Along a hallway in Harrah Elementary School, a little boy chased a stray marble as it continued to roll away from him. On the wall, children built their own marble racing ramps that they were able to test out once they finished placing each piece where they desired on the wall.

For 5-year-old Arturo Sanchez, 3rd grade, and 7-year-old Chance Abrams, 2nd grade, building the ramps on the wall and racing their marbles down them was their favorite part of the family science night held at Harrah Elementary School last Wednesday evening.

“It has been a huge team effort,” said Dan Estock.

Estock, a fifth grade teacher at Harrah Elementary for six years, explained how the idea behind organizing the family science night was to encourage kids and community members to become more interested in science. Estock is also the district science committee chair, and collaborated with WATERS Project members to make the event possible.

The project, which stands for Watershed Activities to Enhance Research in Schools, is a National Science Foundation program dedicated to implementing science and research into school curriculums beginning with kindergarten through high school. This year’s focus was in chemistry, biological sciences, and resource management complete the Masters in Science degree by conducting and incorporating their research projects into class curriculums at the school they are paired to work with.

Along with WATERS, undergraduates including physics, astronomy, chemistry, geology and science education also participated in conducting projects at the family science night. Volunteers from the Civics Engagement Center also helped with organizing and conducting the science night.

Children and parents roamed eagerly along the hallways, working their way through each of the classrooms and participating in the abundant amount of projects offered. In total, 18 classrooms, along with the gym and cafeteria throughout Harrah Elementary School were decorated and set up with an array of different science projects and themes.

There were also trivia questions posted outside each classroom door pertaining to the theme of the room, which allowed for both children and parents to test their knowledge in each scientific theme.

Themes throughout the classrooms included a lava tube, volcanoes, reptiles, insects, water science, astronomy, music, human and plant cells, chemistry reactions and explosions and many others. Each station included an interactive project, which allowed students to take part in conducting an experiment. Among these projects was a battle of the builders station.

Melissa Barnett, a kindergarten teacher at Harrah Elementary explained how the purpose of the project was for each child to build their own structure from their ideas, but when it came time for some students to present, they were only able to show a shoe cut into the board, causing the entire board to hover above the ground much like an air hockey table.

Community members and local organizations, including Yakima Nation Fish and Wildlife, and the Yakima River Community Environmental Education Program also took part in the effort to build interest in science. One such person was Catharine Reed, a wetlands specialist for the Department of Ecology.

“To me, education is the key to the future, it’s how we change things for the better,” Reed said.

He has worked for the department for 20 years. As a wetlands specialist, Reed demonstrated how wetlands and soils improve water quality by displaying jars filled with different soils and water.

On Thursday, laughter and excited chatter among both parents and children alike could be heard throughout all of Harrah Elementary School.

The prominent smiles across the many faces of all those in attendance served as a good sign of the sheer enjoyment and amazement that was to be had at the family science night.
As part of an ongoing effort to integrate the university with the community it inhabits, the Central Washington University Board of Trustees (BOT) held the Feb. 3 meeting at the Hal Holmes Center in downtown Ellensburg. “The Hal Holmes Center is a symbol of how downtown Ellensburg would look more like the central, Ellensburg would look more like the downtown, Ellensburg,” said Morris Urbelacker, professor geography.

While a strong sense of community was a defining theme of the meeting, there were other items on the agenda the BOT discussed.

One notable point of business addressed at the BOT’s meeting was the approval of an S&A supplemental budget allocation. The request called for one time travel support for two groups of students to attend the National Adaptive Physical Education Conference and the Student Fashion Association 2012 New York Field Experience.

Some of the issues that students will rally support, it is likely that universities will gain more funds for institutions like this one. President Mark A. Murray said that it’s important that the legislature see’s that it’s not just one student lobbying, but several students that are facing these challenges,” said Mike Merz, vice president of legislative affairs for the associated students of Central Washington University board of directors (ASCWU-BOD).

Lobby Day is an easy event to get involved with. There are sign up sheets in the BOD office, room 236 in the Student Union and Recreation building (SURC). Students can also get involved by signing up on websites such as cwustudents.org, WashStudents.org and legwga.wa.gov. These sites provide information on how students can contact their state legislature. Students will meet on Lobby Day at the SURC at 8 a.m., where there will be free coffee before students depart on charter buses at 8:30 a.m. At the event many students will rally on the steps of the capital building, while others will write their concerns and requests on forms that will be given to the legislature. Students will also be able to look up who their area representative is and go to their office to talk to them face to face.

“Students bring a certain energy and excitement that the legislature lacks,” said Senator Michael Baumgartner, sixth legislative district.

University is losing state funding and students have felt it with rising tuition costs. Meanwhile, applicants being denied federal aid and school budget getting slashed. This President’s Day, Feb. 20, students will have the opportunity to vocalize their strong sense of community to legislators. The next BOT Meeting will take place on March 3 in Barge Hall.

Lobby Day allows Wash. student voices to be heard

BY JUSTIN NUHE
Staff Reporter

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Interview with Representative Baumgartner

Having a large body of students in attendance can send a strong message to the citizens of Washington. Merz’s goal is to have at least 150 students attend.

