Observer

Central Washington University
Central Washington University’s International Studies Program is broadening its horizons with the introduction of a new minor.

The 36-credit minor will not only expand students’ global awareness, but also expand their places of learning through study abroad.

Although the idea for the program was briefly considered in the past, it was not until last year that the idea became a reality. Michael Launius, executive director for the office of International Studies and programs, was chosen as the head coordinator of the program.

“We’re very excited about the minor,” Launius said. “It has different and unique characteristics. It requires a study abroad experience anyone minoring in this program will have to take advantage of.”

The program has one more step to take before becoming official. The Faculty Senate meeting at 3:10 p.m. on March 7 in Barge 412 will discuss the pending approval of the minor. If approved, the minor will become available to Central students beginning fall quarter 2007.

“I am pleased to see the university moving ahead with the creation of an International Studies minor,” Central President Jerilyn McIntyre said. “I hope we will be able to have an international studies major in the future.”

The program will include a variety of disciplines, including economics, geography, communication, English and political science. Introduction to international studies will be added to the curriculum.

“We want classes to be coherent so there’s a common mission for students to focus on them,” Launius said.

Students will have two options to acquire study abroad credits. One is to study abroad for a specific amount of time, ranging from as short as one quarter to a year. Or students can participate in a faculty-led program.

‘Local’ university explores global problems

by Marqise Allen
Staff reporter

The HIV and AIDS epidemics have been running rampant over the past two decades, but with the help of one professor at Central Washington University, the epidemic could soon be a thing of the past.

“We’re in a time right now where we’re coming out with new biological discoveries,” Patrick Linggi, junior biology major said. “And it’s cool when things like [HIV and AIDS] can be studied on at small universities.”

Last Friday, chemistry professor Levente Fabry-Asztalos discussed his current research, in which he is trying to create a more effective HIV protease inhibitor, which would slow and halt the progression of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

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The sex behind the cheeseburger

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SPORTS

Central takes 5-game winning streak on the road

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STUDY: Chemistry professor Levente Fabry-Asztalos’s research on protease inhibitors hopes to stop the progression of aggressive, incurable diseases such as HIV, AIDS, malaria and Alzheimer’s with minimal side effects.

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This research would also help treat other diseases, such as Alzheimer’s, cancer, hypertension and malaria.

One of the main problems with current HIV medications is that some patients develop an immunity to the drugs. Other setbacks to the current medications are side effects like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and kidney stones. Patients usually take 15 to 20 pills a day.

“I don’t know about you, but I wouldn’t want to take that many pills,” Fabry-Asztalos said. “That’s not fun.”

One of the first steps Fabry-Asztalos took was to find a selective inhibitor that would focus only on inhibiting the functions of normal cell activity.

“We want the drug to be selective when inhibiting proteases,” Fabry-Asztalos said. “It isn’t effective cure the disease but kill the patient, and that’s not good.”

Things are running smoothly and Fabry-Asztalos has made progress since he started, but the work is far from over. He is currently trying to find the best way to perfect the inhibitor.

“You feel like it’s not going as fast as you like with the research, but everything is going well,” said Fabry-Asztalos.

No one knows what will come of the research, but if things continue to progress like they have been, this project should be successful.

ABROAD: A faculty-led trip to Ghana this spring was cancelled due to lack of applicants.

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They are comprised of a faculty member that advise groups of students as they participate in a project in a different country.

There are five programs this year, including Japan and Greece during spring break, and Spain, France and China during summer sessions.

The international studies program costs approximately $250,000 annually and is self-supported.

No other university in Washington State has a self-supported international studies program.

Money is derived from the programs within the international studies program, including the Asia University America Program, University English as a Second Language, Study Abroad and Exchange Program and the Office of International Student Programs.

Last year, Central sent 3.1 percent of its students abroad.

“the national average is less than one percent,” said Heather Barclay-Hamit, director of study abroad and exchange programs. “To have anything over three percent is amazing.”

Figures for study abroad are compiled from the total number of students attending Central divided by the amount of students sent abroad.

Larger schools, such as the University of Washington and Western Washington University sent around the same percentage as Central. Western sent approximately 460 students last year.

