Fire signals unhappy Thanksgiving

by Ken Stanton
Staff reporter

On Thanksgiving evening, just before 7 p.m., fire disrupted the northern Ellensburg neighborhood, just as families sat down to give thanks and eat meticulously prepared meals. An unattended home to three young men caught fire, destroying much of the home and covering the rest in thick black soot.

The home, located at 1903 Chestnut Ave., north of Tomlinson Field, is surrounded by many apartment complexes filled with Central Washington University students, many of whom had left for the holiday. This caused the fire to go unnoticed for quite a while as the unattended house burned from within.

The fire started in one of the bedrooms at the southeast corner of the building, directly behind the living area.

"It was a very hot fire," said Joe Seemiller, fire marshal for the Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue. "It actually burned through the sheetrock, which takes quite a bit of time, about an hour or so, unless the fire is really intense. In this case, it was; there were five gallons of gasoline being stored in that room [where the fire started]. The tenant just forgot about it and rushed off to Thanksgiving dinner and that's when the fire started."

Seemiller said the fire crew put the fire out fairly quickly despite its intense heat. It was so hot that they had to hit it from the outside with a defensive attack rather than enter the building and attack it directly.

Firefighters put thousands of gallons of water on the fire, which turned to steam, that took the heat out of the fire, Seemiller said.

Once this was accomplished, firefighters transitioned into a direct attack where they were able to enter the building and extinguish the fire.

"They did an excellent job [saving the dwelling] considering that the fire burned for quite a while and did a lot of damage to the room of origin," Seemiller said.

The inspector assigned to determine the fire's origin assessed that it had burned for a while in the room where it started, burning through the floor and causing damage.

It is theorized that because a window in that room may have broken out early on, this allowed some of the heat to escape, saving the rest of the building from further damage.

SEE HOUSE FIRE PAGE 3

Intense heat and heavy smoke destroyed the small bathroom that was situated next to the room in which the fire began earlier. The bedroom where the fire started was nothing but a shell of burnt framing.

Memories burn bright

Central Washington Students observe a moment of silence in remembrance of murdered transgendered people during the candle light vigil on Nov. 19, 2008, outside of black hall.

Gaudino to replace President McIntyre

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

When James Gaudino applied for the position of Central Washington University president several weeks ago, he didn't actually feel as though he was a viable candidate, citing the fact that the other three had more experience.

Now, Gaudino, the dean of the College of Communication and Information (CCI) at Kent State University in Ohio, will become Central Washington University's 14th president, effective Jan. 1, succeeding Jerilyn McIntyre. He was chosen at a special meeting with the Central Board of Trustees, chaired by Sid Morrison.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve Central Washington University and I am honored to join such a strong team of faculty, administrators, staff and students," Gaudino said in a press release.

James Gaudino

When McIntyre announced her decision to retire in January 2008, a presidential search committee, chaired by Central geology professor Wendy Robinson, was set up. Gaudino became one of the four finalists on Oct. 17, anJ visited the campus for interviews Nov. 2 through Nov. 5.

"I like the student-centeredness of it, the focus that each university has on student success," said Gaudino in an earlier interview with the Observer. "I think it's hard to be truly student-focused at a university of 30 or 40 thousand."

SEE GAUDINO PAGE 4
Visual Stimulation

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."
--Will Rogers

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House fire: students invited to ask questions about fire safety

continued from front

The fire burned everything within the room of origin along with much of the exterior wall. In the living area, all the furniture, the large television, the furniture, the large television, the room of origin along with much of the exterior wall. Flamesforced firefighters to extinguish the flames.

At this time, the cause of the fire has not yet been determined. Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue wishes to extend an invitation to any student or person who has questions or concerns about fire safety to call them, as they will gladly answer any questions and help as much as possible in getting problems solved.

Students who live on campus can contact their resident advisor or the housing office, and they will have information and other instructions that students should follow when living in the residence halls, or when leaving for the extended winter break.

"Students living in single-family homes are more likely to die in a fire than students living on campus, by as much as 10-fold."

JOE SEEMILLER, FIRE MARSHAL, KITITAS VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE

Cold weather pests must be removed professionally

by Allie Mathis, Staff reporter

Along with the cold, the winter brings unwanted pests such as bugs to the residence halls, apartments and houses.

