Former Central professor returns to campus to present his book and travels.

The Wildcats need only one win this week to secure a spot in the GNAC Championship.
CWU police help women fight back

BY JOE COUCCIO
Staff Reporter

Beginning Feb. 18, Rep. Judy Warnick and the Central Washington University Police Department are co-sponsoring a self-defense and firearm safety course for women.

The five classes, located in Nicholson Pavilion 205, began Monday and will also be held Feb. 27, March 4, 6 and 9.

The “first part is education, so everybody has a foundation of what we’re talking about,” Jason Berthon-Koch, captain of CWU Police Department said. “What you can and can not do, how not to become a victim, giving them the tools to not become a victim.”

The first four classes will include Central’s Rape Aggression Defense System, which teaches awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance.

The fifth and final class covers firearm safety and handling. Firearms will be loaned and ammunition will be available for purchase.

The classes “kind of picked up a lot of interest,” Warnick said. “There’s been an unfortunate number of different gun-related incidents. Talking to a lot of my friends, and some friends about how to handle the guns they have, people are uncomfortable handling the guns they own.”

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Fashionably fighting back

Central student bounces back from early fight with cancer

BY JAYNA SMITH
Assistant News Editor

Bianca Ballardo’s high school graduation was the day before she was diagnosed with a form of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Rather than focusing on the bruises on her body, the enlarged lymph node on her neck, or her incessant itching, she contemplated what she would wear.

She picked out the perfect form-fitting, turquoise and black dress, the back elegantly cut out, to wear for graduation. She even had her makeup professionally done at M@C.

Ballardo recalls staring into the mirror when the makeup artist finished, noticing how yellow her skin was, instead of her typical complexion, a honey-tan mocha. At that moment, she noticed how ill she felt and, more importantly to her, how she looked.

What Ballardo says should have been one of the happiest days of her life would mark the day before her life took a dramatic turn. Ballardo would never wear the dress she originally picked out; instead she would wear a loose-fitting black summer dress, which at the time was more comfortable. But that black dress revealed the bruises and much of the scarring from her scratching.

It was her mother, Crieldia Davilla, who first noticed the dark bruises on her legs. “Is someone beating you?” she asked. Bianca assured her mother that she wasn’t being beaten. She had previously seen a doctor who told her she was bruising so easily because she was anemic.

For the past six months, Ballardo had endured itch ing and sweating. Her attempt to take a shower, Ballardo said. “I was literally going crazy.”

She tracked through her high school graduation, and during the three-hour car ride to the Tri-Cities, Ballardo’s family noticed her symptoms for the first time. “I remember having to put my legs up and out of the window, and my arms, to let the wind hit them because I needed something to take my mind off of things,” Ballardo said.

That night, she would get enough relief to fall asleep, only to be awakened at about 5:30 a.m. to another round of intense itching and sweating. Her attempt to take a shower was the last straw; the water burned her body, and she realized she needed to see a doctor.

Ballardo was taken to the emergency room at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, where she was greeted by a doctor who looked to be in his mid-30s. He towered over her as she sat on the examined table. He performed a thorough exam of her bruises and the large lymph node on her neck.

The doctor said he would need more tests, then left the room. While she waited, Bianca chatted with her best friend at the time, Alex, over MySpace.

Her about two hours of undergoing numerous tests, the doctor re-entered the room. His demeanor never changed as he stood holding her test results, he looked at Bianca and said, “You have a form of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.”

Bianca replied, “What does that mean? I don’t know what that means.”

Shifting his weight, he said, “You have a form of cancer.”

Bianca, still confused, asked, “I have a form of cancer? Or I have cancer?”

The doctor blandly replied, “You have cancer.”

As the words left his mouth, a chilling tear filled the room, but it wasn’t Ballardo’s, it was her mother’s. Instead of reacting, Ballardo sat, detached from her emotions, and for a moment, reality.

“I felt dead inside,” Ballardo said.

Her mother called her father, Hector Ballardo, telling him everything the doctor had just told them. Her father then asked to speak to Bianca.

“OK,” he said.

“We’re going to be okay, mija,” he told her. Bianca solemnly replied, “OK.”

“When are we going to beat this,” he said, but Bianca didn’t respond. “We’ll meet you at the hospital tomorrow.”

Bianca’s disengaged demeanor was not temporary; she would maintain that mood throughout chemo and radiation therapy.

Still hysterical, Bianca’s mother called everyone she could. Bianca’s reaction was the opposite; she only told Alex. She came to the hospital and stood next to Bianca and held her hand, but they never discussed cancer.

“Are you hungry? Let’s go get something to eat,” Alex said.

“But, I want a banana,” Bianca replied. “Ok then, we go to a gas station they frequented for lunch.

The long road ahead of Bianca began bright and early the next morning, with a three-hour drive from the Tri-Cities to Seattle Children’s Hospital.

There, she learned she would have an extensive level of treatment because of the size of her tumors. She sat on the examination table as the doctor explained what the next six months of her life would entail.

Ballardo recalls looking out into the hall as a young girl no older than 10 walked down the hall. She wore a headpiece that slightly covered her head, but made it obvious that underneath she was bald. Staring out at her, Ballardo asked the doctor, “Is that what’s going to happen to me? Am I going to be bald?”

The doctor replied, “Yes.”

The Fourth of July weekend marked the day of Ballardo’s first chemotherapy. No amount of information prepared Ballardo for what she would undergo; she would have between 5-7 forms of chemo administered every week, five days inpatient and then outpatient the next week.

This would be the tedious process for the next three months. Throughout the painful procedures and the weakening chemo therapy, Ballardo never allowed herself to face what was going on. After about her third week of chemo, while tak ing a shower, Ballardo was startled to discover her hair falling out.

“The water was so heavy, that I just felt hair falling off of me, and every time I touched my head, my hair would fall out.”

Ballardo says, It prompted a panic attack.

Her friend Nelly took her to the barber shop to get it cut. Ballardo’s left side was losing hair faster than the right side, so she shaved the left side and left more hair on the right.

“It looked fashionable,” she recalled.

