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The Wildcats need to pare down expenses and upgrade facilities

by Casey Donovan
Sports editor

Head basketball coach Greg Sparling hasn’t spent a Thanksgiving at home with his family in close to a decade. Instead, Sparling has been on the road, traveling with the men’s basketball team to Hawaii, California, Nevada and countless other states.

The Central Washington University men’s basketball team is only a piece of the predicament the Central Athletic Department faces. The program is struggling with issues ranging from scheduling, location, finances, available scholarships, poor facilities and a number of athletic programs.

Last year, Central had the Blue Ribbon Commission conduct a study on athletics. Information was gathered and evaluated on whether Central should stay in their current Division II ranking, or move to either D-I or D-III. It was decided that the current D-II level, which requires 10 athletic programs, was the best fit.

Central currently has 13 varsity athletic programs, four of which have been on the chopping block before. Realistically, there just aren’t enough money-makers in the athletic department. Wrestling and swimming were cut during the 2003-2004 academic year, but more varsity cuts aren’t expected Athletic Director Jack Bishop said.

“All schools have problems like we face,” Bishop said. “I have spoken with President McIntyre and we will not look at dropping further sports.”

Central’s baseball, cross country and women’s soccer and softball programs face the largest hurdles of all the programs, ranging from scheduling issues to lack of scholarships.

The athletic department operates on an annual budget that ranges from approximately $2.5 million to $2.8 million. The money is accrued from three sources:
- About $100,000 in student funds
- $1 million in state funds
- $1 million in earned income

Central athletics take routine bus trips to Seattle, Bellingham, Walla Walla and Monmouth, Ore., to name a few. But Central athletics’ status as a Division II NCAA program also forces teams to travel halfway across the country to play other teams in their own division.
Students get early jump on tax season

by Clare Jensen
Staff reporter

Organizing income, itemizing, knowing what to claim; it’s a mess for many people to sort through during tax season. Some get professional help, but the price of assistance can be high.

The College of Business at Central Washington University offers volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) free for students and Ellensburg residents.

Twice a week, business and accounting students who pass a qualifying test give their time to those who need assistance with income tax returns. For the students involved and VITA provides college credit.

Katie Ballantyne, senior accounting major, is donating her time as a tax assistant for a second year. She thinks it for the first time, questions arise. "Every year, it’s a whole new crop of students," Fred McDonald, professor of accounting, said. "They learn about taxes as well as the software." The tax software is provided by the Internal Revenue Service, and since most of the student volunteers are using it for the first time, questions arise. McDonald said he is here to assist the at the VITA sessions.

Kristina Philipp, senior law and justice major, took advantage of the free service for the third year in a row. "I needed help. I wanted to do the right thing with my taxes as well as the software." The tax software is provided by the Internal Revenue Service, and since most of the student volunteers are using it for the first time, questions arise. Philipp said. "I learned something new every time."

Ballantyne is one of the few students who worked with VITA before. "Every year, it’s a whole new crop of students," Fred McDonald, professor of accounting, said. "They learn about taxes as well as the software." The tax software is provided by the Internal Revenue Service, and since most of the student volunteers are using it for the first time, questions arise. McDonald said he is here to assist the at the VITA sessions.

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Essays inspire tolerance, compassion

by Katie Murdoch
Asst. News editor

Between reading excerpts from his book, "Because I Don't Have Wings," and Phil Garrison, professor of English at Central Washington University, made his audience laugh Monday night.

He talked about bumper stickers reading "fence repair" as retaliation to President Bush's proposal to enforce U.S. and Mexico border security.

"What the U.S. calls immigration, Mexico calls migration," Garrison said. "The high price to cross the border disrupts a migratory pattern that's been in place for years."

Monday night, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and the Diversity Education Center co-sponsored "Northwest Mexicanos: Stories of Mexican Immigrant Life" to a crowd of more than 130 people in the Student Union and Recreation Center ballroom.

Garrison read excerpts from his collection of essays about Mexicans coming into the U.S. and trying to assimilate to the culture.

"His work bridges the gap between the academic and community components and demonstrates our commitment to the Center," said Michael Ervin, assistant professor and director of the Latin American Studies Program.

Growing up in a racially diverse area and the way people reacted when the immigration issue made its way to Ellensburg inspired Garrison to write the collection of essays.

"Garrison treats Mexicans as human beings and not just as workers or laborers," Ervin said.

Some of the students in the audience came to support Garrison's work.

"I knew coming tonight I wouldn't have propaganda thrown at me," Jessi Nelson, senior writing major, said. "He's not blindly advocating anything."

Despite hardships, making the transition across cultures isn't a lost cause, Garrison said.

After reading passages for an hour, Garrison opened the floor to questions.

"What the U.S. calls immigration, Mexico calls migration.