"When the weather goes from hot to cold there are more insects," said Richard Deshields, senior director of University Housing. "A lot of people think of the summers, but in the summertime the issue is always here. If people keep their areas clean, there will not be as many problems."

There are other factors that also cause there to be more insects around, just the cold weather.

When there is an increase in construction, bugs tend to become more frequent in the residence halls and nearby houses. Also, areas like Anderson Hall that have kitchens are more likely to have bugs than areas that do not.

It is part of the housing contract that the school must send someone to fix the problem if bugs have taken over an area on campus.

"What we tell students to do if they have insects is to call the general maintenance line," Deshields said. "They will then report this to housing, which will notify the exterminator."

Two years ago Beck Hall was believe to be infested with some kind of bugs, according to students. University Housing responded to the problem and it was eventually taken care of.

"It was a real scare," junior John Lockie said, who lived in Beck during the bug outbreak.

Fire prevention tips

1. Never leave candles or other burning objects unattended.
2. Always unplug any unnecessary electric household items when leaving for extended periods of time. If you must leave a space heater plugged in, make sure you put plenty of space between it and any flammable object.
3. Make sure your smoke detectors are clean and functioning properly. Smoke detectors are very good at alarming residents when fires are still small, which is a huge step in saving lives and minimizing damage.
4. Make sure all fire extinguishers are properly inspected every year. Otherwise it is not guaranteed to work.
5. Do not overload electrical outlets, extension cords or outlet strips. Electricity is the number one cause of accidents and human error in starting household fires. If you touch an extension cord or an outlet strip and it is warm or hot, unplug it immediately.

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The gala raised $32,000.

In the Nov. 13 issue of the Observer, there were errors in the "CWU Foundation honors Mcintyre with gala" story.

Last year, the gala was held to raise money for Central's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Transforming Lives, which ended June 30 and raised $21.7 million for the university.

While the program said "second annual gala," the formal name is the Crimson and Black gala.

The gala raised $32,000.
Polished interview skills a necessity in tough job market
by Taylor Pardom Staff reporter

As unemployment rises and employers decrease the amount of new hires, the up-and-coming graduates of 2009 can only wait to see what happens. The job market which graduates are entering could be the worst in well over a decade.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the original job hiring projections for this coming year have been revised, decreasing the amount of anticipated hires, but not as many as people fear.

Many employers are being forced to freeze all hiring and even fire employees. A survey released by NACE showed that 52.1 percent of employers plan to decrease their expected hires in 2009, 13.6 percent will freeze all hiring and even cut employees.

As unemployment rises and employers for this coming year have been expected to hire 2.3 percent less than in 2008, according to the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Even though many reports and statistics look grim for job seekers, employers will still be looking for new hires. Graduates should look at every aspect of their degrees and what they can do with them.

As the first dean of the CCI, a position he has served since 2003, Gaudino oversees about 100 faculty and staff members, 2,400 undergraduates, 750 graduate students as well as the Center for Journalism’s journalism and mass communication, visual design, communication studies, and library science programs.

He has spearheaded a new college and it’s become a highly sought-after program at Kent State, said John Bowen, assistant director for the Center for Scholastic Journalism, program director at Kent State, “He’s really spearheaded a new college and it’s become a highly sought-after program at Kent State.”

“I think that in a few years that need to be worked out,” Dickenson said.

To check or change information, go to www.cwu.edu/alerts. The phone number listed is the one that will be contacted when the CWU Alert! System is activated.

“Gaudino: brings innovation and a consensus-style leadership to Central continued from front page

In a previous interview with the Observer, Gaudino talked about what his role would be as the new president.

He said that he will try to get involved in the Fleischmann community as much as possible and said his first challenge will be getting to know Central.

“I’m the kind of president that’s going to come in with the first three agenda items that I will demand be accomplished in the next five years,” Gaudino said.

“I’ll be the kind of president that sits down with students, faculty, staff [and] community leaders to try and figure out what those agenda items are,” Gaudino said.

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“Gaudino: brings innovation and a consensus-style leadership to Central
Rising grocery prices lead to hungry wallets

by Megan Peters
Staff reporter

As the economy keeps spiraling downward, many people are starting to feel the impact on their wallets. While the cost of labor is lowering, the cost of many other basic needs, such as food, is rising. A simple walk around any of Ellensburg's grocery stores will point this out.