“There is a tendency in some areas for some people to think study abroad is for the best of the best,” Barclay-Hamit said. “I think it’s for anyone who is eligible and interested.”
Child care up in arms at Central

A roundtable legislative discussion in November, Steve DuPont, Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors Vice President for Political Affairs, realized childcare was a statewide concern for universities and needed legislative attention.

DuPont proposed the idea to Washington State Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, the prime sponsor for Senate Bill 543, a bill that would match state funds to that of the S&A Committee.

The CFC’s goal is to work with the S&A to not only finance half of the centers and would fund students’ children. The CFC must raise more than $80,000. Jackson Berry, ASCWUBOD president and member of the CFC, said there are about six open slots in other childcare facilities in Ellensburg.

“People are signing up when they get pregnant,” Whitney said. “[ECLC] more than just having kids in a room.”

Closing the Rainbow Center, which is for children aged one month to two years, is the worst-case scenario of the current funding crisis.

For the university if no additional is available, the bill in the legislature doesn’t pass and the CFC can’t come up with the funds to supplement S&A. If S&A is asked to pay the entire $242,000, they may or may not accept the responsibility, in which case the Rainbow Center may be shut down permanently.

Jazz, theatre, westside bid for S&A funds

Walton requested an amount of $230,678 for improvement of clubs on university center campuses.

“Our clubs provide good job opportunities for members,” Walton said over the phone. “The funds will go toward the hiring of student assistants to establish new clubs at university centers. The EWU Jazz department and the CWU Jazz Band L. Funding requests cover the span of the biennium.

The funding request from Sheila Walton, student services director for the Theatre Arts department was up. The proposed $96,000 goes to hiring students, paying travel fees and ticket price reductions.

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“There’s a need for ECLC and it’s really important that we fund it,” Berry said.

Kathina Whitney, director for the Student Empowerment Center, said the waiting list to get into Central’s ECLC is about 45 people long.

“People are signing up when they get pregnant,” Whitney said. “ECLC is more accessible to students.”

Although the CFC has funding through other avenues, the ECLC is lacking in funding, increased financial support from faculty and staff, and higher childcare rates.

By Clare Jensen

Staff reporter

The two Early Childhood Learning Centers (ECLC) that have been around since 1983 are in jeopardy.

Several options exist to decrease the financial burdens of ECLC on the S&A by Clare Jensen

Observer online www.cwu.edu/~observer:

Check out Observer online to read about the 13th Annual Asian Developmental Studies Program Central is hosting in Seattle.

Look on the Opinion page: Tim Eyman visits Central Washington University for First Amendment Festival.

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by Zach Hamarsand
Staff reporter

The $4.1 million bond to upgrade Kittitas County Fire and Rescue headquarters has failed.

At noon last Friday, results posted at the auditor's office showed that 55.4 percent voted yes on the proposed "fire bond." A 60 percent majority was required for the bond to pass.

Matthew Manweiler, political science professor at Central Washington University, said that unless a statistical anomaly occurs, such as a flood of yes votes at the end of the count, the final result will be a no on the bond.

"Statisticians will tell you after you have 15 percent of the vote, you can predict the final count by a few percentage points," Manweiler said.

According to Rich Elliott, deputy fire chief, the building was not intended to serve as the administrative headquarters and main station for the district.

"It's basically 'pay me now or pay me later,'" Oxley said. "If it doesn't pass, probably better to do it now rather than in the future."

Ellenburg re Jesús on Tuesday January 1, 2007. Now Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue wanted the bond to pass to upgrade the old fire building located on Anderson Street.

"Raising taxes is always a hard sell," said Manweiler.

Additionally Elliott said that it costs a significant amount of money to run elections, and by putting the fire bond on the ballot the campaign fund has been back. Taxpayers would have had to pay 14 cents per $1,000 of the assessed value annually, roughly equivalent to $2.50 per month on a $370,000 home.

Ellis believes Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue will attempt another election in the next few years.

The Ellensburg Fire Department merged with Kittitas County Fire District II January 1, 2007. Now Kittitas County Fire and Rescue wanted the bond to pass to upgrade the old fire building located on Anderson Street.

"The bond failed, and the district headquarters, located off Vantage Highway, requested financing for new buildings or construct new ones can eventually be paying for these upgrades." Elliott added.

"Delaying upgrades means higher costs for the city more in years to come," Elliott added.

"Construction costs are rising," Elliott said. "It's become apparent we can't make these necessary upgrades with our own operational money, so we had to ask for a grant."