~Phil Garrison, English professor

Auction to provide funding for free clinic

by Diane Nguyen
Staff reporter

Going once, going twice, sold. When spring hits, students could have the opportunity to participate in a few live auctions.

The Ellensburg Community Health Clinic (ECHC), known as the free health clinic, will be holding their second annual silent auction at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31 at the Hall Holmes Community Center on 201 N. Ruby Street. The clinic is open the first and third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to Noon. It is located at 611 S. Chestnut St. (4A).

ECHC is a local non-profit organization, that has been providing healthcare free of charge to the local community since 1999. Last spring, ECHC hosted their first silent auction totaling more than 50 donations from local businesses and more than 100 participants. The clinic raised approximately $8,000 with all proceeds earmarked business operations. This year's auction is organized by senior economics major Raleigh Hayter.

ECHC hopes to raise more than $10,000 this year. They are auctioning off a K2 Snowboard, gift certificates to Jaymes Place and Salon Fenix, cleaning services, a cedar wine rack and a sailing trip on the Puget Sound, among other things.

"It's wonderful to see such amazing donations for the auction," said Cecilia Martinez, junior, psychology and human resources major. "It shows how much community really sticks together."

Bringing back one of the top money-makers from last year's auction, ECHC will raffle off a quilt donated by well-known quilt maker Evelyn Skippy. Skippy made a television appearance on the Home and Garden Channel and last year raffled off her quilts. It raised over $300.

"Participation from the community for this auction is a great way to support our cause and organization," Hatter, executive director of the ECHC, said.

ECHC provides a wide range of health care services including preventive medicine, routine health care, mental health counseling, flu vaccines, and bilingual diabetes education all free of charge.

"I think it's fantastic a free clinic is available to those in the Ellensburg community that can't afford medical," Martinez said. "To not be able to have medical coverage is a huge issue for anyone."

Local organizations partnering with ECHC in an effort to provide service to the clinic include Kittitas Valley Community Hospital, Ellensburg Eye Clinic, Kittitas County Health Department, Fred Meyer Pharmacy, Central Washington University, KQBE 103.1FM, Super-One Pharmacy, First Presbyterian Church, and Kittitas County Safe Kids.

For the past two years ECHC has been running its operation on sponsor donations with United Way, a National non-profit organization, as their biggest financial supporter.

The clinic's yearly expense budget is currently $32,684, and to help minimize the total cost per patient, the auction has served as the main fundraising source for ECHC. "The auction is a great way to raise money for the clinic," Diana Rojas, volunteer interpreter for ECHC said. "It benefits the community, patients, and volunteers."

The free health clinic has more than 90 volunteers and sees more than 400 patients in the Kittitas area.

ECHC provides services to low-income and uninsured individuals and families. "Our volunteers gain a lot of experience from the clinic," Rojas said.

EDUCATION JOB FAIR

Education Job Fair 2007 happens today, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. on March 1 in the Black Hall Lobby.

The fair is an opportunity for students to meet recruiters from school districts, talk with, and have the chance to be interviewed by them in a professional environment.

The mock interview workshop is between 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., in Black Hall 152.

Contact the career center directly to obtain more details about Career Fair 2007: 963-1921.
PHYSICIANS

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You will do a lot for your country — not to mention Soldiers and their families — by joining the Army Medical Corps. Accordingly, the Army will return the favor. You’ll join as a commissioned officer and enjoy outstanding benefits, new challenges, the chance to work in some of the country’s most advanced facilities, opportunities for world travel, and 30 days of paid vacation time earned annually. Plus, you’ll receive:

- Continuing education opportunities
- Low-cost life insurance
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- Generous non-contributory retirement benefits with 20 years of qualifying service

To find out more, or to speak to Army Health Care Recruiter, SFC Thomas McCain, call 877-719-0804 or visit healthcare.goarmy.com/hct/54
Banquet kicks off women's history month

by Alexandra Baum
Staff reporter

Once a year, every March, a formal banquet kicks off National Women's History Month. Central Washington University honors women who worked towards equality for all women at the banquet.

The Women's Achievement Award was introduced nine years ago to award women at Central who have focused on women's rights and impacted the lives of others.

"People being honored increase the opportunity for the success of students and by making the experience for students at Central as beneficial as possible," said Leah Shelton, special projects coordinator for the Center for Student Empowerment. "Many of the nominees have directly impacted students, and so, this is a way to recognize them."

The Women's Achievement Award will be handed out at the banquet on Wednesday, March 7. This award goes to the four women that have made a great difference in the Ellenbogen community.

This year's recipients are Nancy Howard, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity; Cynthia Coe, professor of philosophy; Kristin Karn, an advanced registered nurse practitioner at Central's Student Health and Wellness Center and Teresa Sleigh-Layman, professor of flight technology.

Throughout the ceremony, there also will be awards given to a male staff member, Central student and a graduate student.

