Candidates needed, upcoming elections
2010 Board of Directors determined after spring vote

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

The thought of elections is already on the minds of some people at Central Washington University, as spring break and spring quarter are quickly approaching.

Director of Election Brian Dosch, senior political science major, said that the election committee is getting ready to run the election process for the positions on the Associated Students of Central Washington University-Board of Directors (ASCWU-BOD). Although elections aren’t until May 14 students who wish to become candidates can pick up the necessary paperwork from the BOD office, located on the second floor of the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC), as early as the beginning of spring quarter.

“Students should care about the elections because the students who are chosen will be the voice of the student body to the administration,” Dosch said.

BOD President Pedro Navarrete said that it’s too early to tell who will actually be running in the election because he has seen many people say that they intend to run and then drop out of the election process after a week. Although Navarrete declined to respond to rumors that he intends to run for re-election, he said that the president next year will need to tackle important issues such as the budget crisis currently being faced by universities in Washington, as well as rising tuition costs and cuts in the amount of classes offered likely to be implementedit by the administration.

“If a student decides to run for the Board of Directors they need to know that this is a job that requires a lot of work and hours and not a lot of recognition,” Navarrete said.

Navarrete said that candidates need to understand that the BOD isn’t about the paycheck but is about the need to serve the best interests of the entire student body, whatever that might mean. The BOD is, in part, responsible for the future of the university.

Former professor designs award-winning dress

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

A former professor at Central Washington University was awarded for her latest fashion design last month.

The little black dress designed by professor emerita Carolyn Schactler took top honors at the national “Little Black Dress – On the Red Carpet,” competition at Kansas State University on Feb. 27.

“I was absolutely thrilled and delighted,” Schactler said. “Anytime you can win top honors in your field it’s very healthy and wonderful.”

Schactler’s design will be featured in The Little Black Dress exhibition at the university’s Costume and Textile Museum through March.

According to a press release, Schactler’s design featured one bare shoulder and a draped, faux-sleeve held to the wrist by a bracelet of Swarovski crystals. Tiny crystals also border the black, bias-chermed face of the faux-sleeve.

The skirt is finished with a hand-rolled hem and the dress is lined with lace.

Schactler said the dress took two to three weeks, then Rick Bumgardner Photography in Yakima shot the dress on a model.

Her 31 years of designing expertise brought Schactler to Central Washington University, and chaired the apparel design program for 28 years, which she is credited with founding.

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Central's Wellness Center holds video contest

by Charlie Wainger
News editor

Central Washington University's Wildcat Wellness Center would like all students to participate in a video contest to promote its online magazine focusing on healthy student life on campus.

"[We're] looking for fun and creativity," said Gail Farmer, director of Wellness at Central.

Farmer said the winner of the contest will take home a $100 bank card that is valid anywhere.

"Depending on entries there will be a first, second and third place prize," Farmer said.

The video should target incoming freshmen and focus on a range of different topics, like how to party healthy, how to eat healthy or how to practice healthy habits at the Recreational Center. All students interested should visit the online magazine to view existing videos to get an idea of the video parameters, Farmer said.

Farmer said the winning video will be posted in the online magazine for either the orientation issue or the September issue. Video judges will consist of three students and Farmer.

Since September of 2008 the Wellness Center has been using the new online magazine format, which is updated every month. Student Health 101, a non-profit organization, designs the magazine format in Southboro, Mass.

"I think there's a tremendous amount of useful information in a format that is easy to absorb," Farmer said.

So far the magazine has yielded close to 300 hits, but Farmer's goal is to double that.

"[The magazine] is targeted to first year students in residence halls," Farmer said. "We decided we wanted something that gave information in several different formats."

The Wildcat Wellness Center is located in the SURC 139, right next to the U.S. Bank.

For more information

Gail Farmer
Director of Wellness
509-963-3214
Farmer@cwu.edu
Check out the magazine at: www.cwu.edu/wellness/

"I think that climbing is a great way to push your mental and physical self while having fun and spending time with friends."
Mike Dove, OPR climbing staff.
Discovery offers middle school students an alternative

by Michael Ingram
Staff reporter

Black Hall is home to Discovery, an alternative middle-level learning program designed to help students who prefer a more hands-on learning experience. Discovery has helped students who struggle in performance, attendance, and have felt isolated or alienated in their previous academic career. The program, launched in 2007, was created to enhance students' belief in themselves.

"This is the first truly successful middle-level alternative school we've had in Ellensburg," said John Graf, lead teacher.

At Discovery, students are offered a smaller, supportive learning environment that they would not receive in a normal educational setting. It is an academically-focused, educational alternative program that places a strong emphasis on hands-on learning and community involvement. According to Graf, they have approximately a dozen college students come in each day to help Discovery students with areas in which they struggle.

"We have nearly every academic department from Central Washington University's College of Education come in and help," Graf said. Andrew Kroupa, senior secondary mathematics major, has helped students at Discovery for two months now. He has dedicated two hours of each day to come in and help students with individual tutoring, mentoring, and lesson delivery.

"This program is a unique opportunity not only for the middle school students but for the college students as well," said Kroupa. According to Graf, the Discovery program currently has 11 students - eight males and three females. The program has two seventh graders and the rest are eighth graders. They hope to have 18 students for the next school year. Funding comes from the Ellensburg School District, not from a private funder. Discovery follows the Ellensburg School District calendar and provides everything a normal educational setting would. The students meet 180 days a year: five days a week for six hours a day.

An open house will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in Black Hall. It is an opportunity for potential students to come in and see what Discovery is all about. Central Washington University's math and science education students have thoroughly planned learning activities for the families that have been invited to attend.
Women's achievement celebration honors community members

by Quinn Eddy
Asst. News Editor

On Wednesday, March 4, the 11th annual Women's Achievement Celebration took place in the luxurious Sue Lombard Dining room. The formal event recognized people who have worked to better the lives of women in the Ellensburg community.

According to Alicia Adiele, senior public health major, the award ceremony was created by Katrina Whitney, director of the Center for Student Empowerment to show thanks to everyone within the Ellensburg community who contribute to women's achievements and success.

The three awards presented were the Women's Achievement Award, the Keys to Success Award and the Student Empowerment Award.

Speakers included Central Washington University's President James Gaudino and professor of English Dr. Bobby Cummings.

"It felt like a community, very inviting," said Roxann Smith, junior pre-nursing major.

Before the dinner of roasted chicken, sautéed green beans, salad and apple pie, President James Gaudino took center stage and addressed the gathering.

"He talked about the history of women on our campus," said Stephanie Sype, a women's studies major.

The Women's Achievement Award is presented to either men or women within the community who have shown support towards women's issues. According to Adiele, the people who win this award are individuals who through accomplishments and personal statements have reflected support of women's achievements.