"I think it's very exciting to get the incentive, because I don't really want to live in an area that is student-centered," Kramer said. "It's really difficult to find a studio apartment in downtown Ellensburg. There are not a lot of economical small spaces."

Opposition to the incentive has been mixed, however.

"Parking was the biggest issue, I had to move my car every day, regardless if I would drive or not," Nye said.

"With a variety of people living downtown, Bishop said, diversity and revenue for businesses that depend upon current vacancies, will grow as a result of the tax incentive.

The Downtown Association hopes the incentive will create a lively downtown that's able to meet the needs of residents within walking distance.

"With this housing, one can go home, not have to worry about the lawn or yard and be safe," Bishop said. "We want to create a downtown that has great amenities to bring in a broader sense of people."
The reactor must be sold within the next 60 days. The deal was necessitated by the underground test the North Koreans conducted last October. That fast-tracked the talks, which had stalled for some time. Additionally, North Korea must once again allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors into the country. Opinions are split on the agreement. While most people agree that it is a step in the right direction, it is a situation rife with problems. North Korea has a long history of accepting deals and then breaking them when the government feels like it.

The carrot and stick method has been the prevailing action of "six party talks." Incentives, whether fuel, aid or cash, have been dangled in front of the North Korean regime. In return the N.K. regime has to stop testing, dismantle weapons, or freeze programs. Japan asked for additional requirements. North Korea and Japan have been involved in a volatile situation involving the abduction of Japanese citizens. The Japanese government contents North Korea has kidnapped citizens over the last few decades, while North Korea denies the acts.

This is a step in the right direction. North Korea needs to be kept at the bargaining table. Kim Jong Il's country is in a terrible situation. While the regime could conceivably sell weapons or nuclear components to other nations, they would quickly be traced back to them.

Do I think the agreement should be stronger? Yes. But, we could write an entire newspaper on the background of this problem.

The deal, which calls for the North Koreans to dismantle and sell their nuclear reactor, includes aid as they feel they can get, and then renegotiate on the agreement. Even before students start trickling in for full quarter of next year the regime will have boosted the IAEA inspectors and we discover that they've "secretly" been continuing their nuclear program. Stronger actions need to be taken, and the country needs to be forced to follow through with the agreements, otherwise they're hollow words.

Patrick Lewis is the Editor-in-Chief and can be reached at lewitt@cwc.edu

The Artist's Eye
Ellensburg temperature brought to you by Scott Drummond

We're talking about the process like it'll be around for a while."

Scott Drummond

The forum lasted approximately two hours and addressed topics from the personal accomplishments of each member to the process of initiating initiatives.

Eyman in particular reacted passionately to questions about his critics and to recent moves in the Washington State legislature that he said could take away the initiative process.

"We're talking about the process like it'll be around for a while," Eyman said. There are currently eight or nine bills that could take the initiative right away from citizens, Eyman said.

"The initiative process is the only way for the average tax payer to get an equal voice," Eyman said. Validation rates, the number of valid signatures on a petition, were another hot topic of debate. "If the voters' signatures don't match up, then it's no good," Eyman said. Only registered voters can sign petitions. Signatures are validated by matching them up with signatures on vote registration cards. About 17 percent of petition signatures are invalidated on average.

theworld@cwc.edu

The panel fielded questions revolving around the role of legislators versus the general public, and how people could become more involved in the political system. The forum lasted for more than two hours.

The forum was moderated by Central political science professor Matthew Manweller.

More than 100 students, faculty, and community members gathered inside the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) pit to hear Central Washington University's Observer editorial board present the First Amendment Festival coordinator was ecstatic at the tremendous attendance. "I was thrilled by the turnout," Mitchell said. "It floored me as to how everyone was so engaged into the discussions."
Auction puts heart on sleeve for kids

by Taishi Kanaszmaru
Staff reporter

Auction proceeds help provide education for underprivileged children

People imbued with a sense of giving gathered in downtown Ellensburg last weekend.

The second annual "Have a Heart for Kids" auction was held at Gallery One on Friday.

More than 50 people enjoyed local artists' work which went to benefit the Kittitas County Head Start building fund.

Kittitas County Head Start is a non-profit organization providing education to families with children age six years and under.

"What we really want now is to build our own school for low income kids," said Liz Whitaker, chair of Kittitas County Head Start Board of Directors.