"We forget or we don't appreciate that women have made great strides in 30 years," Sleigh-Layman said. "I think it's hard to believe that it has happened that fast, and it is important to uplift those people [women] and remember." The speaker for the evening is Karen Hendricks, psychology professor at the Lynnwood center and former recipient of the Women's Achievement Award. Hendricks will be talking about "The Two-Way Gift of Mentoring," a program that she formed to show the importance of mentorship.

"Anyone is invited to the banquet, and we encourage people at Central and in the community to attend," Shelton said. "The banquet will be semi-formal, with a catered dinner. It tends to be fun and ritzy."
Late night pizza spot up for sale

by Chelsea Evans
Asst. City editor

As new rumors are circulating Robbers' Roost, it was really just "much ado about nothing," Corey Everts, owner of Robbers' Roost said that his business is not closing shop; it is just for sale.

"I have other priorities that involve family," Everts said. "This was a different reality than anticipated."

Two years ago, when Everts first opened his business, there wasn't a single pizza place in the downtown area. Everts said he learned from attending college back east that every kid and family needs to have a place to get a good slice.

"We have the largest pizza out of anyone in town, better ingredients, better toppings, and everything is made from scratch," Everts said.

Erica Ewing, junior theater performance major and Robbers' Roost enthusiast, has spent days working on a petition for Robber's Roost. In two weeks, Ewing has spread the word for Robbers' Roost to begin deliver a more fun-loving environment.

"I am going to miss my regulars; that is what makes it all worth while," Everts said. "We can't let these box chains come in and take over; I would hate to see Ellensburg sell its soul to the corporate world."

The dough Everts (above) at Robbers' Roost has a special protein to give the finished pizza a chewy texture rather than a rubbery crust.

Everts also attributes success to his insurance would have the final say in delivering into the late night hours or not, Everts said. Also the sale of his business would determine delivery status.

There are two interested buyers. Both would like to make Robbers' Roost a more family-oriented business, while one buyer is what makes it all worth while," Everts said. "This is just to encourage."

New center offers specialized care

by Meagan Lind
Staff reporter

The Ellensburg Downtown Association will host a State of Downtown meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. today at 119 E 4th, in the former Button's building at 4th and Pine. The meeting is open to the public. Representatives from the Ellensburg Downtown Association's Board of Directors and staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss citizen concerns.

Meeting to discuss current state of downtown

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Two King County jails released more than 80 violent criminals last Friday. Many are threats to re-offend, including at least one level III sex offender. The felons were in these jails for violating the terms of their release. They were released because the jails exceeded state department levels for inmate population. As of last week, three facilities were over the state's inmate capacity of 15,753, according to a Department of Corrections Web site. The DOC claims that there are more than 900 available law enforcement jobs right now. But who wants to be the beat cop who interacts with inmates who have already been red-flagged as high potential to re-offend or who already have problems checking in with authorities should not be the ones receiving a free pass.

Rights of the accused aside, how will this affect the rights of the rank-and-file citizen? Inmates were required to check in with community parole officers by Monday at 5 p.m. I can only imagine the percentage of inmates who actually did. By Tuesday's Seattle Times article, the Department of Corrections (DOC) didn't know how many criminals had complied with that order.

The Seattle Times quoted a DOC spokesman saying the DOC was making responsible decisions, and "we didn't just say you, you and you are free" (Seattle Times). The next time we round up inmates to let free, why don't officials let the guy who got popped for selling half a bag of marijuana as opposed to someone who stabbed their neighbor over a stereo? Violent criminals who've already been red-flagged as high potential to re-offend or who already have problems checking in with authorities should not be the ones receiving a free pass.

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March 1, 2007 — Scene — Observer

Distinguished dance group to teach, perform

by Taishi Kanamaru
Staff reporter

Next week, there will be a rare opportunity for Central Washington University students to see a world-famous dance company, and even take lessons from the group members.

Renowned dance group Alvin Ailey II, formed by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1974, will perform at 7 p.m. March 6, in McConnell Auditorium, for the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series.

Alvin Ailey II began from the spirit and energy of the United States' young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of emerging choreographers, according to their Web site.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was founded in 1958 in New York. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, the performance changed the perception of American dance. The group is now led by Artistic Director Judith Jamison.

Ailey was born in Texas in 1931. When he began dancing, he drew upon memories of Texas, blues music, spirituals and gospel for inspiration. This resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed dance work, "Revelations."

"Alvin Ailey is probably one of the top 10 dance companies in the world," Therese Young, dance program director for Central, said. "For them [to come] to a small town, I think that's great."

The school has invited several theatre and music performers for the series, but never really had any large dance group, said Libby Street, executive assistant to the president for policy and planning.

"I think this gives students an opportunity to see amazing art that they might not otherwise get a chance to see," Street said.

Young has been working with the President's Office to have the dance company members teach master classes so students can take advantage of this rare opportunity to learn some new ideas about movement.