Winners of the award this year were Teresa Francis, law and justice professor and Black Student Union co-advisor; Dr. Delores Cleary, professor of sociology; Miriam Bocchetti, program director of the College Assistance Migrant Program, Staci Sleigh-Layman, director of the Office for Equal Opportunity, and Dr. Laura Appleton professor of sociology.

It was in shock to hear some of the amazing things people have done," Sype said.

"I was in shock to hear some of the amazing things people have done," Stephanie Sype, a fashion and merchandise major, said.

The Keys to Success Award was presented to Stephanie Sype for her contributions during Domestic Violence Awareness Week.

"I didn't feel like I deserved an award compared with the other award winners," Adiele felt that overall, the night was a great success and that everybody who won an award was very deserving.

Counterfeit 50-dollar-bills from Yakima infiltrate the Pacific Northwest

by Megan Peters
Staff reporter

A Yakima woman was sentenced to one year in prison for passing counterfeit 50-dollar-bills all across the Pacific Northwest.

Melissa Rachelle Flannery, 20, passed approximately 100 counterfeit bills in Yakima, Ellensburg, and Oregon in 2007.

Flannery was arrested by her former boyfriend Cameron Gaunt and their roommate, Fred Meyer operations manager Fred Meyer in Ellensburg. Gaunt pled guilty to one count of counterfeit related conspiracy and was sentenced in August to 37 months in prison.

Buchanan pled guilty last August to knowingly passing a counterfeit bill at Fred Meyer in Ellensburg. His sentence was one year in prison.

Selah detectives tracked her down off of a tip from a drug informant. According to the police report Flannery told investigators that she and Gaunt used the money taken in restitution to pay $22,600 on a house in Renton.

"We train our detectives, and if we don't catch it, the banks do." While all stores train their employees to spot counterfeit bills some stores also use a marker on bills over $50 to detect counterfeiters. Other stores in Ellensburg do not accept any bills over $20 believing that counterfeiters are using this to get caught trying to use a counterfeit I didn't even know I had," said Raybia Khalid, sophomore psychology major.

"I do not want to get caught trying to use a counterfeit I didn't even know I had," said Raybia Khalid, sophomore psychology major.

Currently Flannery is under federal hold in the Yakima County Jail on second degree burglary charges that are a result of a July 2007 break-in at the T & T Tavern in Selah, Wash. She was an employee at the business at the time of the burglary.

Secret Service agents along with Selah detectives tracked her down off of a tip from a drug informant. According to the police report Flannery told investigators that she and Gaunt used the money taken from the tavern for a deposit on a house in Renton.

Ellensburg extends energy group agreement

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

Ellensburg Energy Services is looking for ways to help local grocery stores reduce energy consumption.

A consent agreement between the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Energy and the city of Ellensburg would allow hired contractors to work under the Smart Grocer's program, which provides free energy audits to identify measures to reduce energy consumption.

The agreement to implement the program goes hand in hand with BPA and the city, has been in effect since December 2007. It has done audits on four commercial businesses and three supermarkets.

"We're trying to glean out some administrative errors," explained Eric Halvorson, program manager at BPA.

"[Also, we're trying to address a hard to reach segment of the market...in refrigeration...this is ongoing, so I think we're continuing to work with the city to uncover more energy saving opportunities."

But grocery stores are not just limited to those that qualify for the program — Ellensburg commercial businesses that operate refrigeration systems, such as convenience stores and restaurants, are eligible for a 15% discount. Since January 2007, the program, sponsored by BPA and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), has helped 125 businesses save over 10 million kilowatt-hours of energy.

For more information:

City of Ellensburg Human Resources

Phone: 509-982-7222
Address: 501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Audubon society gets green light to rehabilitate land

by Gloria Staley-Malenic
Staff reporter

The Ellensburg City Council unanimously accepted Kittitas Audubon Society's (KAS) proposal to rehabilitate the eastern part of the undeveloped area of the West Ellensburg Park during the City Council meeting March 2.

According to the proposal, the project is to attract wildlife through the planting of native vegetation and enhancement of ponds.

The city council is in the process of making an agreement for the city and KAS to sign. According to Gloria Baldi, former president of KAS, the agreement should be done within a couple of weeks.

"They want to do it, so within a month we should have it in our hands," Baldi said. "Or else we will press for it because we need it when we start looking for grants."

The approximately 20 acres of land in the flood zone of Reecer Creek is commonly known as the "pond area." This area will be addressed by KAS.

Brad Case, director of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department, believes this new renovation will bring a nice blend for the park property. The developed park has many planned activities going on and to add a place for passive recreation where one can observe nature brings a nice balance, Case said.

"It will ultimately create a recreational spot that everyone can go to and participate in activities of their interests," Case said. "This project will help us strike that balance."

The rehabilitation work is expected to begin sometime after October 2009 and according to Baldi, it will be done in three to five years. The project proposal says the improvements will be accomplished exclusively through volunteer donations of labor, materials, services and funds from grants.

"We are going to search out any and all possibilities that offer monies to rehabilitate these natural habitats," Baldi said. "We hope to put together a good proposal and then we'll keep applying to get enough."

Baldi said she is excited to get the project complete. The biggest problem, according to Baldi, will be keeping the plants and foliage alive. Once planted, all the plants and trees need time to get deep roots and plant themselves down. All the plants will be natural species accustomed to the climate so there should not be a lot of maintenance, Baldi said.

Any maintenance that is needed will not be done by KAS, but instead it will be the responsibility of the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department. According to Case this responsibility involves the keeping of the area, spraying the land, general upkeep and housekeeping.

Another restoration project, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP), is re-routing Reecer Creek. The YTAHP will begin construction first in the area just west of where the KAS project will take place.

"Anytime someone who wants to see wildlife or observe birds from the West side, because the birds are different, they can come here," Baldi said. "It will be a nice place for people to hike and walk and just enjoy their selves in the outdoors."

The new park will attract people interested in bird watching to Ellensburg, and they could stay overnight or eat at the local restaurants, Baldi said.
Campus’ academic advising lacking
by Veronica Terrell
Special to the Observer

All new incoming freshmen, continuing and transfer students, are given an academic advisor upon arrival at Central Washington University.

General advisors serve students by providing general tips, information and help students get accepted into a major. According to the Academic Advising Center’s website, “The mission of the Academic Advising Center is to coordinate and support an advising program that helps students develop and realize meaningful and responsible educational goals.”

The center attempts this by providing students’ information and counsel, supporting personal, academic and professional growth, as well as empowering students to make effective decisions regarding educational opportunities. Many students who are behind on classes get further behind when it comes time to sign up for classes because they receive a late enrollment date.

Not everyone’s experience with general academic advising has been negative. Some students have had positive experiences with central advisors. Many feel that general advisors only help to an extent. Upon reaching a certain point they are told to find someone else who can help. This is the point when students need the most help, a little guidance to get into the major and why they have to go get a department advisor.

