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Local hero tells his tale  
Identity theft strikes in town

The Central Washington University Observer

www.cwu.edu/~observer

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OPR previews spring activities

Spring cleaning sweeps through Canyon Road

Weathered road reaps new paving this June

Cracks and potholes on Canyon Road are developing more and more as people drive the long, curvy road. Taken April 13.

by Jesse Kertland  
Staff reporter

The City of Ellensburg Public Works Department will be starting an overlay project on Canyon Road from the I-90 overpass to the north side of Umtanum Road. The project is scheduled to begin in early June and should take approximately two months to finish.

The process of overlay and striping takes multiple steps, which is why the project will span over a two-month period. The planned overlay of this section of road will include the construction of two and a half inches of new asphalt, which will increase its longevity and stability.

"We have to grind, overlay and re-stripe the stretch of road. That means three weeks for the construction, then we have to wait a month to re-stripe because of oils on the fresh asphalt," said Derek Mayo, engineer in charge of the project.

In order to lessen obstructions for the paving crew, the manholes and water valves need to be lowered. These will be returned to the surface of the pavement by chiseling holes through the finished asphalt, using force to pull them up.

"People always ask why we punch holes in the road after we finish, but overall it makes for a smoother ride and a better product," Mayo said.

It will make for four solid weeks of labor for the workers of the City of Ellensburg.

With an estimated cost of $440,000, a venture like this under normal circumstances would directly affect taxpayers. However, the funding for the upcoming project has been acquired through the recent stimulus package that was injected into the American economy. Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Ellensburg was lucky enough to receive this governmental funding.

Ellensburg Public Works department has tried to allocate additional stimulus funding for future projects as well.

"We have an application in for stimulus money for flood control in west Ellensburg," said John Akers, director of the Ellensburg Public Works department. "We have also submitted a request to the Department of Health for water system improvement throughout Ellensburg. $800,000 has been requested for the flood control, as well as $1.5 million for water systems improvement. These project costs exceed the cost of the Canyon Road overlay, and hopefully with time will be funded and brought to the top of the agenda.

According to Akers, the stimulus distribution plan is still confusing, and is taking longer to attain results than expected.

"Only driveways alongside areas that are being [ground] will be temporarily closed, as well as small sections of the stretch of Canyon Road. But, traffic will continue during the construction," Mayo said. Minimal detours should be expected.

Lomax turns down quarterback position

by Laura Mittlmeier  
Assistant sports editor

Central Washington University's football team has seen its share of football players come and go from the program over the years.

Mike Reilly, Central alumni, was the team's quarterback last season. As he moved on to bigger and better things, he left the position wide open for the 2009-2010 season.

The coaching staff has been working on getting all the prospective quarterbacks together to find the right man for the job.

Head coach Blaine Bennett recruited Nick Lomax from Boise State University to compete for the starting quarterback spot. He was the top pick for the coveted position and showed it well during camp.

At the last minute, Lomax decided that the passion and drive he once has for the game was gone.

"It's a big commitment to play college football," said Joe Lorig, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator. According to Bennett, Lomax decided that it would be best for him to head back home to Portland, Ore., and figure out what he wanted to do with the rest of his college career.

"He left Boise thinking he wanted to continue and regenerate the passion," Bennett said.

The team went into their first practice Tuesday, April 14 not knowing who would fill Reilly's shoes this season.

"I have a long relationship with his father and family and thought it would be a good fit," Bennett said.

Losing a potential candidate does take its toll in certain ways, but the loss won't be as devastating as if it occurred in the middle of the season. Lomax decided to leave before the season started so the chemistry wasn't fully developed.

"The players take pride in the organization," Lorig said. "Generally speaking I think if you don't want to be a part of it then good luck to you."

There are five quarterbacks now competing for the starting position. Bennett's grading system and guidelines each practice with his decision at the end of the day.

"I am happy with their work," Bennett said.

Jordan Rasmussen, junior transfer student from Montana State University is one of the option with the experience needed to fill the void left in the Central line-up. It could even swing its way all the way down to red shirt freshmen David Weisner or Oliver Henry.

"We hope to name a starter by August," Bennett said.

Meanwhile, the team continues to practice and the young quarterbacks go head to head to earn that starting spot.
Central on track while under re-accreditation

by Allie Mathis
Staff Reporter

Every 10 years, Central Washington University goes through an accreditation process.

The process takes place up to two years, but it ensures that Central is operating in the most effective way for its students.

According to the accreditation website, the process of re-accreditation begins with a self-study.

Central began its study two years ago so that it would be ready for the evaluation in October 2009. In these studies, the entire university is evaluated.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) conducts the evaluation for the reaccreditation. This team will consist of peers from other colleges in the Northwest.

The NWCCU will stay for two days. While here they will read the self-study, conduct interviews with both students and staff, and write an evaluation report. In the report they will include both things that Central is doing well, and recommendations for things that could be improved.

In order for a school to not gain re-accreditation from the NWCCU, it would have to be out of compliance with many of its standards. In these studies, the entire university is evaluated.

A key component to the accreditation is the self-study. This is a document that Central is doing well, and made sure that every aspect of the university is evaluated.

Central is doing very well in the re-accreditation process,” said Phil Backlund, professor of communications who is on the reaccreditation committee. “We are sure we will be commended in many areas.”

“Like any place there are things that need to be improved, and this way students will get more of what they need,” Backlund added. “Since it involves the entire university, we hope people will go to the website and look at the draft self-study and send us comments.”

The evaluation is so far approximately 300 pages long.

According to the accreditation process, the evaluation is so far approximately 300 pages long.

These standards include institutional mission and goals, planning and effectiveness, educational program and its effectiveness, students, faculty, library and information resources, governance and administration, finance, physical resources, and institutional integrity.

Every department is included and made sure that every standard that needs to be met is implemented.

The evaluation process is great for Central, said Phil Backlund, professor of communications who is on the reaccreditation committee. “We are sure we will be commended in many areas.”