Three classes of modern dance and modern jazz will be offered the day before the show. Classes will be taught by different instructors so that each can feature different material.

Although class space is limited, all sessions are open to the public.

"We have it [classes] as the beginning level," Young said. "If someone wants the opportunity to come and try to take the class, I would say go for it."

Tamara Root, junior education major, has danced for more than 18 years and already has signed up for two of the three classes and will attend the performance.

"It is amazing," Root said. "People will definitely get the appreciation to see the dancers are out there."

Ticket prices are $45 for reserved seats, $35 for general admission and $20 with Central student I.D.
A theatre conference spanning seven states, 36 schools and nearly 700 students was held at Central Washington University last week.

The Kennedy Center/AMerican College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region VII is an annual event held at a different location every year. This is the first time Central has hosted the event.

This year, senior Theatre Arts major Joe Wilbur won in the sound design category. This is the sixth consecutive year that Central has sent a student to the national competition.

A major event of the conference was the presentation by Academy Award-winning actress Patty Duke on Friday afternoon.

Duke spoke about family, her battle with bi-polar disorder and encouraged students to follow their dreams. She held a question and answer session following her presentation.

"She [Duke] had incredible openness for everything she's been through," Dania Salgados, George Fox University junior, said.

To some, the best part about the conference is the chance to exchange new ideas and receive training in more areas from a larger pool of teachers.

"As far as I'm concerned, the more teachers you have, the more well rounded you will be because of the different points of view," Steve Nabors, adjunct Theatre Arts professor, said.

Nabors conducted several workshops throughout the week, including one called "Sword Skills for the Stage." Nabors' was one of many workshops held throughout the week focusing on topics ranging from "The Art of Stage Kissing" to "Casting: The Most Important Thing You Do."

"The workshops are amazing... it's really nice to see what other people are doing," Steve Nabors, adjunct Theatre Arts professor, said.

The conference also provided many evening events such as karaoke night, improv night, and the President's Reception held Thursday evening at Gallery One in downtown Ellensburg.

"It was the first time all the faculty have come together with all guests from outside the region," Scott Robinson, Theatre Arts department chair, said.

Other attendees included contributors to the Theatre Arts department, conference judges and theatre students.

President Jerylin Mcintyre was presented with a plaque of appreciation from Kennedy Center Artistic Director Greg Henry for hosting the event.

The Theatre Arts department has known for two years that it would be hosting the festival this winter. In order to prepare for the event, the department was granted $40,000 to fix lighting problems in both McConnell auditorium and Milo Tower Theatre. The funds were donated by the College of Arts and Humanities, Student Affairs and the Provost's office.

"We needed it [the lighting] and it is helping the event," Robinson said.

Now Robinson hopes the event will help create a larger profile on campus so other problems, such as seating in McConnell Auditorium, will be addressed and fixed.

The event has been a recruitment tool for the Theatre Arts department.

"People had a great time. [Hosting the festival] raises the profile of the university in the region," Robinson said.

"The workshops are amazing... it's really nice to see what other people are doing."

Lale Setelices-Lorca, Western Washington University senior

"The workshops are amazing... it's really nice to see what other people are doing."
Schultze is just a man with an accordian until he discovers a new love for Cajun zydeco blues music in the 2003 film "Schultze Gets the Blues." The film is showing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6 in the Student Union Theatre as the final installment of the Central Washington University Winter 2007 Classic Film Series. "Schultze Gets the Blues" is a slow-paced, dark German comedy that tells the story of retired salt miner Schultze. Schultze, played by German actor Horst Krause, breaks out of the monotony of retired life and discovers a world of possibilities through new music and culture.

The film follows Schultze as he leaves his humble German hometown to experience the music he loves in Texas and Louisiana while using his charm and curiosity to break through the language barriers. Schultze, who won 11 awards internationally, Krause won Best Actor in the 2003 Stockholm Film Festival, and the film received awards for production design and art direction at the German Film Awards and the Gijon International Film Festival. The 104-minute film is rated PG, for world language, and the Gijon International Film Festival. The script for "Komachi" was inspired by the life of a six-century Japanese poet of the same name and written by American playwright Romulus Linney. "I love the language in 'Komachi,'" said Madeleine Cartwright, sophomore theatre performance major and "Noh Telling" cast member, "It's written like poetry."

The second play, "Boshibari," is a style of Japanese theatre called Kyogen, which uses farcical humor and is often a light-hearted counterpart to the tragedy of Noh theatre, Bellah said. "I love the language in 'Komachi,'" said Madeleine Cartwright, sophomore theatre performance major and "Noh Telling" cast member, "It's written like poetry."