When planning for the auction started last summer, Whitaker asked local artists to submit "heart art," with a heart or children theme. Of the 62 pieces donated, most were heart-shaped plywood handcrafts.

Sue Hart, who works at the Ellensburg Public Library, created a piece called "My Heart's Been Good to Me" with the kids-in-learning group. Hart supports the idea of raising money and providing education for low income families.

Ellensburg resident Natalia Pitts submitted a piece called "Hearts and Starts Pillow" for the auction. Pitts finished working on it before she heard about the auction. Since the pillow fit the theme, she decided to donate it.

"It's a great opportunity to support the community," Pitts said.

Local residents also supported the auction. Background piano music by Central Washington University music student Kevin Prouty set the mood for the auction.

Mitch Cook from the Dakota Café served wine, and executive chef of Student Union and Recreation Center Kevin Camarillo, served foods such as steak tenderloin on toast and salmon mousse.

"We're doing a silent auction, so we wanted finger food; simple things you can hold and carry without being messy," Camarillo said. "I wish the [Central] students [could] take part in something like this."

Daiseie Clements, sophomore music major, came to the auction for the first time.

"It's a great opportunity to support the community," said Clements.

People imbied with a sense of giving gathered in downtown Ellensburg last weekend.

"Of course I think it's exciting when students to form their own opinions," said Adams. "They're going to have kids some­ day, too." Linda Powers and Michelle Brown, both Ellensburg residents, were there to buy art. Powers bid on one piece while Brown was waiting for other people to put their bids down on what she liked.

Overall, the auction raised $3,500 above expenses; more than last year.

I am really happy with how it turned out," Whitaker said.

She wants to make the auction an annual event, and hopes Central students can take part in the program.

"I am hoping Central students who study early childhood education and marketing could help us in the future," Whitaker said.

Carol Adams, nationally recognized feminist and vegetarian, will explore that sexist stereotype. When she speaks about her book, "The Sexual Politics of Meat," she tours college campuses throughout the country.

Adams has published several books about being a vegetarian, including "Living Among Meat Eaters: A Vegetarian Survival Guide" and "Help! My Child Stopped Eating Meat!" She is best known for "The Sexual Politics of Meat," which draws correlations between how society treats women and how it views meat.

Carol Adams said she doesn't tour campuses to get students to agree with her, but rather to encourage openness to new ideas. She said she leaves it to the students to form their own opinions.

"Of course I think it's exciting when people come up to me and say 'your book made me become a vegan,'" Adams said. "But I'm not going to stand up and say what they need to do. It's about raising consciousness."

The presentation will be followed by a reception featuring vegan and vegetarian foods, where students can discuss Adams' presentation with her.

She will also be available to answer questions immediately following the slideshow for those who do not wish to stick around for the reception.

"As a vegetarian myself, people don't generally know what to eat if you don't eat meat," said Kim Rewinkel, a staff member of the Student Empowerment Center who first proposed bringing Adams to Central.

[The reception] is an opportunity for people to see what our lifestyle is like and sit face-to-face with Carol Adams... you can eat delicious gourmet things without having animal products nearby," said Mich Cook, one of the organizers of the event.

Still curious about how vegetarianism, women's rights and societal stereotypes are all relat ed? Attend the presentation or purchase "The Sexual Politics of Meat," available at the Wildcat Shop. Copies of the book will also be available for sale during the presenta tion.
Western spirit rides into E-burg

Artistry, music of the Old West to fill downtown

by Sarah Hatcher
Staff reporter

Cowboy artists, musicians and poets rode into town this weekend, bringing with them the culture and tradition of the Old West.

The third annual Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering will take place on Feb. 16-18 in Ellensburg. Workshops on the Wild West and gun exhibitions and concerts are just a few of the activities planned.

"It’s a good event to have in February in Ellensburg," Clymer Museum employee Judy Bender said. "It brings in lots of people, it fills up the town and it gives the artists a winter event."

Cowboy gatherings are held year-round across the nation. Ellensburg models it’s version after the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

Four years ago, Ellensburg resident Sande DeSalle attended the gathering in Elko and suggested Ellensburg have something similar.

"I was getting to the point where I have many entertainers asking us if we can come," Spirit of the West President Diana Tasker said. "It used to be us contacting them."