“The media will show up, the legislators will take note, and the citizens will understand through the media how much this is affecting their sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, and siblings,” Merz said.

According to a recent press release, Baumgartner said “twenty years ago the state paid 80 percent of the cost of higher education at four-year institutions; today that figure stands at just 36 percent.”

Some of the issues that students will be focusing on include the Veterans Bill, which allows out-of-state veterans funds for housing, shared governance for students, sustainable tuition and fighting to keep the state from cutting more programs and budgets.

While it is not likely that the demonstration will gain more funds for institutions throughout the state, if enough students rally support, it is likely that universities will lose less funding.

To raise awareness for Lobby Day, Merz and other students will be giving class presentations the week of Feb. 13. Follow up presentations, flyers and other promotions will continue until Feb. 17.

“If they care about higher education funding, students need to help the legislature make education a priority in the state constitution,” Baumgartner said.

Baumgartner is fighting to make an amendment to the state constitution that deems 1.75 percent sales tax in Washington devoted solely to funding higher education.

This would make higher education split directly in half between student’s pockets and state funding, instead of students having to pay 64 percent of the cost.
“Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.”
-Dalai Lama

TO: Awoww
\*FROM: Jamie
Thank you for being a big sister to my kids & the best study partner ever!

TO: Soulmate
\*FROM: Soulmate
Friends Yesterday, Sisters Today, Soulmates Forever.

TO: Matt
\*FROM: Katy
I feel blessed with the happiness you give me. I love you!

TO: Marissa, Chris, & Erick
\*FROM: Jamie
My kids are so blessed to have you in our lives!

TO: Trevor
\*FROM: Bonnie
Thanks for being my support system, and my Valentine!

TO: Anna, Rosalind, Cailllin, & Travis
\*FROM: Jamie
You were the best psych research group ever. You even taught me to love statistics. Well, sort of...

TO: Gretta
\*FROM: Dan Herman
Repetez apres moi: j’te aime.

TO: The Observer, Pulse, and Newswatch
\*FROM: Cynthia
Keep up the great work, student journalists!

TO: Megz & Dylz
\*FROM: Mom
I wouldn’t have made it through college without you! You are my heart!

TO: Chris
\*FROM: Jenna
You’re my best friend, Happy my best Valentine’s Day, I LOVE YOU!

TO: Rhoda
\*FROM: Crystal
You are amazing and inspiring, I Love You!
Some see going “Facebook official,” or as a way to publicly stake a claim on their significant other, sending a message to others to back off on their digital arm candy.

Many people put too much value in a “Facebook official” relationship request. Think about it: when you and your significant other while in a relationship, or, as most people would call it, stalk their statuses should. Wait a few times more pretentious-sounding. It’ll be just like the thesis except three times longer. "Some see going "Facebook official": The true sense of the face-to-face.

Some couples jump the gun and update their pages after the first date and watch their Facebook notifications explode with “likes” and comments. Then, about a week and a second later, it’s back to “single.” Others are more off-again-on-again. The constant back-and-forth updates have friends rolling their eyes and wondering when it’ll be on again, or off again.

How valid is a “Facebook official” relationship? Many people in long-term committed relationships wait months to update their page, and some don’t even become Facebook official,” opting to keep their marital statuses to themselves.

For those couples in happy, committed relationships, the mushy, gushy, googly-eyed status updates are elegant. Better said later, text messages to the significant other they’re written about. It’s more than okay to tell a partner how much they’re loved, but other than that one specific person, there are few Facebook friends who care.

Status updates don’t take much thought, but relationship statuses should. Wait a few weeks, or even a month or two before sending that relationship request. Think about who will be reading the status update before you write it. Remember that being "Facebook official" doesn’t validate your relationship; you have to do that offline and face-to-face.

Editorial Board: Katharine Lotze, Mensa Smith, Amber Beaul, Nicholas Williamson

Sarah Parrish, a Central student majoring in theatre, lost her battle with cancer last Friday. Her memorial service will be held in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Memorial service for student to be held Saturday

Flowers may be sent to:
Affordable Funeral Care
101 E. 2nd Ave.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

So...you’re a writer?

Dear Readers,

The Observer welcomes brief letters of 300 words or less from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. To be printed in the following week’s issue, please e-mail your letters to cwobserveropinion@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Observer reserves the right to reject or edit for style and length. All letters become property of The Observer. Anonymous letters will not be considered.
The imagery and the legend of all things “vage” take a team to produce. Nineteen women sit in a pale room, spanning four sides of a conference room table. The women are casually dressed, wearing stocking caps and sweatshirts, some hold soda bottles and coffee cups. Each one holds a script.

Director Jen Ham, Central Alum and Kaylen Rich, organizer of production, were both in last year’s cast of the show saying that the play’s subject matter is so important to them they were compelled to stay involved—even bringing the production back again.