As of the 2008/2009 academic school year, Academic Advising has made a few changes. “Starting this fall, all freshmen were advised by professional advisors,” said Central academic advisor, Scott Carlton. “Starting this coming fall, most of the University 101 sections will also be taught by the professional advisors. We also require all freshmen to meet with an advisor before they can register, which is a little different than some other schools.”

There are ways to help improve advising on campus and ensure that new students are given the guidance needed to excel. First, increase the number of advising staff to allow more interaction with students.

According to Carlton, simple changes could make a big difference in student satisfaction with advising and career guidance. Additional advisors will allow more proactive advising of new transfer students. Other suggestions include requiring at least one faculty member in each department to be the advising contact or main advisor for the department. To do this, advising faculty need to be given workload pay for advising.

Construction management team stirs up national championship

by Quinn Eddy
Asst. News Editor

Central Washington University’s construction management commercial team took second place behind Colorado State University at the Associated General Contractors of America’s (AGC) 90th Annual Convention and Expo in San Diego, Calif.

Central’s team was the only group from Washington state to place at a national level.

At the AGC’s convention and Expo, students battled it out in a two-day simulated construction project against students from all over the country.

“They were judged on how well they bid out the project,” said Michoan Spoelstra, department advisor for the department. To do this, advising faculty need to be given workload pay for advising.
Everyone has a story

Kayla Schroader
Editor-in-Chief

One quarter down, one to go. That's right folks, I'm returning to my position for Spring quarter, as are seven of our eleven section editors. So, whether you love my weekly columns, hate me as a person or simply opted to skip over my pages each week, I'm not done with you just yet.

Last quarter I had a few requests for a "get to know me" piece. As I journal my various opinions from week to week, some of my readers may not hear the voice behind my words. I figured with this being our last issue of Winter quarter and a whole load of new issues to come next season, now would be a good time for a heart-to-heart.

As you might have guessed, I'm studying print journalism in my senior year. I love people and I love to write. To combine these in an artistic lifestyle magazine would be my dream come true.

I started writing at the ripe age of eight. I wanted to be a poet that year. My first masterpiece was a short poem on the magnificence of fireworks. Every other line rhymed. But I moved to Central with different aspirations. I wanted to major in early childhood education, as I've always had a passion for the imagination and sincerity of children. Most of my best friends are under the age of five. They are mighty dramatic but keep me smiling and teach me something new everyday. I also figure that if I have the patience to deal with a kicking and screaming 2-year-old, I can handle any breed of adult. With this in mind, I found myself a job at the Early Education and Foundational Center and my picture's been on the wall for the past three years. I ended up changing my major though, which is no surprise considering I am extremely indecisive. I wanted a career path that would nurture my flexibility, and allow me to travel as well as to allow me to spend time at home with my own kids, someday.

Communication and I clicked. I both appreciate and exhibit superior people skills. So, I plugged into my writing and art skills, as if they were a missing piece of my puzzle (I love to puzzle).

I signed up for the Observer and fell in love with the publication as well as Cynthia Mitchell, one of my most influential professors, and her strong support for the First Amendment. I've been hooked ever since.

In my magazine editorial internship, I met an 11-year-old who still believes in Santa, a charming gardener approaching his 100th year of life, and the mayor of Federal Way.

These two journalistic experiences combined have solidified my decision to follow this route. Everyone has a story and nearly every story embraces a life lesson. I can't say I'd be the woman I am today if I didn't have the pleasure of encountering these individuals.

The talent to take someone's life or experience and sculpt it thoughtfully onto paper is one which I am slowly but surely appreciating.

I identify for the news reporting and I am honored to have a hand in our university publication. However, I have seen far too many gossip columns that I can't help but hate what we do. It is true; we have to dig in the dirt to find our stories, but it is your right to know. We do it for you. I hate to think where our nation would be without a free press.

But there is no denying that I would much rather interview a girl about her love for Sandy Hook than be the widow or corrupt politician.

In my childhood I embraced the performing arts, nature and travel, which aren't usually the most newsworthy topics. But it brings a light to everyday life, which honestly, is exactly what we need in such dark times. Thankfully, in the Observer, there is a time, and a page for both kind of stories.

Rhonda Watts
Junior
English major

Graduation looms over seniors

College graduates cope with a slumping economy

Tristan Gorringe
Assistant graphic designer

Typically the thought of graduating from college this spring would bring joy and excitement to many seniors. But for many students who have only a few short months left at Central, they are beginning to feel uncertain and scared of their future outside of Central.

The transition into the real world would for many, possess more of a "what now?" type of mentality. The economy is in a slump and even less jobs are available for college graduates this year than before. This has many rethinking their post-college life.

"In the past I was excited to graduate and be done with school and start my career. But now with the economy the way it is, it has me more scared then excited," said Brooke Mortensen, senior print journalism major.

For many, getting an internship after graduation is there only real sense of comfort. The thought of being offered a job upon completion of their internship is their only back-up plan if students are not already offered a job directly out of college.

"I have a marketing and PR internship; its unpaid but they are trying to find money in their budget to provide me with a type of weekly stipend," said Justine Fowler, senior public relations major.

Again, though an internship can prove to be the best way of transitioning into a full-time job for graduates, there are no guarantees you will be paid for your hard work.

With bills and college loans to pay off, not having any source of income for graduates can be quite stressful on where they're going to go when done with school.

With all these favorable variables one must implement a back-up plan. Buy Lottery tickets, and hope to win it big and retire by the age of 25.

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words or less) from readers on current issues.

Include the author's full name and university affiliation, year and major, degree and year graduated or department.

All letters become property of The Observer. E-mail letters to cassobserver@gmail.com or visit our blog at observerletterstotheditor.blogspot.com.

Good luck on finals! Enjoy Spring Break!

See you in April

-the Observer staff
In the tankonomy, students are scrambling to save money. Here are ten relatively painless ways to keep your money from escaping your wallet.

1. Buy food & drinks in bulk.
2. Make a list of all the luxuries you still spend money on in order to cut half of them. Now stop buying these things.
3. Get a used bike and save gas money as well as the environment.
4. Check for free entertainment (student intranet, Observer, community events, etc).
5. Start a savings jar. At the end of the quarter, change your coin into cold, hard cash. Then deposit it rather than spend it.
6. Keep track of who's moving out, and be nice to them, so you can ask for their stuff when they make the move.

Support freedom of choice

The public has been given 30 days to speak. On Feb. 27, 2009, just one day after announcing the budget with much fanfare and media attention, Barack Obama quietly posted a small detail of a story someone is telling. The public has been given 30 days to speak.

The Good Conscience Clause allows health care professionals to challenge a class, or a professor, or even your friends. You have a right to challenge ideas and people.

Pet peeves to chew on

How do you feel about parking tickets? They suck. I've seen so many...five in a row. (The parking guy) is really good [at his job] actually.