In the spring of 2008, everyone saw gas prices begin to rise. This created a higher cost not only for consumers, but also for stores to do business. Store managers at Albertsons and Safeway both stated the rising cost of fuel and shipping as the reason behind their rising prices. "There is a lot that goes into the determination of grocery prices," Sale manager Steve Marsh said. "We do have ways to help consumers save. By applying for our Safe- way Club Card, they can save money on every item they purchase."

Albertsons has a similar member- ship card that is said to save customers money. Enticing consumers and students with lower costs if they join their membership club seems like a great way to keep on budget. However, the "membership costs" are usually found to be less than regular costs customers can find at other stores such as Super 1 Foods or Fred Meyer. Students are feeling the price increase in their kitchen as well. Staying on a budget is a hard task in and of itself. However, students can have additional difficulty.

"I am terrible at budgeting but I am very cautious and aware of product prices," Kelsey Brazas, senior sociology major said. "I ... comparison shop all the stores in town [and] usually go to Fred Meyer to do any major shopping because it always seems to be cheaper."

Another student on a tight budget echoes Brazas' concerns about prices and the benefit of comparison shopping.

"I just went to the grocery store the other day and bought a little less than what I normally buy in one grocery store visit and spent $70."

Jana Smith, senior sociology major said.

According to court documents and a press release put out by the Ellensburg Police Department, all suspects involved at $150,000. In the meantime, if anyone has any information regarding this robbery, contact the Ellensburg Police Department Detective Facility downtown.

If you have any information about this robbery, contact the Ellensburg Police Department Detective Division at 509-962-7280 for more information.

Prep for Winter

For winter cold, good preparations of home, property are gold

Rising grocery prices lead to hungry wallets

Creekside armed robbery suspects arrested

by Quinn Eddy
Asst. News editor

According to the Ellensburg Police Department, the two armed gunmen, Lamarr Fuller and Stephen Johnson, allegedly stormed into the duplex regarding this robbery, contact the Ellensburg Police Department Detective Facility downtown.

If you have any information about this robbery, contact the Ellensburg Police Department Detective Division at 509-962-7280 for more information.

Ellensburg Weather

Today:  
High: 41°F  Low: 24°F  0% chance of precipitation
Partly cloudy

Tomorrow:  
High: 43°F  Low: 32°F  0% chance of precipitation
Mostly cloudy

"I usually try to buy things that are on sale or the [generic] brand items."

JAYNINA SMITH SENIOR
SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

"I could definitely tell that prices went up. I have a set budget and try to stay below it. Usually by buy things that are on sale or the [generic] brand items."

The students shared tips to help other out-of-pocket costs and stay on budget. Smith said buying only the necessities for the week in groceries and using every last bit before heading back to the store helps her stay on budget. Brazas sticks to her guns on comparison shopping before buying groceries, but believes paying extra for fresher produce is worth the thrice wallet.
Universities being asked to function on smaller budget

My college adventure at Central Washington University is finally coming to an end along with many other seniors. Similar to other graduates, I am excited yet scared spitless.

Right now, the job market sucks, and my chosen field of expertise, photojournalism, is very unpredictable and highly competitive.

Many publications as well as school institutions and businesses across the country are experiencing hiring freezes due to the economic crisis in the United States.

The week prior to Thanksgiving, National Public Radio (NPR) reported that an estimated 300 Washington Mutual Bank jobs in the Seattle area will likely be cut by the end of the year. NPR also reported that President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden met with governors due to the economic crisis in the United States.

Washington University is finally coming to do the same. The Seattle Times also reported that other Washington state higher education leaders will also be asked to do the same.

I think it is a good thing that university administrators are making cuts at the top rather than the bottom. The economic crisis has been building for three years and it's only going to get worse before it gets better.

I just hope that Central's new administration will make wise decisions to help the university survive financial instability that the state and nation are experiencing now and will in the future.

The Observe welcomes brief letters (200 words or fewer) from readers on current issues. Letters must include the author's full name and Central Washington University affiliation: year and major for students, department or faculty affiliation and degree and year graduated for alumni. The Observe will not publish letters that respond to previous letters unless they offer meaningful additions to the topic. All letters become property of The Observe and may be edited for length, style, spelling, grammar, facts and potentially libelous elements. Letters may be e-mailed to cwoobserver@gmail.com.
Ellensburg cherishes moments to remember

by Samantha Lochner
Copy editor

Making holiday memories is easy in Ellensburg. The holiday festival, Moments to Remember, is a great way to bring families together in order to kick off the holiday season right.