Ballardo says she thinks her new hair cut was the moment her cancer became real to her life. He couldn’t stand to see her that way, so he took her outside and cut off all her hair.

Then he offered to shave his and her brothers’ heads bald for her. Ballard would not have it. Instead, she told him she didn’t need them embarrassing her.

Through the midst of her fight, Ballard says her brothers were her incentive to hang on.

“The idea of dying and my brother’s not having their sister, that’s when I really stopped to think about how I was literally fighting for my life every day, and that there was a possibility that I wasn’t going to make it,” Ballardo said. “I refused the thought of leaving them. I can honestly say that they were my motivation to not give up.”

Ballardo had to focus on beating cancer and not allow it to get the best of her. She says cancer stripped her of her identity and made her unsure of who she was.

After her disease was in remission, it was her father’s tough love which incentivized her to move out.

“My dad was just trying to get me to live a normal life. He couldn’t stand to see her that way,” Ballardo said.

Ballardo eventually decided she wanted to go back to school and pursue her dream of being a fashion stylist.

It was Trinera Carter, a senior at Central, and a high school friend, who would give her the extra push she needed to start her own hair salon.

“She basically is one of the main reasons why I’m here today, even though I was born with this condition,” Ballardo said. “She made me feel like it was going to be okay.”

When Ballardo thinks about where she is today, she says, “I see myself in New York City, working for [Harper’s] Bazaar magazine as a fashion stylist,” she says. It wasn’t long ago, however, that her outlook on her future was clouded by the haze of chemo and radiation therapy.

Ballardo speaks of the many people who helped her, but those people see her as a blessing. One of her close friends at Central, Carolina Perez, wasn’t there through Ballardo’s fight with cancer, but says Ballardo’s drive and motivation is very inspiring.

“She’s been through so much and she is still very humble,” Perez said.

Ballardo never let her illness steal her sense of humor; she always has a comeback for just about anything. And together they are always laughing. Lisette Roman, Ballardo’s cousin says Ballardo’s drive and motivation is very inspiring.

“She has a problem telling people what she doesn’t want or what’s going to happen to her,” Roman said. “Cancer is something that happened to her, and she survived it because God wants us to live.”
Asian market will close doors after two years

BY CHLOE HILDMAN
Staff Reporter

After nearly two years of business, the Ellensburg Asian Market on 3rd Avenue is closing.

The market, which is owned by a local family, will be shutting its doors near the end of March after struggling to generate enough profit since opening in 2011, an employee who asked to remain anonymous said.

“Business just hasn’t been good. It’s tough, but it’s the way it is,” employee said.

The employee said there were several reasons for the store’s closing. One was the constantly shifting business hours. Last quarter, the store was only open on weekends, and only four to five hours at a time.

The employee said the lack of sufficient advertising is to blame. “It was kind of a hard cycle,” the clerk said. “You need advertising to get people to come in and shop, but you need people to come in and shop to get the money for advertising.”

As it turns out, many students were unaware of the store’s existence. Some said they would have shopped there if they had been aware. “I definitely would have gone if I had known,” said Jacob Miller, junior graphic design major.

Other students were less inspired to patronize the business. “I probably wouldn’t have gone there,” said Lukas Campbell, an undeclared sophomore. “It’s not really what I’m into or what I like to eat.”

The clerk also attributed the closing to the store having a very niche market. “Because it’s such a specific business, there’s a very small, specific audience it’s catering to,” the clerk said. “I doubt a lot of students at Central have even heard of half the things we sell here.”

Many Central students said they had never been to an Asian food store, but the students who had recalled the experience as a pleasant one. “I’ve been to some before, but that was in San Francisco, not here,” said Lynsey Benedict, junior law and justice major. “It was interesting though. I’d try something like that again.”

When asked what they believed was the cause of the Asian Market’s closing was, several students said that the niche factor played a huge role. “Finding successful business is a struggle,” Miller said, “because it’s great if you go there once, but it’s having customers come back which is the issue.”

The location may have also played a part in the store’s underwhelming performance. The clerk said the low Asian population in Ellensburg was a possible reason for the market’s lack of popularity. “I think it was definitely a hit-or-miss kind of thing, depending on how well it had taken off in the first place,” Miller said. “But I think it had some promise here, especially considering it’s a college town.”

Benedict disagreed, citing Ellensburg’s college town status as one of the reasons for the store’s lack of business.

“Because this is a college town, I think a lot of students tend to focus on staying on campus,” Benedict said. Regardless, the store is marking its final weeks. Signs posted to the storefront windows advertise sales on items that will probably never be found in Ellensburg again.

Despite the market’s closing, Benedict said he thought it was a respectable effort. “I think it was worth taking a chance and opening here,” Benedict said. “Best of luck to the owner.”

Local TV channels face static future

BY EVAN PAPAS
Staff Reporter

Ellensburg could be facing the loss of access to local TV channels in the city’s upcoming contract renewal with Charter Communications.

The city’s renewal with Charter would most likely reduce or remove access to local channels by Central, ECTV, and the Ellensburg School District.

“As far as I’m concerned, the university existing Channel 2 from campus, it is going to severely hurt town-gown relations,” Art Clark said. “It’s really hard to be optimistic about Channel 2 right now.”

Ellensburg and Charter initially entered their agreement 15 years ago. Part of this agreement was that Charter would provide four channels intended for public, education, and government use. One channel was given to the Ellensburg School District, two were given to Central, and one was given to the community.

ECTV, which had been located in Brooks Library, is now being moved off campus after the inter-local agreement between the city and the university expired in December 2012. The combination of the Charter renewal and the loss of office space has put ECTV in an unfavorable position. Clark, cable television commission chair is worried this could be the end for ECTV, and has made it clear they need more funding in order to survive. Kurt Newman, ECTV director, is not too confident about the future of the public access channels either.

“It could mean that Channel 2 could no longer be in existence,” Newman said. “I do think that if the city loses their public access it will never come back.”

Linda Schaelder, director of public affairs at Central, said the move off campus is a positive change and is important to the survival of the station.

“If ECTV is going to survive and be robust, they need to be in a place where the community can see them and access them,” Schaelder said.