Twenty-seven acts will perform throughout the weekend — some of which have played at the Grand Ole Opry and on National Public Radio.

"The entertainers, even the big concert acts, are so genuine," Spirit of the West Board member Claudia Weaver said. "They would just stop on the street and sing a song for a little kid at the Wranglers."

Six downtown venues will showcase the entertainers Friday and Saturday. Each entertainer will play for 45 minutes and then rotate between the different venues.

"The people that come to Spirit of the West are kind, considerate, and not in a hurry," Rodeo City BBQ Manager Leann Fitterer said. "We love our downtown. It brings in lots of people coming into Ellensburg can see," said Spirit of the West Board member Katie Raff. "Something [it] contribute back to the community."

Adams said. "Spirit of the West" was our first event that wasn’t a football.

Spirit of the West Activities

Downtown Venues: Clymer Museum, Fitterer’s Furniture, Hall Holmes Center, Moose Lodge, Next Wave Computers, Rodeo City BBQ

Central Washington University: Music Building is hosting various western music concerts.

Dances: 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Kittitas Valley Event Center, Fairgrounds

Art and Gear Exhibition in the Kittitas Valley Event Center.

Kittitas County Historical Museum is hosting workshops in conjunction with "Women in Ranching."

Bloom Pavilion (fairgrounds) hosts activities and demonstrations by the Washington Mounted Shooters, Central Washington University Rodeo Club and jackpot roping.

Some events are free. For ticket information and event times, call 1-888-925-2244 or visit www.ACowboyGathering.org.

They perform three to five times for the yard, which includes 1,200 inmates, and later perform three to four times for visitors, family, and friends. Sometimes they perform for other prisons in the Kentucky area.

"This film is amazing, interesting, and fantastic," said Leslie Webb, director of the Diversity Education Center. The film not only displays day-to-day activities of an inmate, but also shows what a prison really looks like inside and out.

The program began in 1995 when "Books Behind Bars" fell apart. The "Books Behind Bars" program was an opportunity for middle school students and inmates, all reading the same book, to have a discussion and act out various scenes from the book.

Tofteland, being a part of the program, was able to learn about his idea for the Shakespearean program and won his support. He then voluntarily returned to the prison each week to teach inmates about Shakespeare. With the effort and support of many who believed in the "Shakespeare Behind Bars" program, Tofteland realized his dream.

Inmates choose their own role for the play that may reflect feelings about their crimes or themselves. As the program continues and the inmates choose to go, inmates begin to learn about anger management, conflict resolution, forgiveness, redemption and how to become a fully functioning member of society.

Inmates go through enormous growth, change, they make the yard a better place while educating themselves, changing the human heart, learning forgiveness, and paying their debt back to society," Tofteland said.

For questions or more information please contact the Diversity Education Center at 963-1685.
**Central hosts Kennedy Theatre Festival**

Drama programs meet at Central for productions, competition

by Lisa Jones
Staff reporter

Next week, hundreds of students will kill - or even die - for the opportunity of a lifetime. Or at least they may pretend to. Tuesday marks the beginning of the five-day Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF). Central Washington University will be hosting the annual event for the first time since 1986.

This year, more than 700 students, professors, and theatre professionals from colleges around the Northwest will attend the conference. The festival offers students the opportunity to compete for scholarships in all fields of theatre arts.

The festival began in 1969 to encourage, reward, and improve the work of college theatre students. For the past five years, Central has sent at least one student to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

The festival is a good way for students to show pride in their work and training at Central Theatre Arts department chair Scott Robinson said.

"This conference allows students to see what their peers are doing and see other college productions," Robinson said. "They get to decide for themselves how Central stacks up against other colleges in the region." Robinson hopes that students can walk away from the conference with a better appreciation for the Central campus and its resources.

The ACTF is an excellent recruiting opportunity since many junior college students attending will consider transferring, said Leslie Caud, director of marketing and development for the Theatre Arts department.

"Think that students will really admire our facilities, both within the theatre department and throughout the rest of the campus," Caud said.

The conference focuses on professional growth, networking for the students. Attendees are divided by their peers as well as a team of professional judges and talent scouts from around the country.

Senior Theatre Arts major Sarah Peterson was among one of the students invited to last year's national competition for her work in sound design.

