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The Observer

Central Washington University

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The OBSERVER

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Online daily, print weekly
CWUObserver



'CATS GET BACK

ON TRACK

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Two-Time ACP Pacemaker Award Finalist

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by the students & for the students of CWU

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CORRECTIONS

In the third issue of the Observer last week, "Museum making big changes" said the "Wolves in Washington State" exhibit would replace the current exhibit, "Living with Fire." This was incorrect; the wolf exhibit will take the space for traveling exhibits in the back of the museum, alongside the fire exhibit. We apologize for this inaccuracy, which was an error on the part of the editors, not the reporter.

In the first and third issues of the Observer, Colin Kaepernick's name was spelled wrong. We also apologize for this inaccuracy.

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ROTC may inherit CHCI facilities

After chimp departure, ROTC looking for a new home

BY COLT SWEETLAND
 Staff Reporter

Central Washington University is requesting funds to renovate the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) to prepare for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) to move in.

Former CHCI director, Mary Lee Jensvold, has been trying to find a new building. In the new building, the students will be working with archival data in the program, rather than live animals.

"There is no way to replicate the sort of experience that students had in a new building," Jensvold said.

The CHCI was developed specifically to house chimpanzees, but the chimpanzees have since been relocated to Quebec, Canada.

Jensvold said that there are no plans to bring chimpanzees back to Central, and that she is searching for a replacement building for the data.

"I have requested a building to relocate the archives in the CHCI building to a new location, but there is no place available yet for certain," Jensvold said.

Currently, there are Central graduate students in Quebec recording the chimpanzees in their adjustment to a new location and lifestyle.

[We need a transition between CHCI and ROTC subjects - find a quote about how the plan is to renovate old CHCI.]

The Washington state legislature has a budget of around \$100 million - 150 million in supplemental funds for the entire state.

Central is requesting \$9.9 million for a replacement for Peterson Hall, which currently houses Central's ROTC program.

Bryan Elliott, a senior in the Army ROTC program and a political science major, said that it is time for the ROTC to



NICK TERRELOBSERVER

NEWLY USED Central's Reserve Officers' Training Corps has been drilling outside the former CHCI building for some time now.

relocate into a more stable building.

"The plan so far is to keep the old building [Peterson] and use it as an administrative place for the office, and use the newly renovated building for classrooms," Elliott said.

The transition to a new building will benefit the ROTC program because Peterson Hall does not have enough space for all of the cadets in the

program. Some of the cadets are overflowing into the psychology building, Elliott said.

"Since there is not a lot of money in the supplemental budget for this year, I think it will be difficult," Elliott said.

Bill Yarwood, director of Facilities Planning and Construction, said that his staff has created a portfolio that details the problems with Peterson Hall and why it would make sense to renovate the CHCI building.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed, and we should know by April if the request will be accepted," Yarwood said.

The project is being named as a replacement project for Peterson Hall, and the university is eager to find a replacement

for the nationally recognized ROTC program at Central, according to Yarwood.

"I think we created a good story of why it needs to be replaced, and it ties into some long term planning that we are doing," said Yarwood.

Besides the ROTC relocation process, there are other projects that will be completed in the future that will affect students such as the Science Phase II building and the Samuelson building, according to Yarwood.

"We are in the process of putting together another portfolio that is prioritizing all of the current projects at Central, so they can be submitted to the Board of Trustees in April," said Yarwood.

“ Since there is not a lot of money in the supplemental budget for this year, I think it will be difficult. ”

-Bryan Elliott
 Senior in the Army ROTC

Central Police working to keep students safe

Luvera says Central has programs in place to empower students against violence

BY AARON KUNKLER
 Staff Reporter

Last summer, a 23-year-old man was stabbed to death on campus at Central. Police were right lipped on the situation then, and continue to refrain from commenting much on the investigation now.

Chief Mike Luvera, of Central police says that the case is still ongoing, with dedicated officers that are still conducting follow up investigations and interviews. He also stated that campus police are collaborating heavily with the Ellensburg Police departments, as well as the state patrol.

The victim of the grabbing was not a Central student or staff member, but it did occur on campus, meaning it falls under the Central police's directing jurisdiction.

"There's a lot of multi-agency response to the incident," Luvera said.

Though the investigation is still ongoing, the Chief said that Kimitas County at large has a good track record on preventing violence. When violent crimes like this do occur, it's hard to predict or prevent, but he feels that people may be a bit more

aware of their surroundings in the wake of the murder.

"We don't have a lot of violent crime," Chief Luvera said.

Campus and personal security are issues that go beyond the police department.