This year, they will mold the monologues into a more conservative form. In an undressed rehearsal, the mood is informal; the cast sits in comfy chairs and reads aloud in turn. Ann Fuller, freshman, education, effortlessly reads her monologue, formally named “Reclaiming C***” and enunciates the language of the muscle, the texture, and the very vibration of the female body with her voice. Fuller “nailed” the versatility of the four-letter slang word detested by millions of women in a retaliatory, expository letter. Her monologue, formally reading all of the parts.

“When Kaylen first asked me to read in the monologues, I was shocked and told her that I would be glad to do the costumes,” Fuller said. “I think that we may have even been in class when she told me about it, and I did not know if I could do it—but now, well, here we go.”

Larkin Harrington, sophomore Dramatic Art major and the Monologues’ assistant director, pulls her red hoodie strings as she begins her highly anticipated reading of “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy,” one of the most critically reviewed segments of the monologues. Through the voice of a lawyer-turned-sex worker, she lets her voice bleed heavily into her lines and does not look back.

Harrington is aware that women in leather and fishnets have performed her monologue, even center stage in their underwear in past performances. The object sexuality of her character’s role is one that she is enthusiastically preparing for.

“I am really looking forward to reading this, I mean, it’s going to be exciting in the audience,” Harrington said. “I think it will be a challenge and I have not really done anything like this before.”

While Harrington delivers her lines, the others watch her carefully, playfully, and offer bursts of laughter on point. Their reactions to the collective experience are evident in their applause.

“I was actually in the play as a performer last year,” Rich said. “And I would not have been comfortable reading all of the parts.”

Ham is very happy with the diverse cast of students who turned out for the monologues, and she muses few of them are theatre majors.

“I am not going to make the girls memorize their lines. I thought that reading from these black binders would be easier for them, because, well, the subject is hard. I am not an actor, and so, this way, if they are just reading from the script, it is a more direct experience we are looking for,” Ham said.

Ham works at Planned Parenthood in Ellensburg, and she feels strongly about the work that Ensler has created. The promotion of V-Day is an integral part of the puzzle as performances transform social attitudes towards violence against women one performance at a time. Rich works on campus at the Empowerment Center, spends her time organizing social change events coordinating press, and just appreciates the opportunity to enlighten students to the possibility of realizing a hate-free world. Rich’s project is a charitable effort, in a long and harrowing tradition of waging art and freedom of expression against inequality, confusion, and fear.

According to Ham and Rich, the play is fulfilling for each of the performers doing their part to realize the efforts of a global awareness of the issues still affecting every woman today. “We are very excited to get the message of the monologues and put the word out there again,” Rich said.

“The Vagina Monologues” never fail to deliver the audience to a place they may never have realized they can go or wanted to.

In the echoes of the voices that expose social and cultural attitudes that perpetuate the pervasive violence against women. Rich and Ham—two women—bring the monologues back to life in three emotionally charged performances by Central’s newest and bravest cast of women. In the tradition of social change for the voice of every vagina, let the panties fall where they may.

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WHAT DOES VALENTINE’S DAY MEAN TO YOU?
BY: BOBBIE BLACK

“Valentine’s Day is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get.”

Elena Carter
Sophomore Exercise Science

“It’s more expensive than Xmas if you want to get that WOW factor you gotta go for jewelry.”

Brandon Sager
Senior Exercise Science

“If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?”

CJ Balstad
Senior Public Health Pre Nursing

“I don’t like Valentine’s Day, I like Valentine’s night!”

Vincent Langsy
Freshman Marketing

Valentine’s wine and dine
Ellensburg businesses offer dinner, drink specials

RESTAURANTS
The Dakota Cafe
Special Menu
Glass of champagne or red or white wine
Appetizer and salad
Choose: prime rib and scallops or lemon rosemary chicken
Dessert

JJ’s on Main
Live music and champagne with chocolate covered strawberries, complimentary for each guest.
Five-course food and wine pairing.
Special starts at $125 per couple.
Meal that includes a choice of appetizers, soup or salad, entree and dessert. This meal goes for $45 per person or $80 for couples.

The Palace
Sweetheart specials:
Five dinner specials including prime rib with sauteed garlic prawns free kalua cream pie with any dinner entree

Valentine’s Day is the perfect time of year to celebrate a significant other or just being in love. People celebrate this holiday for many different reasons, and there are plenty of restaurants in the Ellensburg area willing to accommodate them. Couples can find a romantic setting or a more family friendly location, as there are many different restaurant styles to choose from.

Couples have multiple options when looking for the perfect dining setting while celebrating Valentine’s Day in Ellensburg, whether they are searching for that romantic candlelight dinner or a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

BARS
301
Singles Mingle Party
$2 Sex up against the wall
$2 Harvey Wall hangers
$3 Blow jobs
$4 Dbl Sex on the beach
$5 Dbl Screaming orgasms
$5 Dbl Sex on my Face

Starlight
“Vodka is my Valentine” Party
“Who needs a valentine, When you got vodka?”
Tuesday Feb. 14, 10 p.m to 1 a.m.
Half-off all liquor starting at 9:00 p.m.
Vodka shot specials all night
A twist on the Gummi bear Martini (Candy Martini) Giveaways!