The actual translation for "Boshibari" is "tied to a pole," and the plot follows two servants who have a hard time staying but of their master's sake. "What they're doing is spoofing Noh," Bellah said. "Kyogen is very realistic, recognizable to us as westerners." The ideal form of Noh theatre to Central stemmed from department of philosophy Program Director Jeffrey Dipprepano, who was planning an Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) conference in Seattle. Bellah approached Bellah with the idea of featuring an Asian theatre production during the conference on Saturday, March 10. The concept of showing the production at Central was almost an afterthought. "It's very hard to pull off," Cartwright said, who was surprised to find her feet and legs sore shortly after rehearsals began.

Although the cast members had more freedom of movement in "Boshibari," it was the harder of the two master, Bellah said. "Noh is so foreign to us that there seemed to be only one obvious way to do it," Bellah said. "The difficult part about Kyogen is wrapping themselves around the body but letting it be funny; it's just now starting to click." Bellah invited University of Idaho theatre arts professor Cheri Vasek to help create the set, costumes and masks. Vasek has been teaching during the week and traveling to Central on weekends to create designs for the production. "We wanted to suggest the formality and sense of ritual that are part of Japanese performance," Vasek said. "There's no attempt to have realistic scenery; it's just suggestions, just like poetry."

Vasek's stage design includes a false floor, much like the traditional Noh stages, in order to increase the resounding sound of the cast members stamping on the 20-foot by 20-foot stage. Much of the setting was designed to create an organic, natural atmosphere while the costumes were designed to bring attention to the actors. "There's no attempt to have realistic scenery; it's just suggestions, just like poetry," Vasek said. "Only five cast members are part of the production, most of whom have two parts. Some of the roles, however, require the actors to only speak the lines of the characters on stage. In Noh theatre, the actors wear masks, making it impossible to speak clearly. "We really depend on each other," Cartwright said. "We're a really close-knit group now."

"I love the language in 'Komachi,' it's written like poetry," Madeleine Cartwright said. "It's very physical, vigorous training," Bellah said. "We tend to carry our bodies up here (in our chests) rather than in our hips. There's a lot of work with the legs."

The cast members also had to learn how to change the tempo of their movements and speech to model Noh theatre traditions. "It's very hard to pull off," Cartwright said, who was surprised to find her feet and legs sore shortly after rehearsals began.

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Friday mixes local, exotic talent

Downtown galleries show Central art, band taps Aphro-beat

by Leah Hatherton
Staff reporter

Spring, science, and young moms are just a few of the themes attendees will see expressed artistically during the First Friday Art Walk from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow.

A number of downtown businesses will be showing artwork including Gallery One, the Clymer Museum, Ellensburg WineWorks, D&M Coffee Downtown and the Kittitas County Historical Museum.

The Clymer Museum is showing "Ode to Spring," which includes work from artist Jeannie Johnson as well as her students. Johnson has 30 of her pieces on display, which include oils, water colors and pastels. Johnson teaches out of her home studio. Her students, who range from ages six to 80, have also submitted oil paintings for the show.

"We are just totally thrilled by all of this talent," Clymer Museum volunteer Edna Madsen said. "I am totally blown away by what these young people have accomplished."

Gallery One has three shows from Central Washington University faculty and students. In "Mystery Transmissions," Central art department's adjunct professor of photography and digital imaging, Michael Sherwin, uses abstract images downloaded from the internet.

"Gallery One delights in presenting work that takes chances and pushes the limit on artistic standards," Gallery One manager Heidi Sherwin said. "Sherwin's work excels in this area by having a contemporary edge and creating a strong dialogue between art and science."

Central photography students Steve Aldous, Stephen John Ellis and Melissa Hogrefe have combined their talents for the show "Likeness." Michael Sherwin met weekly with Aldous, Ellis, and Hogrefe in developing the theme and multiple images depicting psychological and physical space for the show.

"Mysterious Transmissions" and "Likeness" are unique in that they create an external dialogue between the professor-student relationship," Heidi Sherwin said. "By placing their work together in our gallery, we present our community with a visual conversation that usually occurs behind studio doors."

Ellis, Farrell Meritt Scholarship recipient, is also showing a series of photos on teen mothers and their children in "Loss of Innocence." The Farrell Meritt Scholarship is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors who are fine arts majors undertaking a creative project. Archaeology, geology, and anthropology major who plan to undertake a research project are also eligible for the scholarship.

For those who aren't quite ready to call it a night at the end of the Art Walk, the First Friday Dance takes place at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow night at the Moose Lodge.

San Francisco band Aphrodesia will set the mood for dancing with their "Aphro Beat" music, a combination of African and Latin rhythms.

"This will definitely be the biggest [First Friday] show we've ever put on," First Friday volunteer Sam Albright said. "It'll fill up the Moose Lodge for sure."

The 11-piece band consists of a horn section, vocalists, drums, bass, guitar, percussion and a mrida; an African musical instrument.

"This group is way out on the edge for us," First Friday volunteer Molly Edson said. "We need a larger stage with the horns and all kinds of lights."