To help them stay on track, the president’s office came up with a list of goals they have for the university for the years 2006 through 2011. These goals maintain and strengthen an outstanding academic and student life on the Ellensburg campus and provide for an outstanding academic and student life at the university centers.

In addition, goals strengthen and further diversity, build mutually beneficial partnerships with the public sector, achieve regional and national prominence for the university, and build inclusive and diverse campus communities that promote intellectual inquiry and encourage civil, mutual respect, and cooperation.

“I think the re-accreditation process is great for Central,” said J r Michelle Reid. “Like any place there are things that need to be improved, and this way students will get more of what they need.”

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The Iron Horse Brewery, located off Prospect Street, is looking towards the future with great expectations of expansion and increased production, according to owner Greg Parker.

"50,000 barrels is my goal, I hope to do that in about 10 years," Parker said.

Parker would eventually like to relocate the brewery into downtown Ellensburg. To do this, the Iron Horse Brewery had to appeal to The City Council and Planning Commission to have the zoning laws changed.

"We needed to have the zoning changed to include microbrewery in the central commercial [zone], that way when we do get roadways we can put them where ever we want to go and we won't have to fight an uphill battle with conditional uses and permits," explained Parker. With assistance from the City Council, those zoning laws were changed.

"The planning commission threw up a road block, but the City Council decided that they wanted to override them and make microbrewery an allowed use in the central commercial zone," Parker said.

The Iron Horse Brewery has two more years in the building that they currently reside in. "Eventually we will have to move, we only have 1980 square feet here. We are going to make the most of it, but we will run out pretty quickly," Parker said.

Their current beer production continues to be on the rise. "We are on pace to do about 2,000 barrels this year (one barrel = 31 gallons), whereas last year I think we did 1,200," said Parker.

From these 2,000 barrels about 30 percent is distributed to Seattle, 15 percent to Spokane, 15 percent to Moses Lake, 15 percent to Wenatchee, 20 percent to Yakima, and about five percent to local markets.

Within the local market, the Iron Horse brew appears to be very popular and well liked, according to Woodshed Restaurant Manager, Kristine Oehlerich, Ellensburg residents and Central Washington University students come in just to buy their beer. The most common beer sold is Quilter's Irish Death.

"Quilter's Irish Death is one of my most favorite beers to drink," said Danny Dinh, senior accounting and marketing major.

Even though things seem to be going very well for the local brewery, Greg Parker would like to push forward by expanding in order to accomplish his goals and vision.

"The goal that is we are a production brewery," Parker said. "90 percent of our production, if not more, is sold off-site to bars, restaurants and grocery stores... Our goal is to expand our distribution and therefore we have to increase our production and have more tanks and more room and space."

On Friday, April 17 the Iron Horse Brewery will be hosting a release party beginning around 6 p.m. located at the brewery and will introduce three new beers.

Identity theft hits close to home

Brothers Victor Martinez-Ibarra, 22, and Cesar Martinez-Ibarra, 25, await their arrest court date in Ellensburg's jail. Victor is charged with first degree identity theft, and Cesar is charged with second degree identity theft as well as an alien in possession of a firearm.

The chain of events began when Victor Martinez-Ibarra attempted to open his second account with Les Schwab Tire Center on Monday, March 13.

"It is humorous that he would go back to open a second account especially since they already do their business there and obviously are able to be recognized," said Dan Hansberry, Ellensburg Police Department's Captain.

The clerk assisting Victor became suspicious when he provided them with an alternate name than the one previously used. The clerk reported his suspicions to Ellensburg police, who after further investigation, found that his first account had been made under an out-of-state fraudulent name.

"Identity theft is when you assume someone else's identity for any profit," Hansberry said.

Further investigation allowed police to obtain a search warrant. While searching the residence, they found other identity theft items, such as fake social security cards.

Police also found information implicating Cesar with identity theft as well as unlawful possession of a firearm.

"His status here in the state doesn't allow him to possess a firearm," Hansberry said.

The brothers were taken into custody at the scene and will be held for 72 hours while the prosecutor reviews the probable cause for the arrest and determines if charges will be filed.

"They will most likely face prison time...it depends on their criminal history," Hansberry said.

Additional incidents of identity theft have also surfaced in Ellensburg. On Sunday, April 5, a 36-year-old Roslyn man was arrested by Kittitas County Sheriff's deputies for soliciting prostitution and a warrant for second degree identity theft. There are no new precautions in effect by Ellensburg Police as a result of this incident.

"The problem with identity theft is most victims don't realize they are targeted until... businesses turn you over to collections, who then send you something in the mail demanding you to pay them," Hansberry said.

He noted that victims do not suffer much financial harm, since most banks compensate them. However, it takes a lot of convincing for victims to get their credit back on track.

To avoid becoming a victim, Detectives Dave Startup and Jas Kirk, who handle identity theft cases for the Washington State Patrol, recommend the below tips in avoiding identity theft.

GUARDING AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT:

• Get a locking mailbox and a cross-cut shredder.
• Bank online so you can monitor your accounts frequently for suspicious activity.
• Pick up new checks at your bank rather than having them mailed to your home.
• Make copies of all the credit cards in your wallet, front and back, so you'll have critical information if your wallet is lost or stolen.
• Don't carry your social security card or number (sometimes printed on health-insurance cards and other documents).

For more information contact: The Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit organization that helps victims: www.idtheftcenter.org; 855-493-7935.
Doc Hastings opens eyes and ears at Ellensburg High School

by Jesse Kertland
Staff reporter

On April 9, Washington’s fourth Congressional District Representative Doc Hastings visited Ellensburg High School (EHS) to give a half-hour lecture, which included a 15 minute question and answer forum.

Speaking to an audience of juniors, seniors and EHS faculty, Hastings centered his presentation on the assembly, structure and purpose of Congress.

“Make a promise to yourself to vote in every election — you have the opportunity to,” Hastings said as he gave encouraging words to the soon-to-be graduates.

Hastings has served as the District’s representative for seven terms since 1995, and his position is up for re-election every two years. He said he has directly impacted Yakima County in many ways, including securing and allocating federal funds to help prevent drugs, gangs, and violent crimes, as well as funds for local schools.