The Palace
Sweetheart martini:
passion fruit cosmo
strawberry milkshake martini
huckleberry lemon drop martini
Guy advice for the Holliday

Valentine’s Day is in its death throes. Like every other holiday, Valentine’s Day, has been so perverted by consumer culture that not only does it look nothing like the intended tradition, but it’s patronisingly offensive to everyone from couples in love to single people. In fact, the only people who really seem to like Valentine’s Day are women with partners who are willing to spend extravagantly because of societal pressures and generational expectations. Everything sucks about Valentine’s Day. People don’t write their own hand-written cards anymore, as was the custom. Day. People don’t write their own hand-written cards anymore, as was the custom. People don’t write their own hand-written cards anymore, as was the custom.

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When Harry Met Sally...

Often unfairly maligned by those of the male gender, the romantic comedy genre is not completely without its share of notable films. One example of such a film that often entertains both men and women alike is Rob Reiner’s “When Harry Met Sally...”. Starring funnyman Billy Crystal and pre-romcom fixture Meg Ryan. Reiner’s film is often considered one of the greatest of its genre. Featuring genuinely funny dialogue, a relatable story and a strong cast, “When Harry Met Sally...” is certain to entertain anyone who gives it a chance, regardless of one’s own relationship status. Other notable romantic comedies include “Bridget Jones’s Diary,” “Something’s Gotta Give” and “Clueless.”

Footies, snuggies and PJ’s oh my!
Pajama Jam 2012 dresses down

Not only will the Pajama Jam bring money for a good cause but it will bring a great night with friends, dancing and pajamas. According to Joey Braby, junior interdiscplinary studies, this is the first attempt at having a safe environment to host an event outside of Raw Space.

“We expect to see a lot of pajamas, snuggies, and maybe some lingerie,” Braby said.

“I want people guessing what’s next. I want them wanting more.”

Jacob Sampson, sophomore broadcast journalism said that they wanted to make the event more enjoyable. In Ellensburg something different.

This event is an attempt to give back to the students and give Central a good name while also providing a safe and fun environment for a pajama party unlike any that you have attended during your childhood. There will be zero tolerance on underage drinking. Only people who are of legal drinking age are allowed to drink alcohol at this event.

Brabo and Sampson hope to plan more events and parties together in the future if Pajama Jam 2012 is a success.

“I want people guessing what’s next,” Sampson said. “I want them wanting more.”

PhOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Guy Holliday Staff Reporter

Don’t have a Valentine? No worries. There will be no need to go through all the trouble of getting printed, ready and fresh to death to go out this weekend. Just slip on some pajamas and head out to the Ellensburg Fairgrounds Saturday, Feb. 11 at 9 p.m. and find yourself a date just in time for Valentine’s Day. Pajama Jam 2012 will be held in the Manastash Room bumping all of the hottest electronics, house, dubstep and hip hop music all night. Catch performances from Acropora, formerly known as DJ KP, DJ Storm, and Lennie Krew. Sip on free Monster Energy drinks because this event is sponsored by Monster Energy along with thissonglap.com and BINX Green Lifestyle. All proceeds from this event support the Boys and Girls Club of Ellensburg as well as Ellensburg veterans who have sustained an injury in war.

“We’re just trying to do the best for our community, and show the community what we’re capable of,” Brabo said.

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Said Brabo, “It’s another opportunity to help someone who needs it.”

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PhOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES
Raw Space Café is the brainchild of Dean Decrease, a former Weyerhaeuser employee, who was looking for an investment in 2008. The design and the reality prove to be far from the initial plans of business investors. The café closed its doors on Feb. 3.

Decrease was asked to oversee a new venture by a local entrepreneur and he partnered in after selling his house on Capitol Hill, buying half of the project. In 2008, the stage and the café were still in the remodel and restoration phase. In this phase of the newfound Elmira Arts Project (EAP) designed to create a ‘magnet building venture in downtown Ellensburg, Decrease and his collective partners were literally putting up the cash to get the job done.

“I liked the idea of, um, doing something in a community, and it touches the community in a personal way, and does something more personal for me than just putting my money into the bank,” Decrease said. “My friend Laura was running it ex-
clusively this time last year, and even then the owner was really out of touch,” Powell said. “Both of them, Don and Dean, have traded off who is more involved in the last two years of business. This is the third time they have done this, closing it down thing…it is like dueling burn-outs in here, and so maybe this time they are closing it for real.”

Seth Garrido is working his last shift in the café. He was the sole operator during the last open mic venue in the fulltime café space. Garrido said that the employees were not given any notice of the closure, but were given one month’s severance pay. “I say we occupy the Sandbox,” Garrido said. “This place has been run by three people for months and it is still uncertain if the music venues will be enough to carry the business fulltime once the café closes.”

Decrease is hoping that they are all able to move through this transition smoothly and hopes to reopen the café as time al-
ows—if they can. He said that the café could not sustain itself anymore and that’s what led to the announcement last week. “We really want to keep the music part of the mission alive, and we are really in danger of the whole thing being dragged down by this unprofitable coffee shop oper-
ation,” Decrease said.