Can you eat a Reese? Bite all around the edges until it's quarter size. Then pop it in your mouth.

What does the president look like? I don't understand this behavior. It prevents them from enjoying their food because they are too busy displaying it to the rest of us. If I wanted to know if you were having to eat I would just ask. I don't need you to show me the bits of food inside your mouth.

All of us at the table try to look at each other, our glasses, anywhere other than the chomping cow's direction while bits of foodsplash the plate, tablecloth and serving dishes around him. As my mother always said, "Were you born in a barn?"

Now I can be a little flexible if the person chewing with their mouth open is young but it is completely outrageous for an adult to be participating in this behavior.

I don't understand this behavior. It prevents them from enjoying their food because they are too busy displaying it to the rest of us. If I wanted to know if you were having to eat I would just ask. I don't need you to show me the bits of food inside your mouth.
Students slowly trickled into their seats and at 7 p.m., the lights turned off and a loud hip hop beat blasted through the speakers. Then 26-year-old David Garibaldi took center stage.

He grabbed paint brushes in both hands and began rhythmically stroking the brushes across the six-foot canvas. As he jumped around the stage, full of energy, he splashed paint gracefully onto the canvas. He paused a few times to pump up the crowd and encourage people to cheer as loudly as possible. President Barack Obama's voice boomed on the music track chanting, "Yes we can!"

If you weren't watching Garibaldi last Tuesday, March 10, present his performance of the art show "Rhythm and Hue" at the Student Union and Recreation Center Ballroom (SURC), you missed an experience of a lifetime.

One of the people that insisted on bringing Garibaldi to Central was senior sociology major and president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (ME.Ch.A.) was Yecenia Valdivia. She heard about Garibaldi at a conference in San Francisco, Calif. When she saw him perform she knew that Central had to see him.

"I was blown away," Valdivia said. "He is amazing and is a cool guy that doesn't take anything for granted."

It took only minutes for Garibaldi to create a six-foot portrait of Barack Obama. When he finished all 300 people or so cheered loudly and half the crowd left their seats for a standing ovation.

He then proceeded to talk about how he started off doing graffiti all over his home town of Sacramento. He was going down a rough road until a teacher challenged him to pursue his art in a more purposeful way.

With no high school diploma and zero money in the bank Garibaldi knew he wanted to use his art in a positive way and inspire people. The theme he reiterated throughout the performance was "overcoming adversity while living purposefully and passionately."

He took a break from his inspirational speech and once again paint was flying. He splattered vibrant colors everywhere and before you knew it, a nose was formed, then eyes, and soon an amazing painting of Alisha Keys appeared on the canvas.

"I want to use this platform for more than just entertainment," Garibaldi said. "I also want people to benefit from this and be inspired."

Garibaldi's art and performances has raised over $400,000 for non-profit organizations so far, his goal is to raise one million dollars by the time he is 30.

Throughout the entire performance the crowd was involved whether it was cheering, snapping their fingers, or dancing. People watched Garibaldi, mesmerized, while Cesar Chavez's face came to life on the next canvas.

"He's amazing!" said John Mounsey, assistant director for the Diversity Education Center. "He really pumps up the crowd and is inspirational."

Garibaldi ended his inspirational speech and art show while painting an upside-down portrait. It seemed abstract at first and the faces in the crowd looked confused. When Garibaldi flipped the entire canvas around Albert Einstein appeared. Every person in the crowd gave him a standing ovation and the cheering didn't seem to stop.

"Dreams are not just things we do at night," Garibaldi states. "They are the blueprints to our futures."

"Rhythm and Hue" was sponsored by the Equity and Services Council, ME.Ch.A., the Diversity Education Center, Campus Life, the David Wain Center for Excellence in Leadership, the Bridges Program, the art department, the College Assistance Migrant Program, the Center for Student Empowerment and the Latino/Latin American Studies Program.

The Diversity Center is trying to get Garibaldi back here for fall quarter and if you want to know more about this truly talented artist and new clothing line he just launched, go to his Web site at www.garibaldiarts.com.
Caitlin Segal-Mains, junior psychology major, prepares Hamantashen, a Jewish dish.

The smells of homemade Hamantashen baking in the oven and the voices of friends filled the air of the common room in Moore Hall at 6:00 p.m. on March 10.

The Jewish Student Organization (JSO) hosted a Purim party open to everyone at 6 p.m. on March 10 in Moore Hall.

Caitlin Segal-Mains, junior psychology major, was baking fresh Hamantashen for the Purim party. Hamantashan is a traditional Purim pastry in the shape of a triangle filled with jelly in the middle.

"In the story of Purim, the king's advisor's name in Haman," Segal-Mains said "the Hamantashen is supposed to resemble Haman's hat. Traditionally, when his name is said on this holiday people make lots of noise with noise makers called groggers, and people boo to his name also."

Purim is presented from the book of Esther. This holiday takes place between the 13th and 15th days of Adar which is the 12th month of the religious year on the Hebrew calendar. The Jewish calendar has a leap month every seven years as opposed to the Gregorian calendar which has a leap year every four years.

"Purim is the celebration of the Jewish people from Persia," said Dylan Baker, senior philosophy major and vice president of the Jewish Student Organization. "This is a traditional Jewish holiday."

The victory over Persia was on the 13th day of Adar, and the 14th day, a day of celebration. In Esther 9:22, it is said that the 14th day is a day of feasting and gladness, and sending delicacies to one another, and gifts to the poor.

"There is going to be a lot of food and everyone is welcome," Baker said. "This is our first Purim party. Last year the organization was failing and this year it has grown."

The JSO helps Jewish students live their culture, according to Baker. It is also hard being away from a their families and this organization is to help build an alternative Jewish community. The JSO provides a community where Jewish students on campus can come together to celebrate Purim.

"I am Catholic but I came to this party to celebrate with friends," Ted Blum, senior safety and health management major, said. "It is a time of remembrance of the people who were lost in harder times and I think that applies to all religions, not just one or the other."

Due to the lack of participation in past years, there has not been a Purim Party on campus. However, last year's event did include a Hanukkah celebration last year. Unfortunately, they were unable to have a celebration this year since Hanukkah fell during winter break.

While Purim is a way to celebrate the freedom of the Jewish people from Persia, the party was a gathering of friends from all religions coming together to celebrate friendship and good times. Also, Purim is a way to learn more about the Jewish religion.

"I am Christian and I am here to celebrate with my friends," Melanie Neifert, senior early childhood education and theatre education major, said. "It is good to learn about this because then you can see why they believe the things they do and in a world like ours it is all about making peace. This is a good way to come together."

Whiskies showcased at local tasting event

by Amber Ramento
Staff reporter

Whiskies of the West is an event that will showcase whiskies from around the world.