Schaelder says it doesn’t benefit the university or ECTV to be in the library, and there are no additional costs if they are able to find unused office space. The goal of the transition is to keep ECTV intact and slowly transition to online content. One of the common threads the city and Central have been discussing is the move from traditional broadcasting to online content while keeping local content relevant. Trends in recent years have pointed to the rapid growth of online video content as a primary source of access for the community. The current issue is whether or not they can find a larger audience online. There is some resistance to moving online. Clark is adamant the city would be leaving viewers behind if it made the move to online content.

“Nobody is going to sit and watch my church service on their phone,” Clark said. “There are tons of us that don’t want to watch online.”

The City Council knows some would not want to transition to an online format, but the audience for public broadcasting is small, so moving online can open up opportunity to grow the audience. City Council member Nancy Lilquist has stated that while plans for ECTV are still up in the air, the hope is the channel would not go away, but change form to be more compatible with the changing trends.

“In order to reach more people, we would need to be looking at transitioning into an internet format,” Lilquist said.

The city wants to keep the channels for as long as they can to help facilitate a slow transition to a new format. “Beyond that it’ll depend on community interest, cost, and programming,” Lilquist said.
The people of Ellensburg may have something new to love about McDonald’s: It will soon be under heavy construction to make way for an improved facility.

Richard Brajavich, Ellensburg McDonald’s general manager, said the restaurant will be undergoing changes to meet standards on working buildings over 30 years old. McDonald’s Corporate recently visited the restaurant and decided it was time for some improvements.

One of the changes in order to better serve customers, includes the construction of new bathrooms.

Valeria Orbegozo, a senior dietetics major, believes there could be many improvements to the cleanliness of the bathrooms at McDonald’s.

“Sometimes I’ll walk in there and there are napkins all over the floor,” Orbegozo said.

McDonald’s has recently purchased a building in Ellensburg. The new space will be used for a McDonald’s restaurant twice the size of the current facility. According to Brajavich, the lobby will be much larger, but the restaurant will be getting rid of the Playland area.

The drive-thru will still be open 24 hours, and after McDonald’s reopens, the lobby will be open 24-hours as well.

In addition, there will be a third drive-thru option, only available in six other restaurants in the nation, making Ellensburg McDonald’s location the seventh. The third drive-thru option involves customers parking within two allocated spots where workers can take the food to them.

KC Odoh, an exercise science senior and employee at McDonald’s, is ready for the upcoming changes and understands he will not be out of work simply because the establishment will be closed for construction.

“They gave us a lot of options for when they close,” Odoh said. “There’s volunteer options, unemployment options, and working at the Cle Elum McDonald’s.”

McDonald’s will be offering to pay its employees for their volunteer hours. Workers can earn up to 20 hours of wages per week. Some of the volunteer options include Habitat for Humanity, The Cottage, and the Ellensburg Animal Shelter.

The employees also have the opportunities to bring in other volunteering options, including those related to their major.

Management will discuss how the volunteer work fits in with the criteria of working with McDonald’s, i.e. team building, and then decide upon its approval, according to Odoh.

McDonald’s employees wanting to continue working in the restaurant have agreed to pay for the travel to the Cle Elum McDonald’s via commuter five days a week. The owners of the McDonald’s will pay for the travel expenses, according to Brajavich.

The overall schedule is tentative, and the restaurant is scheduled to be closed March 18. McDonald’s will reopen within 90-120 days, with the help of three shifts of construction crews. It will open July 1 at the latest.

“I’m excited about the changes, but I’ll be going to Burger King until they open,” Orbegozo said.

Ellensburg to get McUpgrade

Graphic by Seth Lonborg

The Observer • Feb. 28 - March 6, 2013 5
Wrestling shouldn’t go down without fight

If you’re a wrestler and you’re reading this, prepare to be angry. In the summer of 2020 when countries from all over the world gathered to compete in the most prestigious sporting event known to man, aka the Olympics, you might notice something is missing.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee voted on Feb. 12 to drop wrestling from the 2020 Summer Olympics. With that decision, the dreams and goals of thousands of wrestlers across the world were shattered in an instant. For some, competing in the Olympics has been a lifelong goal since they were little.

Now they’ll have to wait and see if wrestling will be reinstated by the committee, which will have to decide between seven other sports such as baseball and softball for a single opening.

And yes, “sports” like badminton, table tennis and handball are still very much in the 25. And yes, I think that’s incredibly stupid.

Wrestling will forever hold a place in my mind, soul, and heart. From the blood, sweat, tears, broken bones, hunger, and exhaustion, I’ve experienced my share of trials with the sport, just as I’m sure every other wrestler has at one point in their career.

But at the end of it all, though, I know in my heart I became a better person from wrestling. By just experiencing the kind of toughness required for the next season or thinking about winning state championships. By just experiencing the kind of toughness required for the next season, you can easily be erased. Forget war, forget politics, forget all of that. The sport of wrestling predates pretty much any of the political boundaries or philosophies of those countries. The fact that a single group of people have the power to shatter people’s hearts shows that the situation is a little screwed.

And that’s exactly what wrestling countries such as the United States, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan and many others are doing. They’re fighting to fix the mistake the IOC made, a mistake that can easily be erased. Forget war, forget politics, forget all of that. The sport of wrestling predates pretty much any of the political boundaries or philosophies of those countries. The fact that a single group of people have the power to monetarily shatter people’s hearts shows that the situation is a little screwed.

How could a sport filled with tradition, history, and relevance be removed? Every person who has ever wrestled or has been captivated by the true beauty and awe of the sport have to be as confused as I am.

I feel like part of my soul has been ripped out, just from having shared common ground with all wrestlers, Olympic-caliber or not, all of us have gone through similar trials and obstacles.

I’ll have to wait until 2020 to see if we can get it back.
Jon Kedrowski has climbed the tallest mountains in the world, and is returning to Central to share his tales of success Thursday, Feb. 28 in the SURC theater.

BY CODY SPENCER

Kedrowski’s achievements have earned him the attention of National Geographic, with whom he recently completed "The Wildest Dream," a film involving Mt. Everest.