For a sneak peak of the band before the dance, Aphrodesia will be performing tomorrow at noon in the Student Union and Recreation Center pit.

The Art Walk is free to attend. The First Friday Dance is open to people of all ages. Tickets cost $7 for students with I.D. and $10 for the general public. Kids 12 and under are free.

Justin Klump, from Vancouver, Wash., plays acoustic guitar during open mic in the Student Union Recreation Center pit. Klump is an acclaimed solo artist who writes and performs original material. He has three brothers going to Central Washington University. Klump is currently promoting his album, "Something for September.

Related Event

The Dave Rawlinson Band will perform at Robber's Roost Pizza at 9 p.m. on Friday, March 2. The band is made up of five musicians who perform what they call "Boomer Rock," referring to the musical taste of the baby boomer generation. Two of the band members are Central professors; one is a Central employee and one is an Ellensburg High School teacher.

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Wrestling club offers flexibility

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

There's no World Wrestling Entertain­ment (WWE) ring on campus, but Central Washington University's wrestling club offers plenty of excite­ment for interested students.

"I never had the chance to wrestle in high school," club President Rob Harvey said. "My high school couldn't afford to put together a program. I have always wanted to learn to wrestle and club wrestling has given me a chance to learn and develop a passion for the sport."

Club wrestling gives students with interest the opportunity to participate. The club doesn't hold tryouts or cut wrestlers, and the club is open to all students; women are welcome to join as much as men.

"We have a couple of female members in the club right now, and hopefully there will be more showing up in the near future," Harvey said.

Club wrestling doesn't bring the stress of competing with a varsity sport. There is plenty of flexibility. Wrestlers can show up when they choose instead of a set time, which leaves the students time for classes.

"Members may participate when they choose without penalty and when someone is injured they are not pushed to continue anyway and risk further injury," Harvey said.

The wrestling club made it to two tournaments this year: The Mike Clock Open at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore., and the Briar Cliff University Invitational tournament in Sioux City, Iowa.

Several wrestlers were evaluated by other coaches for recruiting purposes and offered contact information for possible scholarships.

Being part of a club sport does not decrease a wrestler's eligibility in case they transfer and compete in a varsity program somewhere else.

Martha Mengarelli

by Brianna Berg
Staff reporter

Martha Mengarelli watched her niece, Elyse Mengarelli, step on the first basketball court she ever played on. Last Thursday she watched Elyse, now a senior at Central Washington University, step onto the court once again.

"Martha is my aunt, but she is like my best friend," Elyse said. "I can talk to her about any situation that comes up in my life."

Martha Mengarelli is a familiar face wherever she goes and is always able to find someone she knows while at games.

"There are probably 300 to 400 peo­ple that call me 'Aunt Martha,'" she said.

Martha has traveled to Oregon, Ida­ho, Utah and as far as Oklahoma to watch Elyse play. Even when she cannot watch, she sends her heart and soul with the team.

The relationship between Elyse and Martha started the day she was born. Martha supports all of Elyse's activities.

Elyse played her first basketball game in third grade, scoring 16 points. Her father was hunting for the weekend, but Martha showed up to support her niece.

Elyse is not the only one Martha has to keep track of. She compiles more than a weekend box score, keeping tabs on all her other nieces and nephews.

"I have seven nieces and nephews that I am watching over," Martha said. "I try to keep stats on all of them. I have boxes filled with notepads of the stats I have taken."

Martha has developed relationships with other Wildcats as well.

"My aunt is close with a number of players on the team," Elyse said. "She even sends care packages and bags of groceries when we head out on the road."

Elyse hit a brick wall after high school, quitting her freshman year at Montana State University due to a time conflict between classes and practice.

"Education always comes first to Elyse," Martha said. "She won't allow basketball to hinder her education."

Elyse then moved back home to Yakima to play for the Yakima Valley Community College Yaks during her junior year. Elyse and Harvey talked her into returning to the court. Once again, Elyse's aunt was there, sup­porting her decisions about transferring colleges.

"She basically always wanted what I have wanted for my life," Elyse said. "She was definitely excited to have me closer to home and playing basketball again, but she wanted me happy."

The Mengarelli family is a close-knit group. Elyse's parents and little brother hardly ever miss a home game, and her grandparents make it to as many games as possible.

Then there's Martha, who travels across the country to watch her play.

When the time comes for Elyse's basketball career to end, her aunt will stand by her side just like she has been doing since the day Elyse was born.
Wildcats miss opportunity to take first place in GNAC

by Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University men’s basketball team concluded its home schedule with games against the University of Alaska-Anchorage and the University of Alaska last week.

The Wildcats had several players ill with the flu, including starting sophomore point guard Colton Monti and senior center Bryan Freshwater. They had a limited role when they faced Alaska-Anchorage (16-10, 8-5 GNAC) Thursday night.