Berle "Rusty" Figgins Jr. will host the event scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on March 14 at the Clymer Museum of Art. Figgins is the owner of The Ellensburg's Distillery.

Figgins was the former manager of Cave B Winery for four years and owns a brandy distillery in Mattawa, Wash. He then opened The Ellensburg Distillery and is making whiskey, and whiskey-based spirits such as honey-beer liqueur. Figgins said that whiskey is made from distilled beer.

Kathy Mandelas, office manager of the Clymer Museum, said that this is the first time Ellensburg has had such an event.

"I am very excited to meet Rusty and to learn the process of how to make whiskey," Mandelas said.

Mia Merendino, museum director, said that not only is this a fundraiser for the museum, but the event is a great way to garner recognition for the master distiller.

The whiskey tasting will start at 6:30 p.m. March 14 and will be somewhat like "a Whiskey 101" because the public can learn the process of making Rusty's whiskey.

There are five different types including Scotch, Irish, bourbon, hennessey, and rye. Participants will have the opportunity to taste two different whiskies: an expensive one and a more moderately-priced one.

For me this is really about the partnership aspect, the more we bring people together in Ellensburg, the more fun things are," Merendino said. "I think this is a really great thing for Ellensburg."

The Ellensburg Distillery was licensed in November and Figgins claims that the rye whiskey will soon be bottled and sold throughout the state at licensed liquor stores.

"I am excited about educating people about the different styles of whiskies from around the world," Figgins said. "We are hoping to make this an annual event."

Figgins has had a great time with the distillery he owns but there is more to it than just having fun. He said that it is hard to find a large enough space and get licensed.

"You also have to have a lot of patience, be able to manage money and it does require skill," Figgins said.

Tickets for Whiskies of the West should be purchased prior to the day of the event. Tickets are $22 each and guests must be 21 years or older to attend.
Fairy Godmother saves prom

Amy Thompson
Staff reporter

For high school students, it's nearing that time of the school year when tuxedos, dresses, makeup, and accessories are in the forefront. With prom coming up, it's one of the most exciting times and important events for high school students. Unfortunately, it can also be a leading factor to an empty wallet.

The Fashion Club is here to help. This year they are starting an annual fundraiser called the Fairy Godmother Project. The club members collect used prom dresses of previous attendees and sell them for $10 to high school students who have a budget to keep in mind.

"I think it's going to help those who can't afford the nice dresses because of the economy," says Andrea Eklund, fashion merchandising major, "I feel really good about it because Ellensburg is such a small town, they don't always get the chance to go out and get that special dress."

"Everyone deserves to have their dream dress," Jenni Martini, senior fashion merchandising major and president of the Fashion Club, said. "The Fashion Club isn't just here to look and judge clothing. We're looking to give back to the community, in a fashionable way."

During the weeks before and after spring break, March 16 thru March 20 and March 31 thru April 3, at Central Washington University, Fashion Club members will be on the first floor of the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to collect dresses from people willing to donate. The Fashion Club will reward those who donate with a free T-shirt which is still being designed.

From noon to 3 p.m. on April 10 in the Ellensburg High School cafeteria, girls will be able to browse through all of the dresses that have been collected.

"One thing I think is great is that it gets the members involved in the community," Andrea Eklund, professor of fashion merchandising, said.

"They really do care and want to do a lot for the community."

The club will also be auctioning off more expensive dresses during this time by taking live bids during the session.

The money that is made from the Fairy Godmother Project will go in part towards a trip to New York for the Fashion Club. They will take a four-day tour of fashion and educational sites. The fundraising profit will also go toward the annual Fairy Show, held in the SURC Theatre in June. The date is yet to be set for the show.

According to Martini, the Fashion Club is trying to find ways to raise awareness and boost community involvement for the club.

"[The club wants] to make it possible for girls to have their dream dresses and have the experience they should," Martini said.

With the goal of providing a means for girls with a restrictive budget to still live their dream prom, the Fashion Club

Stories, games, crafts at Storytime

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

On Saturday, March 7, four young children and two weary mothers trickled into the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) pit for Storytime.

Civic Engagement Center (CEC) service learning fellow Michelle Smith is a senior double major in elementary and early childhood education. Smith coordinated Storytime to help expand literacy in Kittitas County.

After each story, the children burned off energy by mimicking volunteers in games.

During craft time, the children dressed up en masse into a monkey mask, a frog or their own animal puppet with colorful pipe cleaners.

Bianca Bailey, who moved to Ellensburg from Orlando, Fla., plans to bring her children back for the next Storytime. Of her three children Austin 6, Cory 5 and Camryn 2, she thought that Austin enjoyed Storytime the most. Her daughter Camryn was a little shy during the first time they attended because Ellensburg is such a small town, they don't always get the chance to go out and get that special dress.

"I think it's going to help those who can't afford the nice dresses because of the economy," says Andrea Eklund, fashion merchandising major, "I feel really good about it because Ellensburg is such a small town, they don't always get the chance to go out and get that special dress."

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With the goal of providing a means for girls with a restrictive budget to still live their dream prom, the Fashion Club
Models show the creativity of eco-friendly fashion and design dresses by Central Washington University fashion club students at the Forever Green event Friday, March 6.

by Erica Spalti
Staff reporter

Smiling students and faculty, girls in cocktail dresses, men in suits, and champagne toasts are the best ways to describe the environment surrounding the museum benefit Friday night.

At 6 p.m. on March 6, the Museum of Culture and Environment benefit took place in the remodeled Dean Hall.

"There are two major focuses to the museum: cultural diversity and environmental stewardship," Bill Woods, museum director, said. "Anything that has to do with culture or the environment you will find here. We want to bring the community here."

While touring the museum a spectator would find facts about carbon emissions and the impact that smart cars have on the environment. There was also an interactive part of the museum, where people could vote for the new museum logo. The new logo will be announced in one month on the museum Web site at www.cwu.edu/-museum.

One of the exhibits on opening night was a collection of 166 water bottles. This plastic pile shows how many water bottles a person can go through in a years' time; a scary statistic to some, but a way to open the eyes of people and get them to reuse what they have.

There were many reusable items at the benefit including the 'green' fashion walking around the benefit all night.

Tiffany Moore, junior fashion merchandising major, was modeling a pink strapless dress with a mermaid bottom made of light pink tulle designed and created by David Reimer, a junior application design major.

"I got the idea from a photo I have in my house and I really liked the color," Reimer said. "I also found the tulle for the bottom at Goodwill so the entire dress cost about $9 to make."

Reimer also designed a dress made from a blue men's suit jacket that had a lace bodice. This "Titanic" inspired dress was worn by Stephanie Kim, a junior fashion merchandising major.

The museum will be hosting many events starting in spring 2009. According to Kathryn Kahl, a junior anthropology major with a museum specialization and president of the museum student club, they will be hosting movie nights that have a special interest to anthropology and other related fields.