Central students have an opportunity to hear Kedrowski speak, and Kedrowski will be available afterwards to sign copies of his book.

Opportunities to hear Kedrowski present
On-campus: Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. SURC Theatre
Downtown: Friday, Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. Mountain High Sports

Free admission
The dangers of drinking and dining
Local late-night restaurant employees open up about serving drunk college students

Central students have been displaying more of their “party lifestyle,” not only on the Central Washington Confessions page, but through Facebook as well.

From Thursday through Saturday nights to early mornings, the fast food and local late-night businesses get the unique experience of dealing with customers after the bars close and parties come to an end.

The notorious “drunchies” (drunk munchies) can control the mindset of interactions.

Garret Harrison, a junior public relations and social services major who worked at Jack in the Box for a year and a half, said that prior to the bars closing, “the lobby would be cleaned, dishes washed, security guys were right there. And every time I saw him he was always saying be another shot of vodka,” Engels said. “He wanted to drink in public, and obviously [was] not 21. Being 21 years old was an in-group experience and he wanted to be a part of it.”

Engels said that as an employee it was best to not ask the customers if they were intoxicated.

“Customers have been known to get punched in the face,” Harrison said. “You never knew how the nights were going to go, but you could always bet on making lots of tacos.”

Andy Riley, a junior Jazzercise center manager, said that as a class manager, she helps greet customers and promotes the center by encouraging new customers to continue to participate.

The Ellensburg Jack in the Box employees and managers understand the importance of safety, not only for themselves, but for the customers as well.

“The police have been called on several occasions to help tackle the crazier customers,” Harrison said. “It’s chaos. You see people in lobby [get into fights] and all you can do is yell at them to stop,” Harrison said. “It’s extremely overwhelming.”

Although Harrison said belligerent drunk customers can make a late night shift difficult, there have been other occasions that made quite the opposite impression. “On two occasions I went through times I included a man urinating publicly behind him, told the other customers in the drive-thru to leave, gave him a sobriety test and arrested him right there,” Harrison said. “You never knew how the nights were going to go, but you could always bet on making lots of tacos.”

Engels said that as an employee it was best not to ask the customers if they were intoxicated.

“It creates an aggressive stance with the customers and I would not call them out on it unless they were making a scene,” Engels said.

“What I remember most is that whenever I had kids who were intoxicated, they were upset and having fun,” said Engels. “They were happy they were intoxicated; it was an upbeat experience.”

All that Jazzercise: a different workout routine

By Lauren Nelsen

Known for its high energy, strength building and positive results, the Jazzercise workout routine is growing in popularity within the Ellensburg community.

This popularity is largely due to the Jazzercise center which is located right next to Fred Meyer. Jazzercise has been a growing workout trend since the 1980’s and has been around Ellensburg since 1991.

The owner of the local center, Louise Wright, has been teaching Jazzercise for the past 28 years.

“When I first went to a Jazzercise class after I had my baby, I just sat in and watched,” Wright said. “I didn’t even have to do it and I already knew I wanted to be an instructor.”

Wright now teaches classes at the Jazzercise center in Ellensburg. Her goal is to make the classes fun and friendly for all who attend. Her other passion is to empower women through her workouts.

“I tell my students to remember empowering words because when you get out there you will feel like you can do anything,” Wright said.

One of the instructors working alongside Wright is Sarah Nale, who has been teaching at the center for the past 10 years. With the help of her, the club flourished through the doors the first time, everything was positive,” Nale said. “The people were very friendly and kind.”

For Nale and many other women who participate, the center is a great way to meet people and get connected in the community.

“The people are very friendly and kind,” Wright said. “We get new songs and new positive personality.”

Wright said the center has a very popular reputation in the Northwest because of Louise Wright and the instructors.

“It is more than just a Jazzercise center, it’s a ministry,” Johnson said.

The center does things like Relay for Life, which raised money for Hurricane Katrina victims. It is currently raising money for people with multiple sclerosis.

The women at the center also support each other with their weight loss or fitness and health goals.

Jazzercise is an aerobic workout and, as part of a franchise, the center is required to incorporate one arm, one leg and one abdominal exercise into every routine. It can become very difficult when your customers become belligerent, to keep that smile on,” Harrison said.

There was actually a time when one of our employees got punched in the face,” Harrison said. “She wasn’t on duty, she was with her friends, and we all knew her but we saw her get smacked into a wall.”

The Ellensburg Jack in the Box employees and managers understand the importance of safety, not only for themselves, but for the customers as well. The police have been called on several occasions to help tackle the crazier customers.

“It’s chaos. You see people in lobby [get into fights] and all you can do is yell at them to stop,” Harrison said. “It’s extremely overwhelming.”

Although Harrison said belligerent drunk customers can make a late night shift difficult, there have been other occasions that made quite the opposite impression. “On two occasions I went through times I included a man urinating publicly behind him, told the other customers in the drive-thru to leave, gave him a sobriety test and arrested him right there,” Harrison said. “You never knew how the nights were going to go, but you could always bet on making lots of tacos.”

Andy Riley, undeclared sophomore, is a current Jack in the Box employee and has experienced several drunken encounters during his five months working there.

“The stress from the customers [not] remembering that they got their food is a challenge,” Riley said. “When I handed out food to customers in the lobby, I saw them eat it and they came back to the counter asking where their food was.”

Riley said customers and employees cooperating and being polite, while putting each other in one another’s shoes, would help make business transactions handier.

Drunken encounters with Central students don’t only occur off-campus, but on-campus as well. Zach Engels, a Central alum from the class of 2011 with a bachelor of arts in sociology and law and justice, worked at Central Dining Services.

Working in dining services on campus allowed Engels to get a new perspective of the work put out into the “green zone” of the exaction chart.

Then, after a person gets into the green zone or maximum level of exertion, the workout songs get slower and gradually come to a stop.

“Our routines are always changing,” Wright said. “We get new songs and new routines every two months.”

The classes are open to anyone and everyone, no matter their age. There is even a junior Jazzercise class for kids and a class for seniors with limited mobility.

The center also offers affordable day care during 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. classes.

WORK IT Jazzercise incorporates arm, leg and abdominal exercises in every routine.