Andrea Eastlick, a health counselor at the Wellness Center located in the SURO, says that there are a few different programs students can take advantage of to ensure their physical security.

One such program is the Green Dot system, which is designed to bring about a culture of intervention.

"It's designed to empower bystanders to intervene in high-risk situations," Eastlick said.

High-risk situations, as defined by the program, include instances where students may see something wrong, and it encour-

ages them to get involved and report the incident immediately.

A map of reported interventions, focusing on sexual assault, partner abuse and stalking, can be seen at the Wellness Center.

“ It's designed to empower bystanders to intervene in high-risk situations. ”

-Andrea Eastlick
 Health counselor at the Wellness Center

The Green Dot program, a national program, includes many different colleges across the United States. Students who wish to get involved must attend a training course designed to educate them on how

to safely get involved in situations, with the goal of reducing negative behavior on campus.

Students wishing to report incidents of successful Green Dot intervention or get involved in the training program should seek more information at the Wellness Center.

Another program called RAD, or

Rape-Aggression-Defense, can be taken as a PE credit, and is taught by Officer Jason Berthon-Koch.

RAD is a program designed to teach women with no previous self-defense skills how to defend themselves from an assailant.

Women interested in taking the course are encouraged to inquire at the campus police department.

Finally, the Courtesy Assistance Team (OAT) is available every night from around 7 p.m. until midnight. Comprised of two students per night, the team is available to walk anyone who requests it around campus.

Jacob Maule, a Law and Justice major, is one such OAT member. He described his duties as mainly walking people to and from the library, dorms, the SURO or wherever students felt they needed an escort.

He also stated that often when they do not have any specific calls, they are patrolling the campus and keeping an eye out for people who may need assistance. Students can reach the OAT team at 509-963-2950.

International Center helps acclimate students

BY JACK JOHANNESSEN
Staff Reporter

It is nearly inevitable that foreign exchange students will feel homesick, culture shock or alienation, but the International Center exists to be supportive and welcoming.

Central advertises to potential foreign exchange students from many different countries.

Cathy Murillo, director of the Central's English as a Second Language program, has recruited international students for San Jose State, San Diego State and University of Colorado Boulder. She sees Central's International program as very supportive and community oriented.

One way the International Center assists exchange students is by exposure to American classes. Exposure is beneficial to students whose primary language is not English.

According to Murillo, the International Center negotiates with professors to allow exchange students to sit in on Central's classes to acquire first hand experience on what an American university course is like. Exchange students are able to participate in these sit-ins while still attending English proficiency classes.

The International Center can also provide exchange students with a peer mentor. This mentor can be either an ex-

perienced exchange student or an American who helps makes new students feel at home.

Despite the International Center's support to exchange students, some students are still unhappy. These feelings are not unusual for a young person attending a university so feel while thousands of miles from their country and family.

"Being cared about is pretty important," Murillo said.

The International



Center has a variety of strategies to deal with many situations, including unhappy students.

Roslyn Moes, an international student adviser, was once an exchange student in college and now works closely with other students to maximize the best possible experience for them.

Moes is very familiar with the strategies used in tending to issues an exchange student may have.

The most important include speaking to a student in their primary language,

talking to the student about their issues and hosting potlucks composed of international students, where students prepare and bring their native cuisines to share.

Additionally, not all situations can be treated the same. An exchange student's issues can range from personal, to academic, to social, and so on.

In a worst-case scenario, international student advisers will work with the student, until they have to be referred to the

International Center," Moes said.

Current exchange student and senior biology major Sugmita Unni, from Mumbai, India, was assisted by the International Center upon her arrival at Central.

"They helped me with getting to know American culture, to [answering] questions I had [about] the campus, to registering for classes [and] making friends," Unni said.

Despite the assistance she received from the International Center, Unni felt homesick for the first few months.

"I definitely had a lot of homesickness when I got to Central, [but] every year [the International Center] does a 'welcome' pizza party for current students and incoming students. That was the best way for me to meet all the other international students on campus. This made a huge difference," Unni said.

Other exchange students have also had positive experiences with the International Center.

Olint Lemkus from Simon's Town, near Cape Town, South Africa, felt accommodated and welcome. Lemkus played rugby professionally in Italy after leaving college in South Africa. He left Italy for Ellensburg after rugby season ended.

"The staff at Central, namely Ros, Bruce Simpson and Ray Wells were awesome and accommodating in every facet," Lemkus said.

what is ESC?

The Equity and Services Council

(ESC) staff is committed to promoting and fostering student diversity, community service, and student equality.