“Most venues have a bar and a stage and those two are very synergistic,” Decrease said. “I think realistically we have to operate just like that—if we want to save

BY MENDE SMITH
Assistant Scene Editor

Raw nerves:
Café closes to cut losses

“Once you have artists and creative people involved,” Decrease said, “You at-
tract others in the community and local businesses to the area, that was one main
mission of the EAP and Raw Space, and the other was to bridge the gap between the university and the city, which has his-
torically been a hard thing to bridge.”

From the first venue in late 2005, Raw Space was operating at a loss each month. Decrease saw how the expenses and the harrowing payroll costs factored into sev-
eral-day operations. According to Decrease at the begin-
ning of the project operating costs were not a big problem.

“We had a borrowed sound system and volunteers running the place, it was simple, and it was exciting, and it worked.”

Decrease said.

According to Christy Powell, another one of the local regulars, this plan of “re-
tooling” Raw Space has all been done before with no results. She has also been coming since they opened.

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cursively this time last year, and even then the owner was really out of touch,” Powell said. “Both of them, Don and Dean, have traded off who is more involved in the last two years of business. This is the third time they have done this, closing it down thing…it is like dueling burn-outs in here, and so maybe this time they are closing it for real.”

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The Left feels so right
Raw Space rocks out with British Columbia band

BY DESSA BOYLE
Staff Reporter

Hailing from Langley, a small town in British Columbia, the eclectic band The Left kicked off the first leg of their U.S. tour in Ellensburg on Feb. 1 at Raw Space.

Inspired by classic rock musicians such as The Beatles, as well as more contemporary artists like Coldplay and Death Cab for Cutie, The Left have been working on their unique sound since 2002, ultimately deciding to turn music from hobby into a career.

The Left consists of Eric and Carl Davis, Jeremy Dyck, Josh Wyper and Kevin Gau.

The Left have worked with some of the biggest and most respectable names in the music business. They give much of their credit to their producer, GGGArt, who has produced for Rage Against the Machine and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, as well as Ben Kaplan, who has helped with artists such as Shakira and Hedley. Credit is also due to their manager, Allen Moy.

The Left's lastest album “Cycles” was mixed by award winner Randy Stauff, who has worked with both U2 and Metallica. The album was mastered by Allen Yoshiha, who has worked with Miles Davis and Paul McCartney.

“Cycles,” which dropped on Jan. 10 has already been very successful. Their single “Cellophone” has been a top download on Amazon.com.

Recently, outdoor recreation company Eddie Bauer added The Left to their Emerging Artist Series. Songs from “Cycles” can now be heard in more than 20 retail chain stores across the country.

“We want to make music that you can listen to and enjoy, but at the same time music that your mom can sit down and like too,” Eric Davis said.

According to Eric, the new album has much diversity, infused with ‘70s classic rock as well as drum loops that can dance to. Although Feb. 1 was their first time in Ellensburg, The Left have toured North America before. They performed in more than 300 shows as well as a feature show at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Eric describes touring as much of a hurry up, get there, and wait. However, Eric is quick to add that the exhaustion that comes with touring is all worth it when the band gets on stage.

“The best part about touring is the moment when the first note is played to the very last,” Eric said.

Although they are seasoned musicians with very busy schedules, another aspect that sets The Left apart is their connection with their fans.

The Left can be seen on multiple social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, “Tumbler” and can easily be reached through their personal email, info@theleft.ca.

The band encourages fans to get in touch with them via any of these connections and is very good about getting back to fans as soon as possible.

Eric made it clear that he and the rest of the band would love people from Ellensburg to get in touch with them so that the next time The Left comes to play, it can be a more personal experience.

“All, next time we’re here, we want to play a house party,” Josh Wyper said.

It’s clear that The Left is an extremely versatile and talented group of musicians, both in studio and on tour. After their northwest tour they plan to fly across the pond and continue touring in Europe where they have a strong fan base as well.

The Left have successfully captured a sound few others have. They have complete four part harmonies intertwined with melodic compositions and witty lyrics as well as stage presence exuded from all five members.

It’s clear that when it comes to good music, The Left is very right.

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MICHAEL HARRISON/OBSERVER

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Russell etches her name in history books

SOPHIE RUSSELL Senior guard/forward

Sophie Russell had a tremendous game despite a heart-breaking 39-35 loss against Northwest Nazarene University Saturday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

Russell’s five three-pointers and 26 total points made her the sixth player in Central Washington University’s history of women’s basketball to score 1,000 points. Russell now stands as the fifth all-time scorer in school history.

“It feels good,” Russell said. “Four years of hard work really pays off.”

Both Russell and head coach Shawn Nelson agree that Russell’s extra time in the gym and working with coaches was definitely a key factor in her improvement.

“I’m glad she got her 1,000th career point tonight,” Nelson said. “If she ever had a score tonight, we didn’t have anybody else who stepped up. We had no urgency, we had no passion, we had no energy on the bench, we couldn’t sub people in, we had nothing.”

Russell was the only player on Saturday to drop double digits in scoring.

“Different people step up in different games,” Russell said. “We need to all step up together and keep up the energy.”