Jazzercise is an aerobic workout and, as part of a franchise, the center is required to incorporate one arm, one leg and one abdominal exercise into every routine. It creates an aggressive stance with the customers and I would not call them out on it unless they were making a scene,” Engels said. “They tried to contact normal even though I’m not a cop. They weren’t trying to make it obvious.”

Engels said the busiest times of the week for drunken students coming in to satisfy their “drunchies” is Thursday through Friday evening before 10 p.m.

“One kid would always come in, and every time I saw him he was always saying he needed another shot of vodka,” Engels said. “He wanted to drink in public, and obviously [was] not 21. Being 21 years old was an in-group experience and he wanted to be a part of it.”

Engels said that as an employee it was best not to ask the customers if they were intoxicated.

“It creates an aggressive stance with the customers and I would not call them out on it unless they were making a scene,” Engels said.

“What I remember most is that whenever I had kids who were intoxicated, they were upset and having fun,” said Engels. “They were happy they were intoxicated; it was an upbeat experience.”

The cops pulled up right behind him, told the other customers in the drive-thru to leave, gave him a sobriety test and arrested him right there.

“Jazzercise really impacted my life,” Wright said. “It sounds silly, but I didn’t know who I truly was until I came here to this center.”

“[Wright’s] leadership style is always positive, she helped me and helps others really find themselves when they come to this center,” Nale said.

Wright’s class manager, Mary Johnson, also contributes to the center’s positive environment.

As a class manager, she helps greet customers and promotes the center by encouraging new customers to continue to participate.

Johnson said this center has a very popular reputation in the Northwest because of Louise Wright and the instructors.

“It is more than just a Jazzercise center, it’s a ministry,” Johnson said.

The center does things like Relay for Life, which raised money for Hurricane Katrina victims. It is currently raising money for people with multiple sclerosis.

The women at the center also support each other with their weight loss or fitness and health goals.

Jazzercise is an aerobic workout and, as part of a franchise, the center is required to incorporate one arm, one leg and one abdominal exercise into every routine. It can become very difficult when your customers become belligerent, to keep that smile on,” Harrison said.

There was actually a time when one of our employees got punched in the face,” Harrison said. “She wasn’t on duty, she was with her friends, and we all knew her but we saw her get smacked into a wall.”

The Ellensburg Jack in the Box employees and managers understand the importance of safety, not only for themselves, but for the customers as well. The police have been called on several occasions to help tackle the crazier customers.

“It’s chaos. You see people in lobby [get into fights] and all you can do is yell at them to stop,” Harrison said. “It’s extremely overwhelming.”

Although Harrison said belligerent drunk customers can make a late night shift difficult, there have been other occasions that made quite the opposite impression. “On two occasions I went through times I included a man urinating publicly behind him, told the other customers in the drive-thru to leave, gave him a sobriety test and arrested him right there,” Harrison said. “You never knew how the nights were going to go, but you could always bet on making lots of tacos.”

Andy Riley, undeclared sophomore, is a current Jack in the Box employee and has experienced several drunken encounters during his five months working there.

“The stress from the customers [not] remembering that they got their food is a challenge,” Riley said. “When I handed out food to customers in the lobby, I saw them eat it and they came back to the counter asking where their food was.”

Riley said customers and employees cooperating and being polite, while putting each other in one another’s shoes, would help make business transactions handier.

Drunken encounters with Central students don’t only occur off-campus, but on-campus as well. Zach Engels, a Central alum from the class of 2011 with a bachelor of arts in sociology and law and justice, worked at Central Dining Services.

Working in dining services on campus allowed Engels to get a new perspective of the work put out into the “green zone” of the exaction chart.

Then, after a person gets into the green zone or maximum level of exertion, the workout songs get slower and gradually come to a stop.

“Our routines are always changing,” Wright said. “We get new songs and new routines every two months.”

The classes are open to anyone and everyone, no matter their age. There is even a junior Jazzercise class for kids and a class for seniors with limited mobility.

The center also offers affordable day care during 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. classes.
Fabulous five creates new tourism campaign for city

BY BRADEN DINNBURGER
Staff Reporter

The Ellenburg Chamber of Commerce has worked to create a new website advertising Ellenburg's local events, places to stay, maps and more. MyEllensburg.com is part of a new marketing plan the Ellenburg Chamber of Commerce has been working on for over a year.

The goal of MyEllensburg.com is to give the community, visitors and Central students the chance to define and experience their own unique Ellenburg.

"Ellensburg is so many things to so many different people," said Carolyn Honeycutt, director of the Ellenburg Downtown Association. "It's anything from the rodeo, to Central Washington University, to downtown."

Amy McGuffin is the director of tourism at the Ellenburg Chamber of Commerce and has been working on the new "My Ellenburg" campaign.

"The original "Visit Ellen" campaign ran for 12 years," McGuffin said. "It became stagnant and unappealing, so we decided to work on a new campaign."

"My Ellenburg" is a way to encompass everything Ellenburg is as a city, and makes it personal for everyone. It took about six months, from conception to getting the website online, for MyEllensburg.com to be fully functioning.

The team responsible for designing the website and creating the content, known as The Fabulous Five, worked to create an inclusive community online.

"We know the consumer has changed over to online and smart phone usage," McGuffin said. "That is why we wanted to stick with the website aspect."

Part of the original concept for MyEllensburg.com was viewer submitted content. "The original idea for the videos was to try to get people to tell their stories through the craze of cell phone videos and YouTube," said Zane Kinney, owner and art director for Ros den City Graphics. "This would give the chance to produce community-driven content."

The team at MyEllensburg.com still encourages these submissions online.

Kinney worked with the former owner of Sign Dog Media to create the visual layout for MyEllensburg.com.

"The background is the brick from the Tasc and the colors we used align with the colors Central uses," McGuffin said. "We worked to create that connection to the community as well as to have that tourist feel."

During the creation of the site and even after it went up, McGuffin met with students in the recreation and tourism department to figure out what they thought and what they would change.

"Central is the second main reason people come to Ellenburg," McGuffin said. "Working with the students will continue to be important."