"The competition is a very rigorous process," Peterson said. "Those who make it to nationals in Washington, D.C., get to experience a completely different kind of learning environment."

One rewarding aspect of the conference for Peterson is the ability to connect with other theatre students.

"We get to learn from one another," Peterson said. "These students will be the professionals of tomorrow. It is nice to make those connections now."

This year, Peterson is the stage manager for "Blankity-Blank!," which will be a showcase performance to kick off the conference, but will not be submitted for competition.

"I think the conference is a lot of fun when you're not competing," Peterson said. "It will be a lot less stressful!"

Not all students choose to compete. Many simply go for experience, advice and networking. Some of this year's workshops include classes on sword and gun battle and various techniques of stage kissing. There will also be workshops on monologues, singing, dancing and professional development.

Senior Theatre Arts major Isaiah Crowson, a cast member in "Blankity-Blank!", will be competing in the acting category with more than 100 other students from the region.

"Last year I attended the conference," Crowson said. "I went to a lot of different workshops and had the opportunity to get dialect coaching and even learned different techniques for dying."

"I have been fortunate enough to get a lot of enjoyable and profitable stage time," Crowson said. "It has allowed me to work with many different types of directors."

In addition to the workshops and performances, registered participants will have the opportunity to hear from the keynote speaker, Academy Award-winning actress Patty Duke.

In conjunction with the Diversity Education Center, there will also be a presentation of the award-winning documentary "Shakespeare Behind Bars" at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 in the Student Union and Recreation Centre Theatre that will be open to all Central students.

"It's going to be pretty nuts around here next week," Crowson said. "For more information call the Theatre Arts Department at 963-1760.

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**People on the Street... Why are you looking forward to spring?**

**Jeff Reynolds,** sophomore, psychology

"Ultimate Frisbee. It opens up this spring."

**Jennifer Kerkvliet,** junior, marketing management

"No more snow, so I won't slip and fall."

**Amber Boehm,** senior, marketing

"I love tubing, boating; water sports in general."

**Kevin Mohler,** senior, history

"I am going to go rock climbing when the snow melts."

**Karrie Burt,** junior, psychology

"Going for a walk outside and not freezing."

**Kristina Alipao,** sophomore, public relations

"River rafting, hiking up at Manastash."

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**Performance Schedule**

Productions are open to the public with limited seating. Tickets are $5 per person.

- **Monday, Feb. 19 - "Blankity-Blank!"** Central Washington University University at 7:30 p.m., Milo Smith Tower Theatre.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 20 - "Getting Out"** - University of Portland 7:30 p.m., McConnell Main Stage.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Festival Production - "Life & Limb"** - Albertson College of Idaho 7:30 p.m., Milo Smith Tower Theatre.
- **Thursday, Feb. 22 - "In the Sawtooths\(^\text{2}\)"** - Dana Madden, student playwright from Boise State University 7:30 p.m., Milo Smith Tower Theatre.
- **Friday, Feb. 23 - "A Midsummer Nights Dream"** - University of Oregon 7:30 p.m., McConnell Main Stage.

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**February**

- **15** Engineering Technologies 
  & Construction Management Fair, SURC ballroom, 10 a.m.
  - Guest piano performance from Cristyna Valde; 8 p.m.
  - music concert hall.
- **16** Darwin's Delimia, presentation by Alexander Glass, 12 p.m., Science 101.
  - Showtime at the McConnell, 7 p.m.
  - Spirit of the West events in downtown Ellensburg.
- **17** Spirit of the West events throughout downtown Ellensburg.
- **18** Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals snow shoe trip. Leaves from OPR office at 10 a.m. Cost is $12 for students.
- **19** Showcase production of "Blankity-Blank!", 7:30 p.m., Tower Theatre.
  - President's Day - No class!
- **20** Showcase production of "Blankity-Blank!", 10:30 a.m. Tower Theatre.
  - Brass choir concert, 7 p.m. music concert hall.
- **21** Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals speaker series: Craig Gyselnick, Alpine Ice Climbing on the North Face of Mount Stuart, 7 p.m. SURC 137.
Central women in a war against the odds

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

From record-setting highs to four-game losing streaks, the rollercoaster ride continues for the Central Washington University women's basketball team.

In the preseason Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) coaches poll, the Wildcats were picked to finish second in the conference as well as returning all but two players.