Freshman Tayler Fettig agrees that the energy level of the team needs to stay up and in a playoff mentality. Fettig came off the bench and finished the game with six points, four rebounds, and three assists.

“We all want to win,” Fettig said. “We just have to work harder and get in the gym.”

Fettig admits that her confidence and going to the hoop both need to improve. However, Fettig enters every game with a prayer and does her best to stay in the never-give state of mind.

Central started out strong, scoring the first bucket of the game after losing the opening tip-off and holding close with the biggest lead being only three points for most of the first half.

The Wildcats headed to the locker room holding onto a one-point lead at the end of the first half.

In the second half however, NNU came out swinging and took an early six point lead. Central quickly recovered with solid defense and on-target shots that tied the score at 39.

NNU later pulled ahead and kept the Wildcats down for nearly the remainder of the game. Central just didn’t have enough steam to get back on top and stay on top.

The Wildcats have dropped to 3-9 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) and 6-13 overall.

Nelson felt the defensive adjustments that Central made from their last meeting with NNU were on the money, holding them to just 38 points, as opposed to 91 points the last time. It was on offense that Nelson felt the team made poor choices.

“We turned down open shots and drove into trouble and turned it over or drove into bad shots,” Nelson said. “We took so many bad shots under five seconds on the shot clock because whoever got the catch just dribbled around for 10 seconds, and that’s not our offense.”

Nelson also stated that Saturday’s game was the fourth conference game that the team has given away, not been beaten per se, but given away. Nelson also feels that in order to start getting wins, the team will need a attitude adjustment.

“We have 14 players, five play at a time and the ones having any amount of success are the ones that get in the gym with coaches,” Nelson said. “They need to change their attitudes and their focus more importantly. They’re scholarship basketball players.”

With seven games left in the regular season, the Wildcats hold high hopes to finish strong, so they will take it day by day.

The Wildcats next face off against the Montana State University Billings Yellowjackets. The game is Feb. 9 at Nicholson Pavilion. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Russell etches her name in history books

BY SANTOS HERRERA Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University Softball team is participating in the Montana State University Billings (MSUB) Desert Stinger tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, Feb. 10-12. The tournament is the GNAC behind MSUB according to the conference office. Seven conference head coaches participated in the poll. MSUB received three first place votes and

Softball looks to repeat

BY RANDY RAJKOVICH Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University Softball team is participating in the Montana State University Billings (MSUB) Desert Stinger tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, Feb. 10-12. The tournament is non-conference and has a preseason game atmosphere to warm up the Wildcats for the season.

The Wildcat Softball team is coming off a great season, where Central opened a 14-16 record, winning the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) and reaching the playoffs for the second straight season.

Hopes are high for this season, Central has been projected to finish second in the GNAC behind MSUB according to the conference office. Seven conference head coaches participated in the poll. MSUB received three first place votes and

Other teams will underestimate us from losing our All-Americans. We’re going to fight hard for the number one spot.

-MALORY HOLTZMANN Head Coach

Central received two.

“We have a big target on our back, we have to prove ourselves,” sophomore outfielder Jordan Zurfluh said. “We are ready for a good season and [to] show the other teams what we got.”

The conference title will not be given to the Wildcats, it will have to be earned.

This year’s team is replacing four of last year’s starters, two of which were Division II All-Americans Samantha Peterson and Kelsey Haupert, who combined hit 34 home runs and took the top two spots in batting average in the GNAC with astonishing averages of .455 and .451 respectively.

“Other teams will underestimate us from losing our All-Americans,” Head Coach Mallory Holtzmann said. “We’re going to fight hard for the number one spot.”

Other holes in the lineup are two-time first-team all-conference pitcher Lauren Hadenfeld, who recorded 48 wins over two seasons, and second-team all-conference pitcher Karina Zurfluh.

Sophomore Maria Gau is slotted to be this season’s number one pitcher, replacing Hadenfeld. Last year Gau went 8-5 in 96 2/3 innings as the Wildcat’s number two pitcher.

“Maria Gau could be the number one pitcher in the league and surprise a lot of other teams in the conference,” Holtzmann said.

Since losing much of their hitting power to graduating seniors, this year’s team will need to win with fundamental small ball. Speed and agility from younger players will help the Wildcats win games. Outfielder Jordan Zurfluh lead last year’s team with 11 stolen bases as a freshman.

“There is a lot of speed throughout the lineup and we will use it in any way we can,” Zurfluh said.

With speed on the base paths putting players in scoring position, the Wildcats will look to contact hitters putting the ball into play instead of relying on home-run power.

This year the batting order is filled with “slap hitters” that use speed and contact hitting to get on base. The Wildcats have three left-handed batters in the lineup who use the slap hitting technique.

Slap hitters predominantly bat from the left side. The batter runs at the pitched ball and swings in hope of making any contact to put the ball in play and utilize their speed with those extra steps in the batter’s box to get on base.

With a young, revamped team the Wildcats will look to continue their strong presence in the GNAC. Replacing a strong senior class, especially two All-Americans and two All-Conference players is tough, but with a core of good young players the Wildcats should contend for a spot in the post season.