There are a variety of hopes for what MyEllensburg.com can do for the City of Ellenburg and the community here. Honeycutt hopes more people will get off the interstate and come further into Ellenburg, rather than just getting fast food. Kinney wants to further the project and maybe even look into getting a local radio station advertising local information and events and even a mobile app.

"I would like the local people to embrace the importance of tourism and how it impacts this town," McGuffin said, "as well as to encourage people to come visit and see all this small unique town has to offer."
Oscar observations
A look at the highlights from Hollywood’s most glamorous evening

BY CAMILLE BORODEY
Contributing Writer

1 Women across America swooned when Hugh Jackman rushed to Jennifer Lawrence’s side after she tripped up the stairs on her way to accept the award for Best Actress. According to a Tumblr gif, Bradley Cooper was also on his feet ready to assist her, the gentleman.

2 In a tribute to movie musicals, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Jennifer Hudson reminded us why they both have Oscars. Jones performed a satirical version of “All That Jazz” while Hudson belted out a spine-tingling version of “And I Am Telling You, I’m Not Going.” Hudson has lost eighty pounds since the last time she was on the Oscar stage and is now the spokesperson for Weight Watchers, and admits she needs to get her butt on the Broadway stage, pronto! Reminding us that the film was sung completely live, the “Les Misérables” cast, featuring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried, took the stage. This performance gave some of the lesser known, but equally talented, actors such as Eddie Redmayne and Broadway veteran Samantha Barks their time to shine.

3 Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Daniel Radcliffe joined host Seth MacFarlane, who proved he’s multitalented, although his jokes were hit-or-miss, on stage for a musical number. It was rather silly, but the real question was who among these three dreamboat actors is a real boy band?

4 Anne Hathaway took the stage. This performance for the song “Les Misérables” cast, featuring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried, took the stage. This performance gave some of the lesser known, but equally talented, actors such as Eddie Redmayne and Broadway veteran Samantha Barks their time to shine.

5 Not only has Adele won nine Grammy Awards, she now also has a Golden Globe and Oscar to add to her never-ending list of accomplishments. Adele co-won the award for Best Original Song for the song “Skyfall,” featured in the James Bond flick of the same name. I wouldn’t be surprised if she Adele on the Emmy ballot next season.

6 Christoph Waltz won Best Supporting Actor for “Django Unchained.” Not only is this Waltz’s second Oscar in two years, but both awards were for roles in Quentin Tarantino films. Back in 2007, Waltz took home Best Supporting Actor for his role as the terrifyingly wicked Nazi in “Inglourious Basterds.”

7 Rocking a haircut I thought only Hayden Panettiere could pull off, Jane Hathaway, who lost 25 pounds for her role, gracefully collected the Award for Best Supporting Actress for her short but effective role as Fantine in “Les Misérables.” Hathaway ended her bumbling speech by saying, “Here’s hoping that someday in the not-too-distant future the misfortunes of Fantine will be found in stories and never in real life. Thank you.”

8 What would an award show be without Meryl Streep? Streep pre- sented the award for Best Actor to Daniel Day Lewis for his unforgettable portrayal of Abraham Lincoln. Lewis took his Oscar by being the first one to wish the audience “congratulations.”

9 Daniel Day Lewis for his unforgettable role as the wicked Nazi in “Inglourious Basterds.”

10 If you already feel like you have not accomplished anything in college, check out the aspiring filmmakers who were selected to present the trophies during the night. Usually the golden Oscar is presented by super models, but The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have decided to pick a different approach, selecting six university students based on their entries in an essay or video contest. A wonderful idea, I think.

11 Leonardo DiCaprio showed up a half hour late, drunk, wearing overalls with a half-empty bottle of Scotch in his hands. Okay that did not happen, but if the Academy keeps snubbing him, it is definitely a possibility.

Class offers campus event
All students invited to network socially

BY HARMONY CIPOLLINA-DRYBY
Staff Reporter

The communication department’s Event Planning and Management class, COM 371, is relatively new, but is already full. Faculty adviser Lisa Kerns had to turn away interested potential students.

“I wanted to give them hands-on experience,” Kerns said of her Event Planning and Management students. “There’s only so much you can learn about event planning from a book before applying the practical knowledge.”

Because of the interest in the subject, Kerns decided to host a network social.

“Until you actually work with some- body,” Kerns said, “it’s very hard to grasp that level of detail that goes into event planning. And you can’t learn it all from a book. You just can’t.”

The initial idea for the network social came from the Public Relations Student Society of America board. Kerns pitched the idea to the class and now it has grown to the entire campus and community.

“The students have taken it upon themselves to create an event that would benefit the entire campus,” Kerns said. “This year, by how big this event has be- come. It’s taken on a life of its own.”

Business professionals from the local community have been invited to partici- pate; students have gone around passing out invitations to everyone from small businesses to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital and Fred Meyer.

“The event is meant to help students become comfortable with networking be- fore they go out into the business world,” said Melinda Miracle, senior public rela- tions major, said he definitely intends to using the skills learned in the class.

“I feel like I will use it in my career and every day with planning and schedul- ing,” Wiezowski said. “I feel this class has helped me prepare for that.”

Rafal Wiezowski, senior public rela- tions major, said he definitely intends to using the skills learned in the class.

Miracle is one of the event organizers in charge of getting professionals from Ellens- burg and Yakima to attend the event.

She describes the event planning as “eye-opening,” noting that “planning an event is a lot more work than you think it is.”

Miracle encourages everyone to attend the Network Social, which is free and will be held in the SURC ballroom; refreshments will also be available.

“So many of your classmates have not accomplished anything in college, check out the aspiring filmmakers who were selected to present the trophies during the night. Usually the golden Oscar is presented by super models, but The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have decided to pick a different approach, selecting six university students based on their entries in an essay or video contest. A wonderful idea, I think.”

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“I feel like I will use it in my career and every day with planning and schedul- ing,” Wiezowski said. “I feel this class has helped me prepare for that.”

Wiezowski plans to go into fashion, music, and entertainment.

“I’m sure I will be hosting a bunch of events for one of those pathways I take,” Wiezowski said.