"We are going to show movies such as "Night at the Museum" and "The Da Vinci Code," and then we are going to bring in a community member or a professor to come in and talk to the audience about the hidden meanings in these movies so that people can learn to look for them during the movie," Kahl said.

The whole benefit was definitely something different around campus. With a sinister atmosphere and an uptown feel, this event made for a night out for many.

The benefit was orchestrated by professor Pat Deffenbaugh's COM 470 class. The class used to put on fake events on campus, but when Deffenbaugh arrived, he decided his students should put on real events on campus.

"All the money that we get for these events goes back to the community," Deffenbaugh said. "I do not care if the events succeed or not, there is learning that takes place. I mean, look at these kids, they are smiling and so proud."
Local studio produces classic tale

by Ryan Ricigliano
Staff reporter

Cinderella is a story of a young girl who is besieged by her evil stepsisters and wants to attend the ball and fall in love with her prince charming. The story originated as a classic fairy tale and has since been retold, re-imagined and recreated countless times for audiences across all generations.

The latest adaptation of Cinderella to Ellensburg is produced by the Stage Door Dance Studio. A ballet interpretation of the timeless tale will be held at Morgan Middle School this coming weekend.

"What our production is and what makes it different from other classical ballet productions is that we have narration throughout," said Jane Venezia, school director and artistic director for the performance. "It's really easy for say a person, or younger audience members to follow along with the story."

According to Venezia, ballet tends to have very little narration and can be difficult to follow. She has created and directed five other ballet performances in this full narration style and has found them to be quite successful. This is also her third recreation of the Cinderella story.

"When coming up with this idea I was thinking, 'Well, gee, I sure would like to get more people who don't know much about ballet or young children exposed to this, and introduce them to it in a way where they won't fall asleep," Venezia said.

Stage Door's version of Cinderella features children, teenagers and adult performers of approximately 35 members. Kim Norelius, local Ellensburg resident, has two young daughters in the performance and feels that it is an excellent opportunity for them.

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"I think it's great. It gives them a chance to dance in front of the public, to gain confidence and stage presence," Norelius said.

Mica Rosser and Jonathan Belford were lucky enough to score the production's biggest parts: Cinderella and Prince Charming.

"For me, it is really fun to mingle with the kids and have them come up to you and say 'Cinderella, Cinderella," Rosser said.

Both were admittedly excited about their lead roles and have found the whole process very rewarding.

"The whole experience for me has been awesome as I haven't danced in a while," Belford said. "It's been really challenging having to learn everything in two weeks. We are pretty pressed for time."

Venezia hopes that the performance will go off well and that Stage Door Dance Studio will continue to expand.

"What we're trying to build here at the school is a semi-professional performance company that would incorporate student dancers and also members of the community," Venezia said. "If we ever get out of this economic rut, we'd like to hire guest artists and start touring the area."

Venezia feels that the arts are of "utmost importance" and something that should be embraced by children and adults alike.

"It's a great thing to be able to get kids, especially when they're young, excited about the arts and have them want to learn more about it and be inspired about it," Venezia said.
Students vacation with purpose

by Mimi Oh  
Staff reporter

While many students elect to spend spring break and the beginning of the quarter watching TV and enjoying warming temperatures, two groups will be serving people in need in exotic locales.

The Center for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) will travel to El Salvador on a "service-learning trip," which means that students learn as they help other people. A dozen students and CEL leaders Jesse Nelson and Joanne Perez, will travel to El Salvador from Apr. 3 to Apr. 10.

Diversity Education Center programmer Shawn Gatlabayan said he joined the trip because he didn't want to sit around and do nothing.

"I'm actually doing something that's fun, educational and helping other people," Gatlabayan said.

Gatlabayan and the CEL will teach English to school-children, paint classrooms and the City Hall, in the country's capital, and biggest city, San Salvador. Students will visit deceased Archbishop Oscar Romero's chapel to speak with Sister Bernardita.

At the Central American University's Martyr's Museum and History of El Salvador, students will learn about the country's history. Also, they will meet with government official Leslie Schuld, director of the Center for Exchange and Solidarity.

"We'll work with the farmers in beans and vegetables, organic plantations," CEL Program Supervisor Joanne Perez said. "And then we'll also be doing some sports activities with [children] and some arts and crafts ... One night is going to be a cultural night where we will learn about folklore and Mayan dance and music."

Currently, the CEL is raising funds. During the days leading up to Valentine's Day, they sold flowers and donuts. They are also soliciting donations from businesses downtown to hold a raffle. Raffle tickets are $1. Students so far have only had to pay a $50 deposit to guarantee their participation.

Perez listed off some of the raffle prizes, which include a gift bag from Linder's Chiropractic, two lift tickets to the Summit at Snoqualmie, gift certificates to many restaurants downtown, gift certificates for dinner at the Bar 14 Ranch House, lunch for two at the West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel and a $50 Wildcat Shop gift certificate. Students are hoping to get more raffle prize donations.

While the CEL is focusing on physical labor and cultural learning in their service, a Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) group is aiming to minister, as well as serve people.

CCC is taking approximately 10 people to Croatia. Their purpose is to continue a dialogue about faith with the CCC group established at the University of Rijeka, near the Adriatic Sea. The group was started up during CCC staff member John Rozzelle's previous stay in Croatia.

CCC, whose weekly meetings are known as Fuel will be departing Central on March 20, and will return March 28. Rozzelle, however, is departing earlier on March 14.

American Michael Leahy will join them. Leahy is the author of "Porn-Nation," which outlines his belief that pornography is damaging. His discussion on intimacy issues will be translated into Croatian. Leahy's group has been organizing the bulk of the trip to Croatia. Another CCC group will be coming from Montana.

The Croatian CCC is known as Every Student, due to the implications of the word "cru­scade." Croatia is 90 percent Catholic, but the citizens are not very participatory in faith activities, according to Rozzelle. Protestantism, Judaism and Islam have a minimal presence.

"One of my desires is for students from here to have meaningful dialogue with Croatian students—about life, culture, God," Rozzelle said. "Prior to [Every student], there was really no Christian group on campus that students had as a spiritual resource. So now, students that want to grow in their faith have a place to get connected."

After graduating with a degree in communications, Rozzelle spent two years abroad in Croatia, establishing Every-Student. He met with students one-on-one and got their perspectives on Jesus. In addition to Bible studies, he held English workshops and movie discussions. He also travelled to Slovenia, which is next to Croatia.

"I think my favorite aspect of living there is developing relationships with Croats and being able to invest in their lives," Rozzelle said. "Most of them don't really have an outlet to explore spiritual truth ... For me, it's just the Croats are a people with no hope. Their history has been riddled with war and their religion hasn't offered them hope. And even though the people are very kind and genuine, it's sad to see that there's really nothing that gives them life."