The Wildcats bolstered their lineup with a great recruiting class, adding two players with Division I experience.

This year was supposed to make up for last year, when the Wildcats were bumped out of the playoffs during the final weekend.

The Wildcats started the season with a non-conference loss to Azusa Pacific University 74-71, but then won nine straight.

Times have changed for the Wildcats, since the war has only begun with only six conference games remaining in the season.

"Right now, our goal is to get healthy; that's number one," head Coach Jeff Whitney said. "Once we do that, hopefully we can sneak into the playoffs, hoping some of the other teams knock each other off."

The Wildcats got off to a slow conference start, losing their first two games on the road to Seattle Pacific University and Saint Martin's University.

The Wildcats seemed to regroup on the road at Western Oregon University, as they went on to win 76-65. They won three in a row at home afterward.

"Hopefully we can sneak into the playoffs, hoping some of the other teams knock each other off."

~Jeff Whitney
head basketball coach

Just when it seemed the Wildcats were back on track, they lost four straight, tying the second longest losing streak in the program's nine-year history.

They lost against Western Washington University and Northwest Nazarene University at home without senior guard Elyse Mengarelli, who suffered a concussion two games earlier. Mengarelli is the team's third leading scorer with 12 points per game and top free throw shooter at 87.6 percent accuracy. She's second in assists and third in steals.

With senior center Laura Wright's knee injured and Mengarelli's concussion, the Wildcats' hopes of making the playoffs seemed to fizzle as they began losing steam down the stretch.

Having dug themselves into a hole, Central faced almost insurmountable odds. Still having to play the three top teams in the conference, every game had to be treated as must-win; no easy task.

Mengarelli returned to the lineup, adding 15 points to an 80-70 win over first place Seattle Pacific, a team Central hasn't beaten in five years.

"We knew we had to focus on winning the game," senior forward Brandi Bounds said. "We didn't want to lose five straight."

Something had to give.

Wildcats win fifth straight

Central avenges home opener loss to Saint Martin's

by Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter

Since suffering back-to-back overtime losses three weeks ago, the Central Washington University Wildcats have compiled a five-game winning streak.

Last Thursday night, the Wildcats traveled to face off against conference opponent Seattle Pacific University. Early on, the game was close, with Central trailing Seattle Pacific 33-31 at halftime. The Wildcats took the lead just 2:15 into the second half on a lay-up by senior forward Grant Assink.

The lead continued to switch hands over the next 10 minutes with the score being tied eight times. Taking a 62-61 advantage with just under eight minutes to play, the Wildcats held that lead for the rest of the game. Central was able to complete the season sweep of Seattle Pacific with an 80-73 victory.

"I think that earlier in the year we had players still trying to find their role on the team," senior forward Lance Deen-Boer said. "Everyone knows their role now and everyone is fulfilling that role. Everybody has stepped up their game and it has really helped our team."

Deen-Boer led the Wildcats in scoring and rebounding with 18 points and seven boards.

The Wildcats traveled to Lacey, Wash. on Saturday to face Saint Martin's University, who spoiled Central's home opener with an 84-73 victory over the Wildcats just a month earlier.

The lead changed frequently early on as the Saints gained a 17-12 advantage with 12:47 to go in the first half.

The Wildcats turned on the jets, going on a 25-5 run to take a 41-25 lead with three minutes remaining in the first half.

see HOOPS, page 11
Junior Krissy Tandie throws the shot put during practice in preparation for the GNAC Indoor Championships.

by Melanie Lockhart
Assoc. Sports editor

Junior Krissy Tandie stands out as a thrower on the Central Washington University track and field team. Her strength has helped her set school records in the weight throw, and Tandie now holds the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) record in the women’s shot put with her mark of 13.83 meters.

“I’m so proud of her,” junior thrower Katie McMeel said. “I’m always texting her at meets to see how she’s doing. It’s cool that she’s PRs [sets a personal record] at almost every meet. I know I don’t do that.”

Tandie grew up in Wenatchee. She got involved in track and field in middle school where she competed in the shot put.

“If was good at it,” Tandie said. “It just came easy to me.”

Tandie participated in other sports, including basketball, but her focus, outside of track and field, was on volleyball. She also enjoys being active in the outdoors when it isn’t cold.

Tandie always admired professional beach volleyball players Misty May and Kerry Walsh.