Wiezowski is also one of the event or- ganizers, in charge of all media aspects. He and his group have contacted The Ob- server, Pulse Magazine, 88.1 The Burg, alongside with writing out press releases, ad- vertising the event on Facebook and Twit- ter, creating logos and fliers.

“Pretty much we’re trying to make it catchy the student’s eye,” Wiezowski said of the ad campaign for the Network Social.

The Network Social is on Monday March 4th from 5-8 p.m.
Ed. career fair returns
Opportunity for seniors to network

BY CHARLENE WILSON
Staff Reporter

In Washington, a first-year teacher makes an average of $44,650 a year. For seniors in the education major, this number means their future has finally arrived; they are on the other side of the desk.

Central Washington University education students got a sample of their future during an Education Career Fair last Thursday.

Students came dressed to impress, with resumes in hand to talk to educational representatives from all over the state.

“From my experience, the way students can most benefit from a job fair is to realize it’s just one avenue a job seeker should take on the road to a career,” professor Terri Reddout said.

Teaching organizations from all over Washington were present, including Auburn, Bellevue, Ephrata, Everett and Wahluke school districts. Many districts spoke to students about upcoming opportunities, especially for seniors preparing to graduate and enter the teaching field.

Central’s Student Washington Education Association’s President Karisa Gefre, senior Spanish education, was at the fair.

“This year I have been learning a lot about the Washington Education Association. It’s the voice of Washington teachers. It represents the rights of teachers, as well as their students. It’s the union,” Gefre said.

As she begins her career, Gefre must think about important factors affecting her decision regarding where she will teach. These include leave time, class size limits and other teachers’ right.

During the fair, students could walk up to any of the 32 school districts present to ask questions about their teaching programs, including pay schedules and student-teaching.

The fair also featured Central alumni who shared their experiences as first year teachers.

“The most important thing that I took away from the Education Career Fair last year is that I have the opportunity to broaden my horizons,” Gefre said. “Between all the school district and university representatives and the Peace Corp recruiter, I realized that I had the chance to shape my future.”

SWEA board member Ariel Albrecht, senior special education and elementary education major, remembers the moment she knew she wanted to become a teacher after working at a camp for students and adults with disabilities.

“Camp was the most difficult yet amazingly rewarding experience of my life,” Albrecht said.

After returning to school, Albrecht knew she wanted to major in special education.

“I came to college never imagining myself as being a special educator, and now I couldn’t imagine myself doing anything different,” Albrecht said.

February 28, March 1-2
and 7-9 at 7:30 p.m.
March 10 at 2:00 p.m.
Milo Smith Tower Theatre

512 General Admission
$10 Seniors/Students
$7 CWU students with CWU ID

Central Washington University
Team captain and club president senior Steven Alfi throws a wrestler from Eastern Washington University. Alfi qualified for the NCWA National Championships in 2012 and cruised his way to a NCWA Washington State tournament title last weekend in Elma.
Central's wrestling club will host the seven-team National Collegiate Wrestling Association Regional Tournament on Sunday, March 3. Champions in each weight class will qualify for NCWA Nationals March 13-17 in Allen, Texas. Admission is free and open to the public.

**Central Washington University lineup**

- **125 lbs**
  - Andrew Vulliet
  - Kyle Moore

- **133 lbs**
  - Dalton Baunsgard
  - Josh Hackney

- **141 lbs**
  - Austin Clark

- **157 lbs**
  - Nick Bendon

- **165 lbs**
  - Adam Raemer

- **174 lbs**
  - Steven Alfi

- **235 lbs**
  - Andrew Huerta

- **285 lbs**
  - Kevin Madson

- **Head coach**
  - Eric Idler

- **Assistant coach**
  - Derek Tomasone

**Northwest Region**

- Central Washington
- Eastern Washington
- Evergreen State College
- Douglas College
- Idaho State
- Western Washington
- Montana Western
CWU pitcher Dean Neilson carries a heavy heart each time he takes the field

“in him we were also chosen, having predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,”

Ephesians 1:11

Angels on his mound

By Quin Walker
Staff Reporter

Dean Neilson has dealt with losses on and off the field. Games come and go. The sting of losing only sticks around until the next game begins.

Losses off the field, however, last forever.

Neilson, a junior, recently transferred from Spokane Community College and is a pitcher for the Central Washington baseball team.

Given his Italian heritage, Neilson knows all about family. It’s only natural that he would consider his baseball team also his family, so making them inter-twine isn’t all that hard.

But for Neilson, having them close is what is really important.

As a kid growing up, Neilson had his core group of friends: Donnie Santos, Josh Martin and Hunter Graham. Santos and Martin played baseball with Neilson while Graham preferred stick ing to water sports such as wakeboarding.

As they grew up and attended Lewis and Clark High School, college baseball received a scholarship to play infi eld.

Neilson and the rest of his friends graduated from high school. Neilson received a scholarship to play infi eld at Lower Columbia Community College in Longview and accepted.

But toward the end of the season, Neilson had to deal with more adversity. His grandmother Ruth lost her battle with breast cancer, leaving Neilson’s mother on her own. Neilson decided it was best to transfer back to his hometown and play for Spokane Community College rather than return to Longview for another season.

“I wanted to be there to help her out,” Neilson said. “She needed me to be there for her.”

Neilson became Spokane’s closest pitcher and was also reunited with his friends Santos and Martin, who played catcher and shortstop on the team, respectively.

And while Neilson got acclimated to his old town but new team, he was hit with a whirlwind of bad news during the fall 2011.

As Santos and Neilson arrived at practice one day, Martin did not. Time went by and practice came to a close, Neilson knew something didn’t feel right.

“I knew something was off,” Neilson said. “I always know they are watching when I pitch,” Neilson said. “I always say they have season tickets to all my games. They can come watch me pitch whenever they want.”

Amitabha, a name of his teammates from LCC.

But for Neilson, having them close is what is really important.

Neilson and Santos had a decision to make: where would they go after their time at Spokane? Neilson eventually chose Central while Santos opted to play at Lewis and Clark State.