Hastings also wrote and passed a law requiring federal participation in constructing a new water storage plan for the Yakima River Basin, which included his proposal for the Black Rock Reservoir. This would greatly help Yakima maintain its robust agricultural industry, Hastings said.

After giving his short explanation of Congress and his role in it, Hastings voiced his position on many current issues America is facing, focusing mostly on the economic and agricultural districts’ status.

One point that raised many questions was the fact that Hastings voted against Congress’ recent stimulus package.

“The $800 billion package only has five percent tax incentives,” Hastings said.

He continued to explain to the young audience that the debt his generation has accumulated will pass on to the students’ generation and will be approximately $1 trillion. To emphasize this, Hastings wrote the number one trillion across a blackboard.

“Social Security won’t exist once you’re old enough to receive it,” Hastings said.

Touching on future financial aid issues, Hastings urged students and faculty that the idea of removing private sector funding would be a terrible decision, based on the fact that it creates competition and more available funds.

Along with explaining his thoughts on America’s financial debacle, Hastings expressed his problems with the auto bailout.

“If I were president, I wouldn’t have given GM (General Motors) or Chrysler any taxpayer money,” Hastings said.

He also added that GM is such a large company that if it failed, it would have a ripple effect that would negatively affect the entire economy.

As for the current situation in Iraq, Hastings believes that creating and stabilizing a sufficient government could be a huge catalyst for progress in the entire Middle East.

“Establishing a democracy in Iraq could change the whole dynamic of the Middle East,” Hastings said.

Central braces for financial storm

by Megan Cyr
Staff reporter

The Washington State Senate’s proposed budget cuts of approximately $22 million have prompted Central Washington University’s President James Gaudino to brace for impact.

To help ease tensions Gaudino hosted a CWU budget discussion last Thursday, which was open to anyone and aired live on Central’s Novell computer network.

Gaudino’s discussion focused on the impact budget cuts will have on Central. He also presented a timeline for development of the future budget and answered questions from concerned students and faculty.

“All divisions have been asked to prepare for a 10 percent cut,” Gaudino said. “This is to ensure adequate dollars to live within the budget and to encourage re-allocation and investment.”

According to Gaudino, not all departments will be impacted by the 10 percent cut, but everyone needs to be prepared.

Much of the university’s income comes from the state, so Central is being forced to make drastic financial changes.

“We are not going to be independently wealthy anymore,” Gaudino said.

So far a tentative timeline on budget cuts include divisional spending plans and a Budget Advisory Committee meeting to be held on April 22.

The budget will go to the Board of Trustees May 1 and June 12.

Students at Central will definitely be affected by the budget cuts and the possible 14 percent rise in tuition costs in each of the next two years.

“I work on campus and I’m really hoping the cuts won’t affect my job,” said Sara Hollowell, junior elementary education major. “I have bills to pay just like everyone else.

Central’s Financial Aid department plans to match rising tuition costs to help students with financial difficulties, Gaudino said.

Gaudino said he hopes students don’t get discouraged and can look beyond the rising costs and note that the value a college education has on a student’s future.
Kayla Schroder
Editor-in-Chief

It’s not hard to notice that our reality seems to be transitioning online. Beloved and historical news publications are being pushed online due to a slumping economy and lack of advertiser dollars. Facebook and MySpace have now been joined by Twitter, which claims to be “a service for friends, family and co-workers to communicate and stay connected” with a main feature similar to Facebook’s “status” where members can stay plugged in to others’ lives as they tackle various tasks and emotions throughout their day. Talk about personal space. So, it is no surprise that love has found an online niche as well.

I can no longer sit through commercial programming without coming face to face with the world’s seemingly cutest couples. Here I am, sitting on my couch, stuffing my face while listening to these couples’ success stories. Both eHarmony and Chemistry.com are relationship networks that are now redefining online dating through dimensions of compatibility, scientific matching and “expert guidance.” A dozen different lovebirds suck you in with their coordinating colors as they annoyingly finish one another’s sentences.

A friend of mine (no that is not a round-about way of hiding my own identity) agreed to fill out the free personality test one evening, just so we could see what all this fuss was really about. It took over an hour and the result was five whole matches across the entire country. Woohoo! Most were military men stationed overseas and we weren’t even allowed to actually “view” photos of these matches until some sort of payment had been received. That’s how they get you.

I will admit, the compatibility test was extremely thorough, asking questions ranging from how important your mate’s hobbies are to you, rating a baaillion words you might use to describe yourself. Answering these questions in my head as we went along, I will admit I did learn a little more about myself that afternoon. Unfortunately now, eHarmony won’t stop spamming her email.

I suppose online dating is not a bad idea for middle-aged men and women whose lives now revolve around work and family. I can say that I personally know people who would vouch for the system. It’s definitely a contrast to young adults who could see what all this fuss was really about. I’m just content being young and single. And when the time comes when I’m ready to take that sort of commitment, I think I’ll take my chances and find my guy the old fashioned way.

Editorial

The recently enacted $787 billion economic stimulus plan designed to create jobs includes about $300 billion in tax cuts for individuals and businesses, which will not create jobs because companies are not hiring and consumers are saving their money not making purchases. The Commerce Department recently reported a U.S. savings rate of 5 percent, which is the highest since 1995. A significant portion of the remaining $847 billion goes to social programs, which will help the needy in some instances, but will not create jobs in the private sector where they are needed.

The Obama Administration’s projection of creating 3.5 million jobs by the end of 2010 is optimistically off target because it is based on an average unemployment rate of 8.1 percent for 2009, which was hit in February, and it is rising. It now appears the economic stimulus plan will create about 2.5 million jobs which does not come close to replacing 5 million jobs already lost.

Instead of concentrating on creating jobs to spark the economy, President Obama’s proposed budget is diluting our limited resources. The President instituted a $75 billion program to allow troubled homeowners to refinance their mortgages, promising crybaby mortgages approved by conspiring banks for low income people with poor credit ratings, which were instituted under the Clinton Administration and continued in the Bush Administration. Why should 90 percent of homeowners with affordable mortgages who are paying them off on time be forced as taxpayers to subsidize homeowners who cannot make their monthly payments because they couldn’t afford the house they purchased?