“They’re good competitors and great athletes,” Tandie said. “They have great attitudes and they are both really nice. To me, that’s what’s important. You don’t have to be the best athlete, but the right attitude can make you great.”

Now Tandie looks up to any Olympian. She also likes watching the men who compete in the World’s Strongest Man competitions.

“There strength is crazy,” Tandie said.

After high school, Tandie came straight to Central. She joined the track and field team to continue with shot put, and got into other throwing events, such as the indoor weight throw. During the outdoor season, Tandie competes in the hammer throw and discus events as well. Tandie has competed as a thrower since she was a freshman.

Tandie is working on a major in exercise science with a minor in nutrition.

“I’ve always been into sports and weight training,” Tandie said. “I chose a major that deals with that.”

The track and field team trains year-round. Tandie says they practice nearly everyday during the season, condition in the fall and they are in the weight room all year, so she’s constantly building for meets.

Tandie says she enjoys the feeling she gets at competitions.

“It’s exciting and fun,” Tandie said. “I don’t really get nervous. I do get some butterflies at bigger competitions though.

So I guess it depends on the meet.”

Those butterflies haven’t kept her from success. In 2006, Tandie earned the title of Outstanding Female Performer at the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Breaking the GNAC record in the shot put at the University of Washington Indoor Invitational earlier this season earned her GNAC Female Co-Athlete of the Week honors.

Tandie has little free time. Outside of training she is an apartment manager for Juniper North apartments. She is also planning her wedding, which keeps her busy. Tandie and fiancé Kenny Richerson will tie the knot this summer.

After college, Tandie hopes to open her own gym and apply her interest in sports and training to her career.

“If I’d love to be in the Olympics in the shot put,” Tandie said. “Shot put has always clicked with me and I love it.”

For now, Tandie’s goal is to place at nationals in both the weight throw and shot put events. She hopes to continue improving her marks at each meet and then peak at nationals.

“When you break records you can’t feel anything but good,” Tandie said. “It’s always exciting to have your name on a board.”

On Mon. Feb. 5, Tandie and her teammates travel to Nampa, Idaho for the GNAC Indoor Championships.

Wildcats mix it up on the court

by Briana Berg
Staff reporter

The Central Washington women’s basketball team picked up their biggest win of the season, and it came without head Coach Jeff Whitney pacing the sidelines.

“The team has gone through a lot of up and downs,” Wright said. “This was a huge win for us.”

Last Saturday, Central took down Seattle Pacific University 80-70 for the first time in ten games. The Falcons came into Saturday’s game first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) with an 8-1 record.

Head coach Jeff Whitney was out for the night, sick at home, missing one of his first games in 10 years of coaching at Central. Assistant Coach Ana Tuiaea-Ruud took over as coach.

“It was different without Whitney, but our assistant coaches are strong,” senior guard Elyse Mengerelli said. “She had us switch things up and create the other team.”

With Whitney gone, Central battled for more than just a game, but the season. With the win, Central is now 4-6 in the GNAC and has a glimmer of hope to find themselves in the postseason.

Another change was made in the playing personnel, as Mengerelli came back after sitting two weeks out due to suffering concussion against Northwest Nazarene University. She returned on Saturday and contributed 13 points and five rebounds in 28 minutes of play.

“I felt like I was starting the season all over,” Mengarelli said. “I was really jittery and it took me a while to get in the game.”

The Wildcats dominated from the outset, out-rebounding the Falcons 41 to 26. Senior center Laura Wright grabbed 12 rebounds and senior forward Brandie Bounds brought down seven. They also shot lights out from three-point land, connecting on 50 percent of their three point attempts, and Bounds making 5 of 7.

Central came out with a change in their defense, establishing a full-court press on Seattle Pacific from the beginning of the game.

“We wanted to mix things up,” Tuiaea-Ruud said. “Our goal was to run the other team and tire them out.”

The win over Seattle Pacific was Central’s biggest win of the season, snapping their four-game losing streak. The Wildcats face off against University of Alaska Anchorage Saturday night. The Seawolves are ranked third in the GNAC, with a 2-4 record.

If Central sweeps in Alaska, they will be 6-6 in conference play and the possibility of cracking the regional poll is within reach.

“We have six games left that our season is depending on,” Wright said. “As for the win against Seattle Pacific, it was a huge morale booster.”
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