Neilson was reunited with some old friends when he decided to play for the Wildcats. Central pitching coach Rob Hips coated Neilson at Lower Columbia and came to Ellensburg with five of his teammates from LCC.

Having familiar faces all around him made the transition much easier.

“It was a big factor in me choosing to go here,” Neilson said. “Having familiar guys that I know can be my support system is huge for me. I have bad days, I have bad Josh days, I have bad Hunter days, but it’s big for me to have my friends here with me.”

Neilson wears the No. 22 in honor of Martin and brings him and Graham out with him every time he pitches. While his tattoo is permanent, Neilson continues to sport his wristband with Ephesians and his friends printed on it.

Most of all, Neilson carries a heavy heart when he steps on the mound.

“I definitely know they are watching when I pitch,” Neilson said. “I always say that they have season tickets to all my games. They can come watch me pitch whenever they want.”

Neilson had one thing in common that kept them going: baseball. It was their constant, it gave them something to keep their mind off the loss of their friends.

“Baseball was the foundation of it all,” Neilson said. “I would have never met Josh and Dean without baseball. During all the hard times it kept us on an even keel. We were playing for something.”

As the season wore down, Neilson and Santos had a decision to make: where would they go after their time at Spokane? Neilson eventually chose Central while Santos opted to play at Lewis and Clark State.

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Central looks to squeeze into GNAC tournament

BY JAROD CLINE
Staff Reporter

No team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference has struggled on both sides of the ball the way Central Washington University (13-1 overall 7-9 GNAC) has during the past couple of games.

A visit by the slumping Wolves of Western Oregon University (10-14 overall 5-11 GNAC) and the lowly Saint Martin’s University Saints (9-15 overall 5-11 GNAC) should help the Wildcats rebound before the upcoming GNAC conference tournament.

The Wildcats have lost their past four games beginning with their ten point home loss to then No. 2 Western Washington University. During the streak, the Wildcats allowed opponents to shoot better than 48 percent from the field and around 40 percent from three-point range, while also giving up 37 free-throws attempts a game.

“Defensively we need to stop penetration,” head coach Greg Sparling said. “That’s been our whole issue all year long. People are getting too deep against our defense and are able to kick it out to three [point shooters].”

With both teams looking to stop skids (WOU has lost five of its last six games and three in a row), Central hopes to average the triple overtime loss to Western Oregon earlier in the season, in which Western hit three shots from beyond the arc with less than 14 seconds in the game to force overtime.

The result was a 118-113 thriller which Central let slip away in the final minutes. The 118 points Central gave up was the highest total allowed by Central in school history.

The Wolves are led this season by freshman forward Andy Avgi, who is fifth in the conference in scoring at 15.5 points per game, and leads the team in rebounding with just over five boards per game.

Avgi scored a career high 36 points while grabbing 12 boards in the triple-overtime game earlier this season.

The Wolves’ last visit to Nicholson Pavilion was successful, as they narrowly escaped with a 77-75 victory.

Recent offensive struggles have been a key factor for the Wildcats’ four game skid. Over the course of the losing streak, the Wildcats have been shooting a dismal 37 percent from the field and 28 percent from downtown.

“It’s been a real challenge for us,” Sparling said. “Five out of seven on the road in three different states … It’s just nice to be home.”

Saint Martin’s is coming off a strong performance against Montana State Billings (15-12 overall 8-8 GNAC) in which the Saints shot 53 percent from the field and also shot a season high of 65 percent from three.

Saint Martin’s offense, last place in the conference, might give Central’s defense a confidence boost heading toward the post season. SMU ranks last in the GNAC in scoring offense, at 67 points a game, as well as in field goal percentage, shooting 41 percent from the field throughout the season.

The Yellowjackets’ 84-78 loss to Saint Martin’s helped keep MSUB within reaching distance of Central in the GNAC standings.

The six teams with the best conference records compete in the GNAC tournament at the end of the regular season. Central sits in the sixth and final spot with its 7-9 conference record and MSUB is just one game ahead of Central sitting at 8-8.

With two very winnable games at home remaining, it is possible for Central to jump MSUB in the standings to avoid playing the possible No. 1 seed, Western Washington.

It is also possible for Central to miss out on the tournament completely. With two losses this week, Central could end up in a tie for the last conference tournament spot with either SMU or WOU.

The Wolves hold the tie-breaker over the Wildcats, but the Wildcats control their own destiny: as just one win guarantees them a spot in the tournament.

“I just want to go out and play like I do any other game,” senior guard Jordan Coby said. “I just want to play hard and win my last two home games.”

Coby is second on the team in scoring despite starting only six games this year, and his 15 points per game over the last three games leads the team during the stretch.

Both games this week will take place after the Central women’s team finishes its

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The Central women’s basketball team will try to end its season on a good note this week.

"We want to give it all we can," forward Jasmine Parker said. "We want to get to 11 wins on the season."

Central Washington (9-15, 4-12 GNAC) has won two of the last 10 games.

"We have been inconsistent since the Western Washington game," coach Shawn Nelson said. "We have good practices but they don’t transfer over to our games."

The next two games don’t get any easier, as the Wildcats will be facing two playoff-bound teams in Seattle Pacific (15-9, 9-7) and Montana State University Billings (15-9, 9-7).

"[Seattle] is good inside, and it seems like they have a guard that goes off every night," Nelson said. "If you don’t think you have to guard someone, that’s the one that beats you."

Saturday night’s game against MSUB will conclude the season, but not the career of any Central players. The senior night will feature the Yellowjackets’ barrage from the three-point arc and a tough defense.

"Montana does a good job of changing their defenses, we have to be aggressive and hold them to one shot," Nelson said. "If we do that we can go on long runs against them."

Nelson knows what the future holds for this team. Losing no seniors and gaining experience for the underclassmen excites him.

"We are a work in progress, this wasn’t going to happen overnight," Nelson said. "We are building a program; we know the end isn’t on Saturday, but after next season when we do lose our seniors."

Regardless of the records or playoff berths the Wildcats will be trying hard for wins 10 and 11. "We built a lot from this season, to bring this team back next year will be great," Parker said. "We always try to have fun, but still play with intensity. At the end of the day we all want to win."