Moments to Remember officially started out on Wednesday Nov. 26, with a community Thanksgiving dinner at the Ellensburg Adult Activity Center.

The Christmas festivities began on Nov. 28. In the morning the Moose Lodge held a cookie scavenger hunt for kids followed up by an ornament making activity at the Kittitas County Historical Museum. The afternoon consisted of a craft classes at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds. Santa was around through most of the events. A chili feed was also at the fairgrounds for $3 per person. All proceeds for the chili feed went to the Ellensburg cherishes moments to remember Community Christmas Basket program.

“Once the chili feed is over everyone parades down Fourth Street to watch the tree lighting,” said Steve Marsh, Ellensburg’s Safeway store manager. Marsh has been the Ellensburg Safeway store manager for five years. The tree planted in the far corner of Safeway’s parking lot on Fourth and Pine has been a part of Moments to Remember since it was planted in 1999. Safeway volunteers provided hot apple cider and cookies while the Christmas lights on the tree got turned on. The community Christmas tree lights were illuminated on the historical buildings downtown. The alley off of Fourth street was turned into a self guided tour of Bethelhorn, and the Stage Door Dance Studio performed in the window of the Davidson Building.

A decorated tractor on Canyon Road and (right) tree purchases at Santa’s Christmas Tree Lot across Super 1 Foods.

Christmas lights were illuminated on the historical buildings downtown. The alley off of Fourth street was turned into a self guided tour of Bethelhorn, and the Stage Door Dance Studio performed in the window of the Davidson Building. This year the Christmas Lighting Festival will be held on Dec. 7. The Home and Garden Channel.

Another event in Ellensburg is the holiday parade in downtown Ellensburg, which starts on Sixth Avenue in front of the Salvation Army and goes down Yakima Avenue to the Millennium Park of Leavenworth. Snoqualmie’s will also be at 6:30 p.m. tonight at Railroad Park where Santa will come down on a fire engine to light the Christmas tree. Cookies and cider will be handed out to all who attend and hayrides will be offered.

“I think this is a big thing for the community because it’s the holiday season,” Lyse Banks, office assistant for Snoqualmie Parks and Recreation, said. “People come together and join in the holiday spirit.”

Leavenworth’s Christmas Lighting Festival will take place during the first three weekends of December. On Friday, St. Nicholas arrives while people can enjoy sledding in the park, tubing on Ski Hill and visiting the food booths. At noon on Saturday Santa Claus arrives, chestnuts are roasted, live music is played and at dusk, the Lighting Ceremony begins.

The entire village and trees in front Street Park light up with colored lights and giant illuminated stars shine from various places throughout town.

“Christmas time is a time when you want to have that memory and go back to the simple times,” Sherry Schwertner, media relations of Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, said. “There’s not a lot of hustle and bustle, the shop owners are happy to see you walk through the door and the townpeople are just gathering to celebrate Christmas.”

This year the Christmas Lighting Festival will be aired on Dec. 7 on the Home and Garden Channel.

In Yakima at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 7, the Holiday Light Parade will be held. The parade starts on Sixth Avenue in front of the Salvation Army and goes down Yakima Avenue to the Millennium Plaza on South Third Avenue.

The lighting of the community Christmas tree will follow the parade where music will play and Santa Claus will visit. Also held in Yakima is the 17th Annual Luminaria from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 13 at the Yakima Area Arboretum. This is a free event where visitors will get to walk through the arborium while enjoying the light of 1,000 luminaria candles.

The Jewett Interpretive Center will offer hot cider, desserts, live music and children’s activities.

Kelleher Motor Festival celebrates the holiday season

above photo courtesy of Don Adams Photography

Central Washington prepares for the holiday season with (above) the Christmas Lighting Festival in Leavenworth, (left) a decorated tractor on Canyon Road and (right) tree purchases at Santa’s Christmas Tree Lot across Super 1 Foods.

by Brooke Mortensen
Staff reporter

Communities around the valley are gearing up for their annual holiday events.