CCC is raising funds primarily through letter-writing. They are budgeting for approximately $1600 per head, including airfare. Staff members, including Rozzelle, must also raise their own funds.

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Corrections

In last week's Observer, the address for the Featherfoot art show was incorrect. The art show was at Fourth and Ruby.

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Photo courtesy of John Rozzelle

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Basketball seniors havin' a ball

MVP: Penoncello

Matt Penoncello is a six foot five, 210-pound guard from Moscow, Idaho.

He attended Eastern Washington University before he transferred to Central.

Penoncello is a two-year varsity here at Central Washington University.

Matt has been the offensive juggernaut on the court for Central the past two years.

During that time, he averaged 14.3 points per game and 5.7 rebounds per game and had a 46.7 field goal shooting percentage.

This year Matt had a career high 36 points in a 100 to 89 win against St. Martin's.

He averaged 14.8 points per game and 5.8 rebounds per game this year, earning him first team all-conference honors.

Penoncello ends his two years at Central with 731 points and 290 rebounds.

MVP: Tanneberg

Hilary Tanneberg, a 23-year-old accounting major, has been a crucial part of Central Washington women's basketball.

Tanneberg has proven that she is a dominant force for the Wildcats.

The 2008-2009 campaign was definitely her breakout season. In the 2008-2009 season, Tanneberg scored a team high 222 points in 24 games.

"My favorite memory with the team would definitely be the road trips," said Tanneberg, "I especially liked the trips to Las Vegas and Hawaii.

Spring time is the most fun for Tanneberg while she is here. This is the time that she can really relax after a long season. You can usually find her floating in the river, taking in the sun.

Location is one of the reasons why Tanneberg decided to play for Central.

"I chose to play for Central because it was close to home," said Tanneberg, "Central also has a good business school.

Once she graduates in the spring, she'll be looking forward to getting into starting her accounting career.

Scorecard '07-'09

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Scorecard '05-'09

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Recognizing excellence: '08-'09 seniors

Brandon Foote
by Laura Mittieder
Staff reporter

Standing at six foot three inches and at 210 pounds senior forward Brandon Foote has earned his right to graduate.

Foote graduated from Bellingham High School and went on to play at Whatcom Community College.

Once playing for two more years he came to join the Central Wildcats.

Foote was well utilized and played hard for the Wildcats. In his season he put up an average of 13.1 points per game and keeping the game alive with his aggressive play.

He also put up scores such as 18.3 points per game in only nine games when he was put on the starting line up. Foote posted 16 points in his last away game against rivals Western Washington.

Brandon Foote had ten points and five assists in his last home game this season.

Jake Beiting
by Dusty Kindred
Sports editor

Jake Beiting was named First-Team All-GNAC on March 9 due to his superior senior season with the Wildcats.

Beiting received the all conference award for the second start year for scoring 15 points and a team leading 6 rebounds per game while missing only four games to injury.

Beiting averaged 14.4 points a game for Central, along with averaging 6.2 rebounds per game.

He ranks 8th all time in blocked shots with 68 and 4th all-time in blocked shot average with 1.4 per game.

Standing six foot eight inches and 230 points-Beiting was the workhorse down low for the Wildcats and on offense.

He graduated from South Kitsap High School and went to play for Eastern Washington before spending his final two seasons playing for Central.

Tanna Radtke
by Laura Mittieder
Staff reporter

Every end is the start to a new beginning, at least with 21-year-old senior guard basketball player Tanna Radtke.

As the season wound down she finished up her public relations major from Central Washington University.

Radtke graduated from Redmond High School and continued playing basketball at Bellevue Community College. Bellevue gave her the jump needed to be discovered by Central's Head Coach Jeff Whitney.

Radtke's favorite memory from her basketball career at Central was all the traveling the team did together.

"It was so unpredictable," said Radtke. "She will never forget the friendships she made in her time as a Wildcat."

She chose to play basketball here because it was close enough to home but far enough away.

"I visited in the spring and the campus was amazing," said Radtke.

Radtke is working towards a public relations degree and is minoring in fashion merchandising.

Once graduated she hopes to find her own place and start living on her own.

"Hopefully find a job or intern somewhere to get some experience," said Radtke.

She hopes she could find a good fit somewhere with public relations in the food industry, such as restaurants, or in sports.

Tanna will never forget all the good times she has had and the lessons that have been learned.

Johnny Spevak
by Drew Richie
Staff reporter

Johnny Spevak is a 6-foot three-inch guard from Edgewood, Wash. He attended Puyallup High School.

Spevak is a three year varsity athlete. He has played all four years here at Central.

Johnny is not a big scorer, but what he lacks offensively he makes up for in his stellar defensive play.

You can say that he has been the defensive stalwart for the team. Every game he guards the best offensive player.

He is top 10 all time in minutes played, games started, assists, three-point field goal percentage and steals.

He had a 3.9 four-point-shooting percentage, 52.3 field-goal-shooting percentage, 294 assists, and 132 steals over his four years at Central.

Spevak averaged 6.8 points per game and 4.4 rebounds per game this year.

He also led the team with 3.3 assists per game and 1.2 steals per game. This earned him an honorable mention for the all-conference squad.

Colton Monti
by Andrew Hoggarth
Staff reporter

Colton Monti is a 6-foot tall guard from Lacey, Wash. He will finish up his time here to be a Health and Physical Education major this year and hopes to be a PE teacher and basketball coach in the future.

Monti says he cherishes all of the friendships he has made, and his charismatic attitude stands out. During the three years on the Wildcat varsity basketball team, Monti has become a team favorite. Chants of "Monti, Monti" can be heard frequently throughout every game.

One particular game, on February 26 of this year, Monti scored a career-high 27 points.

He hit eight three-pointers and in the process, drove the Wildcats faithful into a frenzy.

Coach Sparling said it was one of the most impressive performances by a Wildcat in recent memory and even the opposing head coach shook his head and smiled as Monti hit shot after shot.

Although Monti has had many games where his individual performance took center stage, his favorite moment as a Wildcat came during his freshman year.

In the 2005-06 season, the Wildcats finished 15-13 overall and 10-8 in conference play. The Wildcats also went to the playoffs that year and, as a freshman, Monti didn't know what to expect.

It was an exciting experience for him, but with the team making the playoffs again this year, Monti hopes his most memorable moment as a Wildcat is yet to come.
Regional Championship at Central

by James Anderson

This past weekend, collegiate swimmers from around the Pacific Northwest convened at Central Washington University’s swimming pool for the Regional Championships. The importance of the Regional Championships is clear to all of the 17 Central swimmers who took part in the tournament.

If they succeed at getting a time in a regional meet, they will be invited to the national meet in which over 30 swim teams from across the nation will vie for a top spot. The results of the tournament place seven Central swimmers with eligibility to go to the National Championships, which will be held on April 4 and 5 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Central swimmer Sam Clark is included in the list of swimmers to be invited to the national meet. Clark stunned the audience of the swim tournament by setting a new national record time for the 25 meter freestyle, which subsequently secured him a place at the nationals.