While the U.S. auto industry declined, the CEO’s of Chrysler, Ford and GM had annual compensation packages worth tens of millions of dollars; while the U.S. auto industry with plants in the U.S. and other foreign manufacturers with plants in the U.S. about $45 per hour for non-union workers at Toyota, Honda and other foreign manufacturers with plants in the U.S. The United Auto Workers Union are back for another $20 billion to keep their plants open, and nearsighted automobile executives, coupled with a greedy and obtuse union, have put the U.S. automobile industry in a position where it cannot compete with foreign manufacturers. While the U.S. auto industry declined, the CEOs of Chrysler, Ford and GM had annual compensation packages worth tens of millions of dollars; and the average hourly pay of the unionized workers was approximately $75 per hour compared to about $45 per hour for non-union workers at Toyota, Honda and other foreign manufacturers with plants in the U.S.

We have to stop bailing out banks, the AIGs and the auto industry, and stop scattering around our limited resources. Maybe the President should end his ongoing campaign mode of governing, continue operations and losses. A combination of incompetent and nearsighted automobile executives, coupled with a greedy and obstinate union, have put the U.S. automobile industry in a position where it cannot compete with foreign manufacturers. While the U.S. auto industry declined, the CEOs of Chrysler, Ford and GM had annual compensation packages worth tens of millions of dollars; and the average hourly pay of the unionized workers was approximately $75 per hour compared to about $45 per hour for non-union workers at Toyota, Honda and other foreign manufacturers with plants in the U.S.

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Gym goes bare it all, too sexy for sweats

Heather Doolin
Online reporter
A recent accident heading east on I-90 left me and my car stuck in a snowy ditch facing the wrong way. Sickened that just won’t go away, somehow a helping hand would be hard to come by. I feel fortunate that there is a helpful stranger on the side of the road.

Student saved by good deed

Brooke Mortensen
Assistant Scene editor
Working out is an important thing. I love that people put in the effort to do so, but I often find myself dreading visits to the gym.

There are several reasons for this dread, including sleep deprivation, a hectic schedule and the pain involved in getting into shape.

Although these are legitimate reasons, none of them serve as mine.

My reason of dread is the thought of a $200 towing fee. I tried digging it out east on I-90; left me and my car stuck in a snowy ditch facing the wrong way. Sickened that just won’t go away, somehow a helping hand would be hard to come by. So I can imagine how surprised I was to find that helping hand in the middle of a snowstorm from a complete stranger on the side of the freeway.

Two large men stepped out of their car and with smiles on their faces, easily muscled my car out of the ditch, and were on their way. Their five minutes meant the world to me.

I feel fortunate that there is still a bit of good left during such tough times. With job layoffs, illness, and a dire outlook for the nation, I know that there hasn’t been much for people to smile about lately.

What those two men did for me on the side of the road was the most selfless thing I’ve seen anyone do in a while. We have all likely been in a similar situation and vowed to “pay it forward” but it never seems to happen.

I think that most of us believe that we have to do some huge earth-shattering act. In reality, all it takes is something small, like making chicken noodle soup when a friend is sick. In the end it’s not just the person you are helping who benefits; you get the most rewarding feeling from making someone smile.

It’s almost like a drug. If we all get addicted to helping, the world will become a much more positive place. With this in mind, I want to encourage everyone to lend a hand, no matter how small or big you think it is. A kind word, a door held open, or even a push to get someone’s car out of the ditch could make you someone’s hero.

Culinary Corner:
Kalua pig and Lomi Lomi

Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist
For hours it’s been lying under a bed of molten hot lava rocks and dirt. People swarm to the underground pit to watch its’ unveiling. The smells of roasted meat and earth fill the air as the star of the Luau is presented for all to see, the roast pig. At a Hawaiian Luau, the unveiling of the roasted pig is the highlight of the social gathering. It’s a feast for both the eyes and mouth. With my family’s recipe you don’t have to go to a luau to enjoy it.

There are a number of sides dishes prepared at a luau like Lomi Lomi. It’s kind of like a fresh salsa but with no heat. This dish really does break a mold!

KALUA PORK
Ingredients:
- 4-5 lb. Pork butt roast (or Pork Shoulder)
- 1 ½ T. Hawaiian sea salt (or for rock salt)
- 1 T. liquid smoke flavoring
- Half a sweet onion, sliced thinly
- Half a head of Cabbage, sliced thinly
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 3 T. Oil

Directions:
- Pierce pork all over with a carving fork. Rub salt then liquid smoke over meat. Place roast in a slow cooker.
- Cover, and cook on Low for 16 to 20 hours, turning once during cooking.
- Remove meat from slow cooker, and shred. Soften then add cabbage until soft. Then add cabbage until soft. Add drippings to moisten.

LOMI LOMI
Ingredients:
- 3 Large Tomatoes, small diced
- 1 Large sweet onion, small diced
- 1/2 C. green onion, sliced thinly
- Rock Salt

Directions:
- Mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Add rock salt to taste.
- Refrigerate for 30 min. then serve as a compliment or a dish.

You can send your comments to cwculinarycorner@gmail.com.

Random Words With...

Bo Mullen
junior
excersize science
* If girls are made of sugar and spice, what are boys made of?
Mean, lean protein.
* What is your biggest pet peeve?
Creasing paper. I cannot do it. It’s like nails on a chalkboard to me.
* If you could have one super power, what would it be?
Can I just say Wolverine?
* The best Christmas (holiday) gift ever?
Satellite radio. That’s like my life right now.
* Seinfeld or Friends?
Friends.

The artist’s eye...

Sylvia Armitstead
Write to the cartoonist at quicksilverflash@gmail.com.
Well-rounded Ellensburg mechanic Bun Yorn puts his natural talent to use replacing the engine of a 1996 Plymouth Breeze. Yorn's current engine replacements also include a 1984 Lincoln Towncar and a classic 1952 Buick Roadmaster. From fuse boxes to brakes, alternators to engines there is no automotive repair Yorn cannot handle.