After the MSUB Desert Stinger, the Wildcats begin conference play as they travel to Nampa, Idaho to face off against Northwest Nazarene University for a pair of games. The games will be held on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday Feb. 18.
If the 2012 Central Washington football signing class has one thing going for them as a whole, it's speed.

Another special thing is that they all are from Washington. The newest addition of Wildcats includes 19 offensive players and nine defensive players.

“I’m very excited that all 28 that we signed are from the state of Washington,” Head Coach Blaine Bennett said. “I think several of these signees have big play potential and hopefully they mature and grow and are able to make big plays for us.”

Players such as a red-chip prospect tight-end David Fontenette, white-chip running back Jordan Todd, quarterback Jake Nelson and wide receiver Christian Gasca all have potential to make Bennett’s and Central’s fans’ hopes a reality.

Including Nelson, a total of five quarterbacks were signed recently.

“We wanted to grab three or four, we ended up with five,” Bennett said. “Now with the quarterback-run type offenses you’ll see that often times the quarterback is the best athlete on the field. So a few of these guys are very athletic, [who] runs the ball as well as they throw the ball.”

Though the Wildcats did sign more quarterbacks than expected and were able to give out 28 scholarships, it doesn’t mean they didn’t miss out on any sought after recruits. Bennett said the Wildcats didn’t close the deal with a few linemen that they were working to sign. But the 2012 class as a whole compliments most of the voids coaches were looking to fill for the future.

“I’m pleased with the entire group and excited that at every position I think we’ve got some good players,” Bennett said. Bennett’s pitch for freshmen coming into Central is that he will most likely redshirt them. Unless a player is too good to keep off the field, or circumstances change, Bennett rarely breaks the redshirt tradition. Last season, Jeremiah Laufasa was able to play in nine games, the only true freshman to do so. Bennett believes there may be a few new players who have the potential to break tradition once again.

“I think we’ve got a couple guys, possibly the defensive linemen, because of the unique situation of having four seniors leave the program,” Bennett said. “I think David Fontenette is a very physical athlete, we have him slated to start at the tight end position.”

Bennett feels that in order to have a successful recruiting class they needed to be able to obtain size and speed, which he thinks they accomplished.

“We think that there’s a group of guys in here that are very talented,” Bennett said. “And I’m sure there’s going to be a handful that surprise us and end up being better than we ever anticipate as they grow and mature at their position[s].”

Central signs 28 new Washington players
Central Washington Men’s Basketball traveled to Nampa, Idaho to take on the Northwest Nazarene University Crusaders Saturday.

Senior Lacy Haddock and senior Jody Johnson were the Wildcats’ leading scorers in Saturday’s 75-70 loss. It was the first time in school history that Central lost both games in the season series.

Central now sits at 10-10 overall and has fallen to 3-7 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC). They are one game behind the Crusaders for the sixth spot in the conference.

The Wildcats started off the first half slowly as they trailed the Crusaders for the majority of the first part of the game before Central went on a 12-4 run with seven minutes remaining in the half that ended with a dunk from sophomore Kevin Davis to take the first lead of the game.

“I thought offensively we were getting to the rim, but we missed a lot of easy shots,” Head Coach Greg Sparling said. “A lot of shots went in and out, it’s hard to explain.”

Central headed into the half with a five-point lead, 38-33, shooting 52 percent from the field.

Three-pointers in the first half were not a factor as Central made only one of their four attempts, while NNU was two for nine.

The Crusaders started off the second half motivated as they scored the first four points to cut down Central’s lead to one, but the Wildcats reacted with a seven-point spurt to increase their lead to 34-47.

“The only adjustments we made for the second half were our ball screens that we did a lot better at,” Sparling said.

Both teams continued to score each time down the floor until a steal led to a dunk by Haddock giving Central a one point advantage.

Central ended up with 46.3 percent of the game. NNU finished with 46.3 percent and Central ended up with 42.6 percent on the night. Central went 20 for 25 from the free throw line while the Crusaders missed just two, shooting 20 for 22.

“Those were an easy shot,” Johnson said. “I thought offensively we were getting to the rim, but we missed a lot of easy shots.”

Senior forward Jody Johnson puts up a mid-range shot earlier this season. Johnson recorded his sixth double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Central will play at 7 p.m. in Billings on Thursday Feb. 9.

“I thought our pitching staff did a good job last year batting,” Storey said. “They just weren’t a dominant pitching staff, especially in the bullpen, and we’ve addressed that issue.

The Wildcats have several returning pitchers this year, including senior left-handed pitcher Brandon Rohde, who is looking forward to the new players.

“A lot of them can throw pretty hard, mid 80’s and above,” Rohde said. “We’ve managed to make up for that by practicing inside.”

The outfi eld has also been affected by the snow. They’ve been unable to get out on the field for fly ball practice, and have been forced to do so as it can be.

“We’ve managed to make up for that by practicing inside.”

The Wildcats lost seven one-run games last year, several of which went into extra innings.

“One weekend our pitching wouldn’t be really good and we wouldn’t hit,” said Jimmy Ryerson, junior outfielder.