The swim tournament was sanctioned by the American Swimming Association University League and included the teams that make up the Northwest Division of the swim league. The university teams invited to the event included the University of Oregon, Western Washington University, and Western Oregon University.

Approximately 40 Central Washington University students have joined the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center’s tennis club. The tennis club was established by Ann Elise Anderson, junior business management and marketing major.

“I grew up with tennis,” Anderson said. “I just love to play tennis at the college.” She came to Central Washington University in 2006, when there was no tennis club.

Anderson went to talk to Corey Sinclair, Central sports club supervisor and an officer of United States Tennis Association, to help her build a tennis team at Central. A month later, she had a tennis team.

“It happened really fast,” Anderson said.

The tennis team has about 40 tennis players and a 12-player competition team. They practice every Monday and Thursday. The club will compete in a league with other college teams in the Pacific Northwest. Members will have the opportunity to qualify for the National Sport Club Championships.

Andrew Hsu, senior industrial engineering major is a member of the club.

“I have played for three years,” Hsu said.

Anderson declared Hsu as the best single player in the team. “I started playing tennis my freshman year of high school,” Hsu said.

Senior tourism major Cameron Grant works at the front desk of Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center. He sees players practice while he works.

“They started to come here a couple years ago,” Grant said. “They really practice hard. Some players are really good.”

During spring quarter, good weather enables players to practice outside.

“This week is the last indoor practice,” Anderson said. “Next quarter, we are going to play outside.”

The Central Tennis Club welcomes students who want to play tennis. Students wanting to join the team should contact Anderson.

“If they have a racket, it is great,” Anderson said. “If not, people can buy one at Fred Meyer. I also have an extra one.”

During Spring quarter, we practice on Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 through 6.

Members should do paper work before you officially join the team.

“[Any] Person who wants to join our club should turn in a form,” Anderson said. “The back of the sheet is an insurance form. If a player practiced hard and gets in trouble, it would cover.”

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The atmosphere inside Nicholson Pavilion was electric Thursday night for the seniors’ last home game as Central Washington Wildcats. The Wildcats extended their current winning streak to four games as they beat Montana State Billings 87-71. The win improves the Wildcats’ record to 18-5 overall and 12-3 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play. The Yellowjackets fell to 9-17 overall and 4-11 in conference play.

Before the game, each of the six seniors were honored for their years at Central and had their photos taken at halftime. “It was a special night,” senior forward Brandon Foote said. “It was emotional, but also at the same time it was a lot of fun.”

All six of the seniors scored in the game and all but one finished with double-digit points. Senior forward Matt Penoncello led all scorers with 19 points and shot 50 percent from the field. The Wildcats also committed just nine turnovers, while dishing out 24 assists. Central forced Montana State Billings into 19 turnovers and overcame the Yellowjackets’ fourth-best shooting night of the season on which they shot 43.3 percent from the floor. Each of the senior players got to say their own final farewell to the home crowd as Head Coach Greg Sparling said, “We buckled down in the second half, but outscored them by a 41-30 count in the final 20 minutes.”

“We played really good defense,” Penoncello said. “We buckled down in the second half and forced them into making mistakes. We capitalized on those mistakes and pulled away.”

Brad Hodge came off the bench to lead the Yellowjackets with 18 points on 7 of 9 shooting. Derrick Wright added 14 points, five rebounds, and four assists, while Mario Burns, Travis Bunker, and Brett Taylor also scored in double figures.

Each of the senior players were selected to participate in the 2009 NCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Championship.

The atmosphere inside Nicholson Pavilion was electric Thursday night for the seniors’ last home game as Central Washington Wildcats. The game is scheduled for Saturday at 8 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (9 p.m. Pacific) at the George Q. Cannon Activities Center on the campus of Brigham Young University-Hawaii.
**Wildcats lose three out of four**

by Drew Ritchie

The Wildcat baseball team lost three of four against the St. Martin’s Saints on March 7 and March 8 at Tomlinson Field. These were the first games of Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play.

This split puts Central at 5-11 for the season and 1-3 in the GNAC. Central was only 8-9 on the season and 3-1 in GNAC play.

In the first game, Central exploded for 16 runs as they won 16-2.

The Wildcats received a spectacular effort from Derek Shoemaker, who pitched a complete game. He struck out six batters, walked three and gave up two runs. This win puts him at 2-3 on the season.

James Douglas took the loss for the Saints as he drops to 0-3 on the season.

The big innings for the Wildcats were the bottom of the third and fifth. They scored four in the third and four in the fifth.

The big bats for the Wildcats were senior third baseman Frank Donangelo, who went five for six with six runs scored, and four RBIs.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Wildcats lost 8-9 in seven innings.

After a complete game performance in his last outing, Central pitcher Chris Jackson just didn’t have his stuff.

He went only two innings, giving up six runs, walking three and striking out three. This loss drops him to 1-3 on the season.

Saints relief pitcher Jeff Brooks came in to pick up his third win of the season. Kevin Jones picked up his second save for the Saints. Central’s biggest inning was the sixth when they scored four.

Central junior shortstop Jordyn Steck went three for three with two RBIs, including his second home run of the season in the bottom of the seventh inning. Center fielder A.J. Gosney also had a good game, going three for five with five RBIs. Donangelo chipped in with two RBIs, Saints shortstop Cole homered again, giving him three on the season.

The first game of Sunday was not much better. Central lost 11-2.

Wildcats pitcher Michael McCanna took the loss, going four and two-thirds of an inning, giving up eight runs, on four hits, with one strike out and five walks. He drops to 0-1 on the season.

Kevin Jones got the win for the Saints, improving his record to 1-1. He went seven innings, giving up two runs on 11 hits, striking out four and walking one.

The Saints scored first with three runs in the top of the second inning.

The Wildcat’s only two runs came in the bottom of the fifth inning, on a fielder’s choice by second baseman Kevin Walkenhauer and a run scoring single by Denangelo.

Central’s Donangelo was two for four with an RBI.

In the second game of Sunday’s doubleheader, Central lost again, 10-5, in seven innings.

Central’s pitcher Tyler Warne pitched six innings, giving up seven runs, on nine hits, walking two and striking out one. His record drops to 0-1 on the season.

Central scored all of its five runs in the bottom of the second inning.

Saint Martin’s scored one run in the top of the second, third, and fourth inning, and scored two in the top of the fifth. The game was tied until the top of the seventh inning when the Saints had their biggest inning, scoring five.

Schneider was two for two in the loss.

Central will try to get back in the swing of things as they take on Montana State Billings starting with two games on March 13 at 1 p.m. Central will play two more games against Montana State Billings March 14 at noon. All games are at Tomlinson Field.
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