Freedom fighter settles in Ellensburg

by Kayla Schroeder
Editor-in-Chief

Bun Yorn didn't go to school to learn mechanics. Nor was he educated in business and culinary art for the year and a half he ran Bun's Thai Restaurant, prior to opening his auto shop. In his 49 years, he has mastered the craft of a self-taught entrepreneur: mechanic, cook, head grounds keeper, father, electrician, construction worker, author — and Cambodian Freedom Fighter.

Tucked behind Rite Aid sits a blue, five-car garage. Old Cadillacs, rusty Ford trucks and a busted Corvette hands caked with grease from long days of work. The sign reads "Bun's Auto" and "English," one of his seven languages.

Bun is 5 feet, 3 inches tall. His short black hair has shiny silver strands. His fingernails are ringed in black, his skin brown and rusted. With a giant wrench, the sign reads "Bun's Auto" and "English," one of his seven languages.

In 1984 Bun boarded the 20-hour flight from Cambodia to Seattle and started a new life, leaving a dark past behind him. In 1975, almost 10 years prior, the Vietnam War had ended. It wasn't long before chaos broke out. The Khmer Rouge swept through the country splitting families, taking children as slaves.

For two and a half years, 15-year-old Bun worked for the soldiers. He was near death, his skin chung to his bones and his hair fell out. His brown skin turned ashen from malnutrition.

"I lay down and prayed to be taken away from this place. Dead or alive, I didn't care anymore. There was nothing left for me. No hair, no muscle, nothing," he wrote. "I laughed at myself, 'If I die an animal will see me, look at my body and know there is nothing for him to eat... Poor animal. If you find me, you are not lucky.'

The jobs varied, but never ended. He planted rice and would return to harvest it. He built dams. More than once, a storm ripped through, killing soldiers and hundreds of children in its path.

In turn, the next job would be removing the dead bodies from the water. It took three boys to move a body, often the corpse of a friend or relative. After nearly three years, Bun's prayers were answered. The Cambodian Freedom Fighters crept in one night to round up the enslaved children. They set fire to the Khmer Rouge homes and fled into the jungle to freedom.

He immediately started to train as a freedom fighter. Bun caught on quickly, as he had in his schooling before life changed. Within months, he was leading his crew. Bun was 20 years old.

"I felt good when I go first," Bun recalls today. "I'm not behind my crew. I'm on the front. They not scared." They called themselves 'Cambodia Freedom' and took the Khmer Rouge as prisoners, once capturing two young men.

"They were put to work in the food warehouse," he wrote. "I thought this was very fitting that Khmer Rouge who had been in charge of starving people to death were now in charge of feeding them."

In the years following, Bun reunited with his family, both his parents and four siblings. Another answered prayer.

"For eight years my mom never gave up hope that she would find her children," Bun wrote. "That she found me is proof that in life, no matter how tough it gets, you have to hang in there. Never, ever give up."

Once his family obtained green cards from the U.N. Red Cross, they were flown to America, courtesy of a family from the Methodist Church in Ellensburg. Here, the seven of them joined Bun's uncle.

"That day I packed everything I would need to bring to my new life," Bun wrote. "Around my neck hung the ICM Refugee Identification Card. I was wearing the one pair of clothes I would take to America. My backpack was full of paper work and legal documents. I had no money. Not one penny."

Today, Bun's office reflects his selfless character, free of fancy décor. Mike Riebe has worked beside Bun for nearly a year. He volunteers his time in return for Bun's company.

"I read [his book, "Tomorrow I'm Dead"] in one night," Riebe says. "I couldn't put it down for nothing."

"To do this, Bun sends 10 percent of his book earnings back to aid Cambodia to help the people."

The transition to Ellensburg wasn't an easy one.

"Cowboy hate me," Bun remembers of that first year. "Don't like my brown skin. That year, I work far ground. Until my book come out and [they] come shake my hand."

Bun refuses to live his life in bitterness. Instead, he lives his life for others, including his wife and three children.

"Come into work eight days a week," Bun says. "College kids bring vehicle. I do this no skill, experience, no technology, big equipment, but I fixed thousands a year vehicle."

Bun isn't in it for money.

"I don't charge much," he says. "Try to help people." He laughs. "[I'm] not in yellow pages. Just home phone. And when they find me, they get stuck [with me]."

Every few years, Bun speaks publicly about his years in the killing fields. Last year he spoke at Gallery One to approximately 100 tear-struck spectators perched on the edge of their folding metal chairs.

"Raise money and help people in Cambodia," he urges. "Next step, New York, speak over there."

Bun is working on a second book detailing his difficult transition in America and is looking for a new publisher.

"This man is totally amazing. I can't say that enough," Riebe says. "I felt good when I go first," Bun recalls. "I'm not behind my crew. I'm on the front. They not scared."

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Ignorance, male dating explored in ‘I Love You Man’ flick

Man dates were not something I knew existed until this weekend.

I now know a man date is when two men go out and do something together such as having a frosty adult beverage, but without dinner because you will be sending the wrong message.

In the movie “I Love You Man,” newly engaged Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd) has always been more friend compatible with females, but his fiancé is now worried that Peter’s best friend is his mother.

Peter goes on a mad manhunt for a best friend.

He goes on a series of man dates. He goes to such extremes as meeting man friends online and having lunch.

The men he meets range from an 85-year-old with dentures to a man about his age that ends up leaving Peter a huge wet one at the end of their date (it is probably because they had dinner).

Peter finally forms an instant bond with Sydney Fife (Jason Segel) at an open house that Peter’s real estate firm is putting on.

When his inseparable bond with Sydney starts to take effect on his relationship with his fiancé you start to wonder if the three can ever live in harmony.

For the most part I really enjoyed this movie.

It was very funny, but it still had a romantic twist.

Which I did not think a romantic comedy was possible without a killer female lead, but this is a very successful “bromance.”

I thoroughly enjoyed paying $8.50 to watch this movie.