Central struggled offensively, shooting 9 for 21 and going 0 for 7 from three-point range as they trailed 34-26 at halftime.

After falling behind by 15 points with 12:17 to go, the Wildcats went on a 12-4 run to get within seven at 51-44. Central again struggled to get going as Alaska jumped out to a 24-14 lead. The Wildcats turned the ball over 10 times in the first half en-route to a 33-24 Alaska lead at halftime.

Alaska pushed the lead to 10 early in the second half at 42-32. The Wildcats then managed to get on a roll despite Den Boer sitting on the bench.

A 19-6 run by the Wildcats, led by junior guard Tyler Monk and senior forward Grant Assink, gave the Wildcats the lead, 51-48, with 8:39 left.

Strong foul shooting by Assink and Den Boer sealed the victory for the Wildcats 74-67 in their final home game of the season.

Den Boer and Monk led the team with 15 points each. Assink and Jackson also scored in double figures with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

"We played really tight in the first half and just didn’t play well overall," Sparling said. "In the second half we were able to really attack the basket and get them into foul trouble."

The Wildcats finish the regular season this week with games at Seattle University (17-7, 9-5 GNAC) tonight and at Northwest Nazarene (19-16, 4-10 GNAC) on Saturday.
Wildcats swing into fourth place in poll

by Brooke Saul
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s baseball team was scheduled to play a four-game series against Santa Clara, but a doubleheader in Portland, Ore., at Lewis & Clark College on Saturday was postponed due to rain.

The games are likely to be made up in the later part of the season on a date to be determined. Central now has seven games suspended, postponed, or cancelled due to weather this season.

The Wildcats played a doubleheader against Whitman College last Sunday. Central won the first game 1-4 and the second 10-2.

Whitman starter Tyler Levin pitched five innings, allowing six hits, one run, and struck out seven to work on the mound.

Senior second baseman Tyler Firenghi had three at-bats, scoring two runs on one hit and was walked once.

Senior left fielder, Justin Marshall, who is hitting .375 with 12 runs batted in and six stolen bases on the season, was also named GNAC player of the week.

"Iattacked the strike-zone," Levin said.

Levin was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference pitcher of the week for his efforts.

"Unfortunately one of our sports that doesn’t get enough recognition is baseball," Bishop said. "They are worse off with scheduling than any other program. There just isn’t much we can do with baseball."

The head kicker, Central punts teams to come here and play.

"The scheduling is not favorable at all," Sparrling said. "We have the hitting and pitching to compete. I know we don’t have the defense."

"You go from Montana down through Colorado and into Arizona and everywhere west of those, there are only a few D-11 football programs," Bishop said. "Historically, we ran out of people."

"We played those games knowing we had last year," Harvey said. "We had a good team, but our defense was bad. We drop when we need to."

"When the weather gets nicer more people will start coming to the games," Bishop said. "It wears you down traveling," Sparling said. "We have the crowd from the Western Athletic Conference. It really is the best we can do for.

"It wears you down traveling," Sparling said. "On both me and the players." It hurts Central’s basketball team both mentally and physically, since schools do not receive penalties for canceling basketball games.

"We are filled with the worst schedule we could have put together for men’s basketball," Bishop said. "The scheduling is done in hope that every team we track is coming to compete next year."

FACILITIES

The facilities at Central are outdated and are in need of attention. Next year, Central will renovate Nicholson Pavilion with new basketball hardwood, lighting and redone seating layer. Also, new offices will be put in above the weight room.

Another problem is the lack of lights at the football stadium.

"I think that a lighting system would greatly improve our situation," Bishop said. "It is absolutely 100 percent a fact that renovating our facilities would greatly improve our university. Our facility is in the lower 10 percent compared to other schools. A new lighting system costs around $200,000. We really aren’t sure how much it will cost to improve the stadium.

Bishop said that it is frustrating to see a huge crowd at the Western games, only to have one full side of the court at any other.

"I went to the games after the Western games and asked myself ‘Where the hell are all the fans?’" Bishop said. "It seems like our student body doesn’t know and doesn’t really care when the games are. I have to believe if we have a team that is good enough to win the Great Northwest for all of our games, we would have a much better record. It’s scary to think that our crowds are better than we deserve to have."

"In all honesty, we try to maintain 70 percent of the maximum allowable scholarship money for football and baseball," Bishop said. "Football receives around 20 scholarships and men’s and women’s basketball receives seven.

That means that there is 10 percent left for 11 programs to split between themselves.

OVERALL

Although Central’s athletics may be in need of money, Bishop said that making the football and baseball programs might have the possibility of improving. However, Central isn’t going to change how they run the programs.

"In all honesty, we try to maintain 70 percent of the maximum allowable scholarship money for football and basketball," Bishop said. "Football receives around 20 scholarships and men’s and women’s basketball receives seven.