Ryerson said last year’s struggles had much to do with the team not syncing well. Central couldn’t bounce back to how they played at the beginning of the season, and from there things went downhill.

One of Storey’s main concerns addressed in the off-season was pitching.

“We’ve managed to make up for that by practicing inside.”

The snow has affected the team’s ability to practice, but Central has coped.

“Since we’ve got back from break, we’ve been at six in the morning, every morning, doing weights and conditioning,” Rohde said. “I feel like we’re getting better each day, and in my heart, I think we’re a lot better than the other teams.”

The Crusaders lost the talents of starting shortstop Kelly Gao, who was first team all-conference last year, but Storey and the rest of the team feels that the returning seniors this year will be able to pick up the slack and have a good season.

Ryerson thinks that CWU has a legitimate shot at winning the GNAC this year.

“I know Western Oregon lost a lot of good players because they graduated,” Rohde said.

The Central baseball team is gearing up to have a tier-tier season, and is looking forward to having a much better season this year.

Central’s first home game is Saturday, March 3rd in Ellensburg against Whitworth. The first pitch is at noon.
Senior Reporter
BY EVAN THOMPSON
CWU track & field aces bar exam
do not have an actual locked-up position.
in a bid to compete in the postseason, but marks are now in consideration for receiv-
in their first meet of the season.
were debut marks for Wildcats competing marks in the season, while the other half
bests were set, half of which the Wildcat
in the top six, which included a first place
and four second place finishes.
In addition, a total of 55 new personal
preparation and I think people were really
really big for us this year,” Adkisson said.
us and the jumps overall are going to be
high jump.
jump, while Hunter set his new personal
posted six feet and 8.25 inches in the high
races,” Mack said. “I corrected a little bit
small team. But the girls are putting up
kind of hard, and you know we’re a pretty
12 feet, 6 inches. Davis believes the wom-
fifteenth nationally . Junior Kaylee Baumstark
placed fifth in the long jump.
also placed sixth in the long jump.
the high jump.
men's team in general is low on numbers but
13th nationally . Junior Manny Melo, Brennan
was junior Manny Melo, who won the men's long jump at Satur-
day’s Open Meet, with a mark of 22 feet, 4/5 inches.
there were also three second
place individual finishers for the men: Brennan Boyes, Scott Hunter, and Bryan
Mack. Mack recorded the second-fastest
time in GNAC history in the 60-meters,
by running 6.89 seconds and improved his personal best by over half a second. Mack
also placed sixth in the long jump.
“The finals felt good, I got to work on
me questioned my technique that are going wrong in my
races,” Mack said. “I corrected a little bit
and [set a personal record] but there’s still
a lot that I need to do left, so hopefully I
can do that in the next two weeks.”
Also competing well was Boyes who
posted six feet and 8.25 inches in the high
jump, while Hunter set his new personal
best in pole vault and met the same mark on Sat-
urday; then almost cleared her next goal at
12 feet, 6 inches. Davis believes the wom-
en’s team in general is low on numbers but
still competing strong at meets.
“We’re [the women’s team] doing al-
right; we didn’t have deep numbers so it’s
kind of hard, and you know we’re a pretty
small team. But the girls are putting up
some good marks this year,” Davis said.
Adkisson agreed with Davis.
“I’m pretty pleased to see how some
of our top-end girls are competing,” Ad-
kisson said. “I know Katharine Lotze im-
proved by a couple inches on her national
provisional mark for the triple jump and is
staying consistent there. Same with Kati
Davis. She vaulted within an inch of her
provisional mark for the triple jump and is
ranked 13th nationally . Junior Kaylee Baumstark
placed fifth in shot put with a mark of 39
feet, 7.25 inches. Kati Davis also had a
successful day; last week she was tied for
9th on the national qualifying marks list in
pole vault and met the same mark on Sat-
urday; then almost cleared her next goal at
12 feet, 6 inches. Davis believes the wom-
en’s team in general is low on numbers but
still competing strong at meets.
“Our team has 35 new personal
bests were set, half of which the Wildcat
in the first meet of the season.
The eight athletes that set provisional
marks are now in consideration for receiv-
ing a bid to compete in the postseason, but
do not have an actual locked-up position.
None of the Wildcats were able to hit au-
tomatic marks that would give them a sure
spot in the post-season, but still, the Wild-
cats are moving in the right direction to
do just that.
The highest finisher of the meet for
the Wildcats was junior Manny Melo,
who won the men's long jump at Satur-
day’s Open Meet, with a mark of 22 feet,
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provisional national qualifier [mark].”
The Wildcats travel to Seattle for the
Husky Open Feb. 12.
Both the men and women’s 4x400-
meter relay’s made their first appearance
this season. The men were less than half
a second away from finishing first, but had
to settle for second place with a time of
3:23.29. The women’s team placed fourth
with a time of 4:25.38.
Senior Katharine Lotze finished second
on Friday in the triple jump, and is ranked
13th nationally . Junior Kaylee Baumstark
placed fifth in shot put with a mark of 39
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