“I Love You Man” stars Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, Rashida Jones, Sarah Burns, Jamie Pressly, Jon Favreau, and the band Rush.

The running time is one hour and 27 minutes and is rated R for pervasive language, including crude and sexual references.
Mama Tomcat’s Flying School takes off

by Rachael Duff
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s theatre students apply their talent and intended degree beyond the boundaries of their campus.

Central’s annual spring children’s theater production will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17 and 2 p.m. on April 18, and 7 p.m. in Hertz Auditorium, but these performances are just the beginning.

After this weekend’s production, the five-person cast, including the stage manager, will tour the state for seven weeks, performing at all of the Central campuses as well as elementary, middle and high schools. Currently, Central is the only university in the state that offers a touring theater show.

“Bringing live theatre to other communities gives us an opportunity to show people throughout the state some of the great things that are happening here at Central,” said Ellen L. O’Brien, director of the Center for Marketing and Development.

This year’s children’s production is “Mama Tomcat’s Flying School,” a play chosen by the students of a children’s theatre class. Every two years a national competition is held at Central and students in Children’s Theatre 310 read, discuss and vote on which play should be selected to perform. Last year, “Mama Tomcat’s Flying School” was the winner.

“This is a good play because it involves children love animals and anything out of the norm and this is the first year in a while that we have done a play about animals,” said Madison Rengel, youth drama major who participated in the choosing of the screen writer.

This is the first time “Mama Tomcat’s Flying School” will be performed in the Northwest. It was written by Spring Hermann and is based on a popular Spanish children’s book, “The Story of the Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly.”

A “world of animals is more whimsical and magical,” said Michael Smith, artistic director of the Central Theatre Ensemble “you can create a world that is less literal, it takes off the strains of being a person. It’s great because our imaginations are opened up and so are the audiences.”

The cast will be holding workshops at many of the stops. Also, teachers will be given study guides to work with so they can integrate many of the concepts into their curriculum.

“The first experience I had with theatre was at school assemblies and that is what motivated me to want to get into theatre,” said Katie Wheeler, junior early childhood education major and cast member.

“We don’t have a lot of theatre in public schools and this is something I want to work into my own curriculum when I am a teacher.”

For the cast, preparing for this production is a full time commitment. With only three and half weeks to do rehearsals, blocking, complete sets, acquire costumes and learn lines, they work from nine to five, Monday through Friday.

Aside from working with such a condensed time frame, another struggle for the cast is the fact that they are still waiting for their set.

“It has been hard to get the blocking down without a set and once we actually get the set, we will have to change everything,” said Allison Stephens, senior theatre major and production stage manager.

Regardless of these obstacles the cast is excited for the upcoming show.

“I’ve been told that we are going to change lives because we are reaching thousands of kids, parents and teachers,” said Lauren Pearsall, sophomore theatre performance BFA and cast member. “For many students, this could be the first play they have ever seen.”

KVCH hosts annual evening of magic

by Danielle Gagnon
Staff reporter

Don’t miss out on a carnival evening full of magical games, prizes and entertainment, as well as dinner and drinks.

Kittitas Valley Community Hospital (KVCH) is hosting its Sixth Annual Magical Evening Gala at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 in the KVCH ballroom.

A large amount of carnival activities will fill the ballroom including street entertainers and games. Free carnival tickets will be given at the door and the Starlight staff is prepared specialty drinks for those who visit the no-host bar.

“We try to be really supportive of KVCH,” said Patrick Garmong, catering director at Ellensburg’s Starlight Banquet and Catering, “we have reservations here in the past.”

Amongst the carnival activities will be a wine ring toss. A donation of $10 will provide each guest with three rings to toss at wines collected from Cave B Estate Winery. Making a ring around a bottle of wine wins that bottle.

“We are dedicated to organizations that help education, arts, the environment and sciences,” said Hilary Huffman, General Manager of Cave B Estate Winery. “This is the third year in a row that Cave B has donated to KVCH. It helps the people that are right in our own backyard. This is our way to give back to those that have been so good to us.”

There is also a “Pick-Your-Prize Raffle” where guests will try to win one out of six prizes that have been donated by local businesses and individuals. Tickets are $5 each. Volunteers dressed in festive attire will be dishing out mystery envelopes. The envelopes are $10 each and a chance to win certificates to local restaurants such as Red City Bar-B-Q, an overnight stay in Las Vegas, family outings, a fly fishing trip and more.

Patrick Garmong, catering director at Central Washington University, will be preparing three entrees for guests to choose from. The multi-course dinner presented by Argus Insurance will begin at 7 p.m.

“The vegetarian pasta is something we’ve had a lot of success with,” Garmong said. “The meals will be fresh and bright on the plate.”

Music will be provided by blues artist Jonathan Campbell Trio. According to his online biography, Campbell acts as the front man, sideman and is a consummate showman.

The Fund-a-Need Program and entertainment will begin at 8:30 p.m., following the dinner. Fund-a-Need donors will have the opportunity to fund new pediatric monitors through bidding in the auction.

These monitors are designed to monitor the needs of children cared for at KVCH.

“Do Jump!” is performing a one of a kind show. They blend theatre, dance, acrobatics, dynamics and visuals.

“This year is a carnival theme to add excitement to the event. We’ve hired ‘Do Jump!’ as our headline entertainment,” said Heather Paul, Foundation Director at Kittitas Valley Community Hospital.

Call the Foundation Office at (509) 933-8669 or send us an email for more information.
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There are approximately 50 million people in the world today. The Nazis did not see those individuals as people. In our age, we need to recognize the gravity of the situation and realize what we can do with this knowledge, said Dr. Heiko Döpp.

The club, which is celebrating its 90th year, is the second oldest non-profits sports organization in the state. The Old Durr Road clean-up will allow Ellensburg and the campus community to come together for a good cause.

"It's just a great community effort," Davis said. For more information, visit the Kittitas Field and Stream Club Web site at Kittitasfieldandstream.org.

Hollywood survivor speaks at Central

by Kate Tages
Staff reporter

Spanning just under eight years (1937 to 1945) and killing an estimated 50 million people, World War II and the Holocaust are part of the bloodiest time in history.

