2-4 in the GNAC and looking for answers.

On Thursday, Central took on Seattle University at home in front of a small but loud crowd, losing 75-71. Senior guard Tremaine Curry scored a career-high 16 points, all in the first half. Head Coach, Greg Sparling thought that Curry had a great first half and a great second half defensively.

Senior center Bryan Freshwater also scored a team-high 17 points and had nine rebounds.

"First half, we played with fire and with passion," Sparling said. "In the second half we came across flat and had mental mistakes."

During the overtime period, Central was held to just one point in the final 3:06, a free throw by sophomore guard Colton Monti. Seattle University led almost the entire extra session after Central scored the opening basket on its first possession after Central scored the opening basket on its first possession in the overtime period.

Senior forward Lance Den Boer nailed a pair of free throws with 21 seconds left in overtime to tie the score 77.

Senior guard Tyler Monk drives to the hoop Thursday night against Seattle University at Nicholson Pavilion.

AFOA: Freshman adds height and depth to basketball squad

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more playing time toward the end of the season," Afoa said. "I then started the final three years there as we won two state titles."

Afoa has seen limited playing time in her first season at Central, averaging close to eight minutes a game.

"From day one to now, she is a totally different player," Wildcat head coach Jeff Whitney said. "She came in as your usual freshman, not really knowing what to expect, but now she is throwing people around, blocking out well and is very good at getting rebounds. I truly believe the sky is the limit for her."

Senior guard Tyler Monk drives to the hoop Thursday night against Seattle University at Nicholson Pavilion.

Afoa's teammates have also noticed the presence she brings to the court.

"Shaina is very hardworking and plays really solid defense," sophomore guard Ashley Fenimore said. "Her rebounding skills have also been a huge plus for us."

Afoa's strongest game of the season came on Dec. 17 against Chaminade University in Hawaii. In only nine minutes of action, Shaina scored nine points and pulled down four rebounds for a 68-47 victory.

"I'm okay with my limited playing time," Afoa said. "As well as Laura is playing right now, it's hard to expect more than what I am getting."

Afoa has shown potential this season and looks to build upon her early success in the second half of the season.

"We got off to a good start this season against some lesser competition but lost two games early in conference," Afoa said. "However, I think we have rebounded from those losses really well and I hope we can carry that momentum throughout the rest of our schedule."

Then Central had something happen to them that is not a new sight. Senior forward Grant Assink fouled Western forward Lukas Henne and sent him to the free throw line. Henne converted both attempts to win the game and send Central packing with an 0-2 record for the weekend.

And many more sale items throughout the store with savings from 25-70% off the week end.