Everyone will come together to sing Christmas tunes, enjoy holiday foods and huddle together as they watch their towns come to life as thousands of lights are strung up on trees and around the community.

Ellensburg honors those who have passed away, those who are ill and those who take care of the ill during the tree of love ceremony, held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 at the Hal Holmes Community Center. The event includes holiday foods and a Christmas tree lighting.

“When I think of why the Tree of Love is good for the community, I think of it as being useful and needed for the holidays,” Roger Hiles, executive director of Hal Holmes Center, said. “The holidays can be a difficult time for people grieving the loss of loved ones and the Tree of Love offers an opportunity to remember those people who are special in their lives.”

Another event in Ellensburg is the first Relay for Life Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 13 at the Hal Holmes Community Center. Some of the things being sold include baked goods, craft items and ornaments.

“We are trying to raise money year round and thought that a holiday fundraiser would be a fun idea,” Laurie Rost, team captain of the community Relay Team, said.

Donations to be sold at the holiday bazaar are welcome. All money will go toward supporting the American Cancer Society.

An annual tree lighting will also be taking place in both Snoqualmie and Leavenworth. Snoqualmie’s will be at 6:10 p.m. tonight at Railroad Park where Santa will come down on a fire engine to light the Christmas tree. Cookies and cider will be handed out to all who attend and hayrides will be offered.

“I think this is a big thing for the community because it’s the holiday season,” Lyse Banks, office assistant for Snoqualmie Parks and Recreation, said. “People come together and join in the holiday spirit.”

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The Jewett Interpretive Center will offer hot cider, desserts, live music and children’s activities.

The Pocket Pigs 4-H club gives cookies away in the Safeway parking lot.

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The Jewett Interpretive Center will offer hot cider, desserts, live music and children’s activities.
Brass Choir ends quarter with performance

by Ryan Ricigliano
Special to the Observer

The Central Washington University brass choir finished its quarter on Tuesday, Dec. 2, with a performance in the Recital Hall. The nine-person group played through a number of songs that, according to director Jeffrey Snedeker, "highlighted great periods of brass music."

"We had a really heavy schedule this quarter and we only met for two hours a week," Snedeker said. "Overall, though, I think things worked out very well."

The concert opened with a unique playing arrangement: four players at the front of the stage and another four behind the audience. According to Snedeker, who was situated between the two, this was a true sense of how the piece was meant to be performed. The band continued through a set of music from composers Giovanni Gabrieli and Paul Hindemith, and even included a piece by the 26th North Carolina regiment band from the Civil War.

"We had a couple mistakes here and there, but I thought they did a pretty good job," Morgan said. The band continued through a set of song sets. "We really appreciate the college offering a fresh take on brass music."

According to Snedeker, this interesting approach to traditional instruments gave rise to a true sense of how the piece was meant to be performed. The concert opened with a unique approach to traditional instruments, giving rise to a sense of how the piece was meant to be performed. The concert opened with a unique approach to traditional instruments, giving rise to a sense of how the piece was meant to be performed.

"There were a couple mistakes here and there, but I thought they did a pretty good job," Morgan said. "We really appreciate the college offering a fresh take on brass music."

The performance ended with the familiar "Seasons" suite by Antonio Vivaldi, a piece that seemed to please many audience members. This culminating show marked the end of the quarter for Central's brass choir.

Tom Morgan, who was required to go to the performance thought the show went well. "We had a couple mistakes here and there, but I thought they did a pretty good job," Morgan said. "We really appreciate the college offering a fresh take on brass music."

The performance ended with the familiar "Seasons" suite by Antonio Vivaldi, a piece that seemed to please many audience members. This culminating show marked the end of the quarter for Central's brass choir.

The Brass Choir performs classic brass songs in the quarter’s final concert

The Brass Choir performs classic brass songs in the quarter’s final concert

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Night lights

Ellensburg downtown puts up decorations for celebrations

Lights decorate Davidson Building on the corner of Fourth and Pearl Street.

I'm not afraid of vampires, I'm afraid of teenage girls.

The supporting cast was amazing. Ashley Greene does not play Alice — she is Alice. Her graceful walk and birdlike voice match Meyer's description of the character perfectly.