According to Daniel Chirot's "Modern Tyrants: The Power and Prevalence of Evil in Our Age," 3 million Jews were massacred, while 17 and under and in sealed trains into the United Kingdom. Approximately 10,000 children were rescued before it was closed.

A film called "Spirit Unconquered!" will begin at 6:30 p.m. on April 22 at the Surc Theatre.

For more information, visit the Kittitas Field and Stream Club Web site at Kittitasfieldandstream.org.
Sports Trivia
Who was the first U.S. volleyball player to win three Olympic gold medals?

Club defeated after double overtime
by Mackenzee Opp
Staff reporter

On Sunday, April 19 the Central Washington University men’s lacrosse club team will play its last game of the spring season. They have been playing since February through rain, snow and shine. The game is at the Community Fields on 18th and Alder. It will start at noon against arch rival Western Washington University. Western is currently holding second place.

Early in the season Central was ranked 21st in the nation, and played against schools including Washington State University, Boise State, Lewis and Clark, Montana State and Southern Oregon. Central’s current record is 2-6 in the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League and has had some tough losses this season. Central recently suffered a double overtime loss on April 11 to Whitman College, which prevented them from qualifying for the play-offs.

Whitman currently holds first place in the Division Two North standings. “We have the best club team this season that we’ve ever had before,” said Kellen Gallacher, junior defender, team captain and exercise science major. “Our talent just isn’t translating onto the field yet.”

Fans of lacrosse enjoy the sport because it is exciting, fluid and physically demanding, with a lot of action. “Lacrosse is a mix of soccer, basketball and football,” said Joe Hodge, senior, goalie and business major. There are two divisions within the division two conference, North and South. The North conference consists of Whitman College, Western Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University University of Puget Sound and Central. Gallacher and Hodge want to encourage all fans to come out and support the team this Sunday for their last game.

“We are playing our best lacrosse too late in the season, but it will transfer into next year,” Hodge said.

The team will start up again next fall, but it will also be playing some pickup games this summer. Lacrosse is open to all students.

The skill level of the players range from beginner to advanced.

Equipment is available for those interested in playing and have no experience or equipment.

The club practices Monday through Thursday on the community fields. “Over all, this year hasn’t been what we expected,” said Head Coach Chris Johnson. “We have a great group of guys and we have become a family. This isn’t the end result we expected, but we worked really hard. I’m sad to see the seniors go and this is a team I’m really proud to be a part of.”

Central has one player senior Kevin Norris ranked in the top ten for scoring and another senior, Joel Nicols in the top 25.

All together Central has 14 players in the top 100 players when it comes to scoring.

For more information on games or about joining the team visit their Web site at www.cwulacrosse.com

Interesting Facts About Lacrosse

Cherokee Native Americans referred to lacrosse as “the little brother of war,” and considered it a form of military training.

Lacrosse is one of the oldest sports in North America

The early rules of hockey were originally adapted from lacrosse

Lacrosse hasn’t been included in the Olympics since 1948
Intramural soccer kicks off season

by Jessica Hirschkorn
Staff reporter

Fresh cut grass, white chalk lines and goalies intent on protecting the goal signify the start of another quarter of intramural soccer.

On Monday April 13, intramural soccer athletes played the first games of the season. Referees, players, and a handful of fans met on the music lawn at approximately 3:30 p.m. to kick off the season.

For spring soccer, the weather was less than warm. Rain, hail, and a cold wind numbed the players. However, the athlete’s spirits did not seem to be dampened.

Soccer players from all levels participate in the league, ranging from first time players to extremely experienced athletes.

“I have played [soccer] since I was five years-old,” said Chris Ward senior music education major.

The mix of abilities enhances the excitement of the games. The players exhibit carefree attitudes while playing with friends outside after class.

“I like playing with people I know...it’s fun to accomplish things with friends,” said Max Stephens, junior construction management major.

Stephens has played intramural soccer for two years.

This year he is on the Kansas City Chiefs team.

His team hopes to beat the club intramural soccer team and win the intramural championship.

There are three separate leagues to accommodate players.

“Coed” combines male and female athletes with at least three women per team.

“Competitive” is for the serious soccer players.

Lastly, the “Open League” is for men and women who just want to get out there and play.

Intramural soccer has become increasingly popular.

“This year there were three to four teams that had to be wait listed,” said Kevin Eggen, senior business major, and supervisor of intramural soccer.

According to Eggen, outdoor sports offer more opportunities to get outside and play.

“There are 24 teams and each team has approximately 10 team members, this year seems to a record turnout,” said Eggen.

Eggen has played intramural soccer nearly every year he has been at Central. He is now the supervisor of the soccer league.

At the games, he signs in the teams, and makes sure the referees are on task.

Refereeing for intramural soccer is a paid position. There are two referees on every field for each game.

“I refereed for years, but this is my first time for the school,” said Scott Heath sophomore education major.

“Everyone is just out to have a good time, [the players] have pretty good sportsmanship.”

Most intramural athletes enjoy the experience of being on a team with some of their best friends, Ward said.

“Our team members are all really good buddies ... we get together sometimes on the weekend and scrimmage each other,” said Stephens.

Ward said he will miss intramural soccer when he graduates.

He feels that just getting together and playing will be less of a possibility in the real world.

Students who wish to watch intramural soccer games can go to the music lawn Monday through Thursday at approximately 3 to 7 every night.

Wildcat softball takes three out of four

by Garret Atkinson
Staff reporter

The Central Washington Wildcat softball team returned to conference play Friday and Saturday, sweeping their second game on Friday, sweeping the doubleheader.

Starting pitcher Katrina Re-Saint Martin’s scored three runs up two more runs in the sixth sweeping the doubleheader.

Sweeping Friday’s games and Central fell behind early when in the fourth inning to steal girls won three of the four...".

In the second game on Saturday, St. Martin’s in a four game series. The Wildcats put up big numbers early in the game, scoring six runs in the first inning, which included an RBI double by senior Holly Rossman to score Taylor Trautmann to get the offense rolling.