That means that there is 10 percent left for 11 programs to split between themselves.

WRESTLING: All skill levels welcome to Central wrestling club

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ATHLETICS:

Baseball and football receive 70 percent of total scholarships, leaving 30 percent to other programs

"We worked on what we needed to work on." Kasey Druffel, junior outfielder

"I think the Red Lion Hotel Invitational will give us some good competition and give us an idea on what we are up against this season.

Playing the other teams in the league enables to Wildcats to prepare for the season ahead. The games begin today and continue throughout the weekend.

Badgley feels that newcomers on the team, along with the team in general, are looking very positive.

"We have the hitting and defense, we just need to have it present at the same game."
Asst. Sports editor

Unlock those bikes and break out the hiking boots; spring is coming and outdoor activities overflow in Kittitas County.

Numerous trails around Ellensburg are just a short distance from the Central Washington University campus and range from easy skill levels to strenuous. Many trails provide access for both bikers and hikers.

Depending on one’s willingness to travel, more than 2,500 miles of trail opportunities are available throughout the Wenatchee National Forest alone. The forest is close to 40 miles wide and extends approximately 140 miles along the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains, convenient for travel from Central. The forest starts north from Lake Chelan and runs south to the Yakima Basin Reservation.

Many trails are ideal for day trips, including Salmon La Sac, Manastash, Taneum and the Transway trail systems. Most of the trails within these systems are of moderate difficulty level.

Shops within Ellensburg offer equipment and maps necessary for both day and overnight trips.

Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR), located on the second floor of the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC), provides students with plenty of outdoor opportunities year-round.

“We plan to organize hiking and biking trips this spring and provide guided trips around Central Washington,” said Darrell Kangsier, sophomore biology major and OPR employee.

Bike rental, tent, sleeping bags and other items useful for day and overnight trips are available for rent at OPR. Various maps are also available free of charge and OPR employees will help customers find a good place to explore.

“I’d recommend Wilkes Dick [Wildlife Area] or Ancient Lake,” Kangsier said. “Umtanum Creek Falls is also great, especially in the spring because of the flowers, and Ginko [Purfined Forest] is right off the water.”

Mountain High Sports and The Recycle Bicycle Shop in downtown Ellensburg also offer outdoor gear.

Mountain High Sports offers equipment rentals, such as backpacks and tents for daily and weekly rates. Clothing and equipment, both new and used, are also available for purchase. If the store doesn’t carry something a customer is looking for, Mt. High offers special orders and provide discounts.

The Recycle Bicycle Shop has a wide variety of bicycles in stock and provides professional repair services.

“Bikes range from $200-$5000,” store owner Fred Johnston said. “We carry anything from kids’ bikes to professional racing bikes and everything in between.”

The store also offers a wide range of biking gear.

“We have clothing, hardware, and components,” Johnston said. “Everything, really.”

Several maps available for free and additional guides are for sale. “The Taneum and Manastash Trail Systems: Mountain Biking in Kittitas County, Washington” is a guide written by Central alumnus Marc Fairbanks, available at the University Store, Chamber of Commerce and Johnston’s store for $9.95.

“Part of the proceeds from Marc’s guide goes to a scholarship fund for the geography department,” Johnston said.

Fairbanks took last part of as part of the Outdoor Speaker Series.

“Forty trails are listed in our,” Fairbanks said. “People focus on a small number of trails when there are a lot more available.”

He noted mountain biking opportunities in Kittitas County, with an emphasis on the Transway trail system.

“His hope to put out another guide for Transway,” Johnston said. “I personally looking forward to trying out the Transway trail.”

Johnston is happy to make trail recommendations in his store for all riders, from downhill and cross-country to beginner and advanced.

“Shoestring Lake, Hereford Meadows and Manastash all have smoother trails,” Johnston said. “Taneum’s Ridge Roller and Gooseberry Flats are great for downhill riders.”

Fairbanks also recommends the Upper Ridge ride to South Fork Taneum.

“[The trails] see the least amount of motorcycling,” Fairbanks said. “They cover a lot of territory; they are challenging and you can go fast.”

Though there are plenty of trails near Ellensburg, the entire state of Washington provides hundreds of hiking and biking opportunities. The Cascade Mountains and surrounding areas are great places to find trails of all skill levels. If multi-day trips are an interest and traveling is possible, places such as Necklace Valley are 100 miles west of Ellensburg.

Before taking a trip, be well prepared. Double check items and gear necessary for the particular destination, and pack accordingly. Most trails within the state of Washington require permits to park at the trail heads. Check with the designated ranger district before traveling to be well prepared. It is also important to double check trail conditions, as they change frequently.

A view near Tank Lakes on a summer hike in Necklace Valley. The hike is very strenuous, located more than 100 miles from Central’s campus. A multi-day hike is recommended to fully experience the Necklace Valley area.

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