Jackson Rathbone is also impressive as Jasper. Though he has few lines in the film, Rathbone's pained, wide-eyed portrayal earned big laughs from the audience.

There is also a brief cameo of "Twilight" author Meyer sitting with her laptop at a diner in Forks.

What is disappointing about the film is that director Catherine Hardwicke assumes a limited attention span of her audience. "Twilight" is wrought with heavy music, swirling camera movements and choppy cuts that give it a music video feel. This suits Meyer's novel to a degree since the author has said that her writing is fueled and inspired by alternative rock music, particularly the aptly named band Muse. However, the instrumental score composed by Carter Burwell is repetitive and almost solely comprised of variations of Bella's lullaby. The melody is beautiful and tender in places, but after hearing it a few dozen times it becomes distracting.

Hardwicke also panders her audience with an onslaught of flashback scenes. The worst is one at the end of the film that flashes back to the scene before it. Come on, Hardwicke, I think we can all remember something that happened less than a minute ago.

The director largely underestimates an audience whose familiarity with the story came from a 498-page novel that has spawned three best-sellers, one over 800 pages in length. Clearly, Meyer's story does not require constant flashback scenes and montage sequences to hold an audience's attention.

The vampires in the film adaptation also lack the bite of their literary counterparts. Filmmakers beware, "Twilight" is rated PG-13 for "some sensuality and a scene of sexuality." This adds up to lots of flashy jumping around, but almost nothing to suggest that the vampires are dangerous until the end of the film.

Also, don't get too excited about the single scene of sensuality, since it is not like other vampires - they're vegetarians: in other words, they only feed on blood and don't require constant flashback scenes. And even some mums; teen and pre-teen girls comprised most of the audience.

During my wait, I learned enough about the Hannah Montana generation to know that I will probably be pelted with iPods and copies of the "High School Musical" DVD if I say anything about "Twilight" that they are not down with. That said, I'm a huge fan of the books and I enjoyed the movie, so lower your hackles, girls, 'cause it's all good.

I don't have teenage girls screaming in my ears every time their favorite vampire appears on-screen.

Hayley Clayton
Staff reporter
Kelleher Motor Festival brings tradition downtown

by Charlie Wainberg
Staff reporter

Starting last week and running until Dec. 6 is the Second Annual Kelleher Motor Company's Festival of Trees and Silver Bells Gala, in honor of Downtown Ellensburg.

"We're all excited about all the trees," said Phil Kelleher, owner of Kelleher Motors located at 602 N. Pearl St.

Fennelle D Forest Miller Consulting handled the unveiling of the wreaths and trees at the Clymer Museum of Art immediately after "Moments to Remember," which consisted of a dinner, Christmas-related activities and a Holiday parade.

Kelleher Motors then held a reception for locals to meet the tree decorators and sponsors of the festival.

The use of help in business donations, membership donations and a generous $25,000 donation from Sterling Silver Bank, the festival has raised $140,000. From 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Winter Cocoa stroll, the show is headed in a new direction.

"The harder they work, the prouder they are to show off their work. These numbers of the show.

Singing into the holiday season

by Megan O'Malley
Staff reporter

While Ramadhan is a traditional winter holiday no songs will be included because many believers feel that singing during the holy month goes against the faith but the program will include information about Ramadhan.

"We can't mount 'A Christmas Carol' this year, it's just too big a show," said Timothy Bishop, executive director of Marketing and Development for the theatre department.

"A Christmas Carol," "Here We Come A-Caroling" and "Moments to Remember," which consisted of a dinner, Christmas-related activities and a Holiday parade.

Kelleher Motors then held a reception for locals to meet the tree decorators and sponsors of the festival.

With the help of business donations, membership donations and a generous $25,000 donation from Sterling Silver Bank, the festival has raised $140,000. From 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Winter Cocoa stroll, the show is headed in a new direction.

"We're all excited about all the trees," said Phil Kelleher, owner of Kelleher Motors located at 602 N. Pearl St.

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Fennelle D Forest Miller Consulting handled the unveiling of the wreaths and trees at the Clymer Museum of Art immediately after "Moments to Remember," which consisted of a dinner, Christmas-related activities and a Holiday parade.

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The songs span the entire holiday season. There are traditional Christmas carols and Hanukkah prayers mixed in with kwanzaa songs. In addition to all of the holiday music, there will also be stories told between songs.