Rossman’s double tied the single-season record with 13, currently held by graduate assistant coach Mattly Holtz.

The Wildcats added two more in the fourth inning.

Vlahovich ended, giving up just three hits and striking out five. Molly Coppper led the offense in the game with two hits and two RBIs.

In the second game on Saturday, St. Martin’s scored six runs in the fourth to earn their first win against the Wildcats and shut out their 8-0. St. Martin’s starting pitcher, Jamie Herrick, allowed only two hits in her shutout.

Wildcat pitcher Lindy Baxter started the second game, going three innings while giving up five hits and five runs.

The Wildcat Softball team hit the road again to play Western Washington on Tuesday, April 14.
Billings is in the lead and was a good one. But we’re losing a lot, junior outfielder said. “But last weekend was a good one. It got our spirits back up taking three of four [from Northwest Nazarene].”

Starting pitcher Matt Crowe started off strong, but the Coyotes put up three runs in the fourth inning and did not relinquish the lead. The bullpen looked solid only allowing one hit in two innings.

Central provided a little more offense in the second game of the Idaho doubleheader, scoring seven runs, three of which came in a last inning rally. The Wildcats fell to the Coyote’s offense, which did its work early, scoring 10 runs in the first three innings.

Junior pitcher and team captain Kevin Walkenhauer, lasted only 2 and 2/3 innings as he gave up all ten of the Coyote runs of which eight were earned. Walkenhauer wrestled with control, walking four batters as his record fell to 0-3.

Central Head Coach Desi Storey is not very concerned with the four losses to the College of Idaho on the year. “The College of Idaho thing is we were mid week and short on pitching,” Storey said. “[Obviously I don’t want to lose to them] but I’d hope to play better than we did... On a normal year if we were a little deeper on the pitching I’d say the College of Idaho thing is more important to look at. I’m looking more at what we’re doing every weekend in conference and when we have our four starters healthy and that type of stuff. That’s more important right now.”

Central made the trip to Lacey, Wash. this weekend facing off with rival St. Martin’s.

The Wildcats unleashed their frustration on the Saints winning the series opener 9-5.

Senior right-handed pitcher Derek Shoemaker threw a 10 inning complete game striking out nine and only allowing three earned runs.

Despite a strong performance by Senior southpaw pitcher Robbie Grimm, the Wildcats lost the game 1-0. Grimm was two outs away from securing another trip to the plate for the Wildcat offense, but a walk-off RBI double by St. Martin’s right fielder put an end to Central’s day.

Saturday, junior second baseman Danny Myers came through in the clutch on delivering an extra inning bases loaded single to beat St. Martin’s 5-4.

Strong pitching performances by Juniors Michael McCanna and Matt Crowe kept the Wildcats in the game.

Central loaded the bases in the top of the 10th with two singles and a walk which made way for Myers to movebios dancing 90 feet on an RBI base hit.

Crowe came back out to pitch for the bottom of the 10th and shut down the Saints, striking out six.

The Wildcat offense struggled in the second game scoring only one run that came off a pinch hit fielder’s choice in the last inning.

The loss put the Wildcats’ record at 12-24 overall and 8-12 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference which is good for fourth place.

“We’re not playing very well by our standards,” said Storey. “If you go on a normal year where we’re going to put together a good string and be in the hunt of the playoff race until the last weekend, then everything else stacks up the way it should be. We’re the team in the mix that’s changed everything because we’re not playing very well.”

Central continues on the road next weekend facing Montana State Billings, 11-6.

Junior, second baseman/shortstop Jordon Slesk slides back into first base during a game against College of Idaho.

Baseball makes a comeback

by Matthew Carstens

Staff reporter

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Please try to keep under 200 words!

Bouillion Room 222
cwuobserver@cwu.edu
Fantasy makes a perfect season

Garret Atkinson
Staff reporter

Fantasy sports fanatics, it's time to question your 'fanhood.'

In the last month and a half or so, baseball has been the hot topic, and for good reason.

When baseball season comes around, it seems to brighten everyone's mood just a bit, a reminder that spring is really here, summertime is close and our favorite team gets to start the season with a clean slate.

It's the time of year when we get to make optimistic predictions, discuss the best off-season transactions and justify our love for a team that we so badly want to win it all.

But what has become even more exciting to seemingly every fan of baseball is the start of the fantasy baseball season.

In playing fantasy baseball, something is lost from the true fans we once were. I say 'we' because I play and have played in fantasy leagues, for multiple sports.

When you play these leagues, your goals as a sports fan are much different.

You will pick any player for your fantasy roster that you believe will rack up the most stats possible, which means you're no longer rooting for your favorite hometown team, you're rooting for the players on your own team.

Now this kind of thing would be meaningless normally, as it is just a game, but the competitive nature of fantasy baseball makes it a little more serious, since most of the fans playing fantasy leagues start rooting harder for their favorite players on their fantasy team than ever before.

For some, this has even become more important than their favorite team winning.

One of your players is the starting pitcher for that night, another is the closer and the last player is in the lineup. So who are you rooting for?

It is easy to think you would rather have your favorite team play well and win, but what if there is a wager on your league?

This complication dilutes the ability for a great fan to have mixed feelings on who they actually want to win or play well.

Much of this could be said for gambling on sports in other areas, but fantasy baseball takes it to a much different level.

It's a very long season and as you grow to enjoy the players on your fantasy team for their accomplishments, some fans may put their favorite team aside to put more attention and care in to creating a team of Major League players who are only needed for the numbers they put up.

The icing on the cake is the need to pick players based solely on stats, so instead of disliking players for their character and sometimes very poor decisions, you will root for them anyway, hoping they keep putting up solid numbers.

This is where I need to take a step back, as should some of the die hard fantasy players, and remember who they are rooting for. Question your 'fanhood.'

I know there have been times where I have run into this dilemma.

Fantasy baseball is going to be around for a very long time, so for those of you who play it or plan to, always stop and remember to root hard for your favorite team and your favorite players.

Don't let your fantasy teams corrupt you in being a great fan. Take some time to think about it.

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