The musical theatre BFA program only takes 10 people from each grade per year. Each applicant must be well versed in singing, dancing and acting, as well as have the potential to work on a professional stage. This helps foster growth and determination on the student's end.

They are a very, very talented group of people," Brown said.

With only four hours of in-class rehearsal each week, students had to meet every morning at 7:30 a.m. to make sure the songs and choreography was absolutely perfect. "I'll came for performance, but musical theatre found me," Bohan non said.

Each student in the class has put in countless hours of work for two live performances. Yet that doesn't seem to dampen any spirits.

"It's an affordable night of fun," Amanda Carpp, sophomore musical theatre major, said. "It's a little holiday-gift to the community," Caul said.

The hope is that they will bring a little holiday magic to Kittitas County.
Every issue editors face a constant struggle attempting to maintain the balance of keeping a section aesthetically pleasing as well as full of content. Due to this, many great photos are often set aside for the sake of having as much information as possible in the story with a photo acting as a mere supplement. So, in following the adage of “A picture is worth a thousand words,” we are offering a page of previously unpublished photos by Observer photographers from throughout the quarter that we wish we could have run but did not have the chance to until now.

Fall captures essence of competition, sportsmanship
**Rodeo club competitions set tone for upcoming year**

by Tetsu Takiguchi  
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s Rodeo Club has started a great season with excellent standings after its first two rodeo competitions in October.

The women’s team is currently in third place, and the men’s team is in fourth place.

“We had a pretty good rodeo and I know we can do a lot better,” Manda Mellergaard, junior business and finance major, said.

There are four cowgirls who are currently contributing to Central’s standing, specifically Mellergaard and Bailey Minor, who earned massive points from the last two rodeos.

In spring, more members will be able to compete and help the team climb higher on the standings.

Mellergaard and Minor are also earning points for their own individual standing while they are contributing to the points for the team.

So far, Minor is in 12th place in team roping heeler and first in place in break-away roping. In break-away roping, there is a 73.5 point difference between Minor and second place.

Mellergaard is in second place in team roping heeler, seventh in break-away roping and the 12th in goat-tying. Specifically in goat-tying, the point difference between her and first place is only 17 points, so she can definitely aim for first place throughout the season.

Bissonette is currently in seventh place in steer wrestling, and is definitely aiming for higher standing throughout the season.

“I was hoping to pick up a few more points at the first rodeo, but I drew a bad steer at the first day,” Bissonette said. “I definitely think I can steer wrestle at the college level, I think we can move up and get up on the standing.”

In addition to steer wrestling and team roping in which Bissonette has competed so far, he is planning to take on bull riding in the spring. Although he hasn’t tried bull riding at college level rodeos yet, he is confident.

“In my first bull [ride], I rode for about six and half seconds, so I think I will be able to ride at [college] level too,” Bissonette said.

It seems that the Central team has started its season in a great position. However, the team still has a lot to worry about through the season.

“It is very expensive to rodeo,” Kay Davis, club instructor, said. “We have to raise funds by ourselves because we don’t get a lot of money from the university.”

According to Davis, horses are required to participate in most of the events, and those are expensive. After riders get their own horses, they need to maintain them. The horses’ feed is also expensive.

Competition costs a lot too. Fuel fees, hotel fees and entrance fees – it’s never-ending when it comes to the cost for the sport.

“It’s tough,” Bissonette said. “I sold a couple of horses in summer to make some money for this winter, and I had three or four jobs this summer.”

Most of the team members have to face this expense issue.

They have to work hard and save up money before they can actually compete during the season. This is one of the reasons why many members are not participating this winter and have to wait until spring.

Although the club constantly raises funds to help its team members pay for the entry fees and travel costs, it is still too short to take these burdens off of their shoulders. The team needs help from other people in order to show its best performance at competitions.

However, even though they have to face these difficulties, there is something that is still making those cowboys and cowgirls go on.

“It is just part of what they absolutely love: being around horses,” Davis said. “Most of them, especially who are pretty successful, they have been riding horses and competing since they were little kids.”

Their love of horses and passions since early childhood is obviously provoking them to keep rodeoing.

“There is no one telling me that I have to ride my horses or anything,” Bissonette said. “It is just what [I really] want to do.”

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My heart will always be here at Central Washington University, I built differently than D-11. This does not mean that all D-1 players are smaller and slower than D-II players. Players built those ways even notice," Hyatt said. "When I was at Ohio University as an intern, there were a total of four full-time employees responsible for covering 20 sports," Gordon said. "At the lower classifications, there is generally just one person, in some cases, there are two full-time employees in an office." Despite all of these differences, there are similarities as well. According to Bennett, both leagues have to deal with the same types of budgets. Also the facilities on both levels are similar. Then there is the competition. The competition is a little different but for the most part, it is the same on both levels. "When you start to play, you don't even notice," Hyatt said.

Although Central lost to St. Mary's in the championship game, Central jumped up one spot in the national rankings to 10th. Central also remains atop the Pacific Northwest Conference after a strong showing in the Pat Vincent Cup. "It has been a team effort all season, our defense has really stepped up only allowing six points in league," Ryan Moore, junior flanker said. The Wildcats now will take a break for the holidays picking back up after the New Year. They will begin practicing Jan. 12, and their first match of the winter season will be Feb. 7 against the University of Oregon.
Reilly top contender for Harlon Hill Trophy
by Ashley Scruggs
Staff reporter

Central Washington University quarterback, senior Mike Reilly, has been invited to a trophy announcement banquet on Dec. 12, 2008, in Florence, Ala. All hard work throughout the duration of his football career led Reilly to be announced as one of the three national finalists for the 2008 Harlon Hill Trophy.

The original list of eight finalists was cut down to three, which include Reilly, running back of Abilene Christian University in Texas, Bernard Scott, and quarterback of the University of North Alabama, A.J. Milwee.

These three finalists received the top votes from the field out of all eight candidates. Candidates were nominated by the sports information directors at 149 schools that compete in Division II sports and those nominations were reviewed by the Hill Regional Advisory Committees, who then selected from that list of candidates.

National voting concluded this past Saturday, and the top three finalists are invited to the Shoals for the presentation banquet. The announcement of the award will be on the eve of the NCAA Division II play-off.

The trophy is sponsored by the City of Florence, Ala. Florence-Lauderdale Tourism, Opti-Net, the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa and Harff Jones. This will be its 23rd anniversary.

Reilly is a prime candidate for this trophy. He completed his collegiate career with the Wildcats on Nov. 15, as Central Washington fell to West Texas A&M, 49-42, in the opening round of the NCAA Division II play-offs.

Reilly, the unanimous 2008 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year, threw for a career-high 426 yards against the Buffaloes, also establishing a single-game career-high for total offensive yards (461) and pass attempts (67).

He matched his career-high of five touchdown passes in the loss to West Texas.

In addition to the single-game totals, Reilly combined against West Texas A&M, he also broke the final two major career passing records in school history, becoming the school's all-time leader for passing attempts (1,553) and pass attempts (61). He finished his career ranked third in Division II history in passing yards and total offense, and his 46 consecutive games with at least one touchdown pass were a NCAA all-divisions record. Reilly also posted a 34-12 record as the Wildcats' starting quarterback.

The other five finalists are Trevor Harris, a junior quarterback from Tusculum in Tennessee, Brad Eciek, a junior quarterback from Grand Valley State in Michigan, Corey Russell, a senior quarterback from Tusculum in Tennessee.

Not only is Reilly top contender for Harlon Hill Trophy, Reilly and Jared Bronson have been named Daktronics All-Regional first team.

Four other Wildcats received second team honors.

Juniors Garrett Rolsha, Courtney Smith, Johnny Spevak and Buddy Wood. Rolsha never missed an extra point all season... making 63 in a row, and scored a school and conference record with 108.

Smith received second team honors for his ability to return kick offs. Smith had two returns for touchdown and averaged 38.3 yards per return on 12 tries.

Spevak set a single season record with 1,448 receiving yards and tied the schools record with 20 touchdowns.

Svevak also moved into second place this season for 100 yard games. Wood strength and reliability at the weak side linebacker enabled him to start all 12 games this season.

He lead the team in tackles with 95, including 12 1/2 for a loss and five quarterback sacks.

The Wildcats' six players selected tied the school record for most in the region.

They trailed Aldene Christain who had nine and seven of them were chosen for the first team.

The Wildcats will lose 11 players to graduation for the 2008 season.
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