ESC ORGANIZATION SHOWCASE:



Black Student Union
(BSU)

BSU aims to educate the campus community about the Black/African/African-American cultures. It also serves the purpose of providing a fun, engaging atmosphere for all students to take part in. We invite all CWU student, staff, and faculty to join us in various activities and events that we, and other departments will be hosting for Black History Month! For more information please check out our Facebook page: "CWU BSU"

ESC Organizations:

Filipino American Student Association (FASA)
Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP)
Access, Belonging, Learning, and Equality (ABLE)
Black Student Union (BSU)
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA)
Equality Through Openness and Unity (EQUUS)
Native American Student Association (NASA)
First Generation Student Organization (FGSO)
ROTARACT

BSU meeting times are
Wednesdays SURC 202 at 4pm
ESC general meetings are Monday at
4pm in SURC 202



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Biology Department receives grant for flow cytometer

BY MIKAILA WILKERSON
Staff Reporter

Biology students are in for a treat as they will soon receive a flow cytometer that is coming to the university.

Blaize Dondji, Assistant Professor within the Biological Sciences Department, said the cytometer is a piece of equipment that is used to examine cells and other particles.

Dondji said they are hoping to get the flow cytometer within the next two or three months.

"They analyze cells for their physical characteristics, and at times you can also have chemical characteristics identified using that equipment," Dondji said.

Cells are given a fluorescent dye to help the researchers identify what they're looking for. The cells are then put into the cytometer to distinguish between the different cell types that can be found within the sample.

The cytometer can also tell you the functions of the cells that are being observed.

"I think that'd be pretty interesting because you'd get to find out more [about the cells] and how they function," Briseida Guerrero, a sophomore, said.

Gabrielle Stryker, Associate Professor in the biological sciences department, did her Ph.D. using flow cytometry while at Johns Hopkins University.

"We teach a class in immunology techniques. We really want to expose students to these techniques because they're used in



CAMILLE MEADOR/OBSERVER

LABWORK Fabian Bremberman, biology major, works in one of the department labs.

a lot of labs," Stryker said.

The department hopes to give their students better opportunities after graduation with these experiences.

"By exposing students to the flow cytometer and how it works and the kind of data you can obtain from flow cytometry, that puts them in a better position to be hired by companies when they graduate," Stryker said.

According to Dondji, the flow cytometer can be used in medicine, organ transportation, plant or marine biology, and also in chemotherapy.

exposed to the flow cytometer, which will allow them to pass information regarding flow cytometry on to the high school students they will be teaching.

"I think it's pretty cool. I'm a Bio major so to me, [the cytometer] is interesting," Celeste Stroup, a junior, said.

The WM. KEOK Foundation, located in Los Angeles, CA, has contributed 73 percent of the funding towards this project. The Murdock Charitable Trust, located in Vancouver, WA, contributed 26 percent, and The Seattle Foundation contributed 1 percent.

The Biology Department received grants from the KEOK Foundation, and the check to cover the project was received just before Christmas.

"The money's here already, so we are working with companies to get the best piece of equipment at the lowest price we can get on the market," Dondji said.

Part of the KEOK money will be going towards undergraduate student fellowships to help them do research projects over the summer, according to Stryker.

Dondji said the department is offering summer fellowship programs for students who are interested in doing research using flow cytometry. The program will continue for three years and during these individual fellowships, students will be doing research projects for nine weeks.

"We are going to advertise the summer fellowship soon, so [students] should be on the lookout to see when we advertise that and see the conditions that they should fulfill to be able to apply."

"Any student interested in identifying, determining cell type and cell population size in their sample can use it, provided that they have the right fluorescent dye to stain [cells] with," Dondji said.

As an example, Stryker explained how the cytometer would work to detect HIV.

"They'll take blood from people with HIV and look at that ratio, because you should have a lot more CD4s than CD8s, but HIV kills off the CD4 cells," Stryker said.

Other science teachers who will be working with high school students will be

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February 6th at 6:30 pm
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The Loving Story
February 13th at 6:30 pm
in Black Hall Room 150
Introduction & Discussion by Professor Bobby Cummings & Keith Champagne

Slavery by Another Name
February 20th at 6:30 pm
in Black Hall Room 150
Introduction & Discussion by Professor Mark Auslander

Special Thanks to
Africana & Black Studies, Museum of Culture & Environment, and Student Success

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Football is over

BY MARGO MASSEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The day after the Super Bowl aired, I found myself already asking, "Is it football season yet?"

Many people will give me the side-eye, saying football is boring and it's just men running around on a field, stopping every few seconds, all while chasing an egg-shaped ball.

I can't fault them entirely for their opinions because, five years ago, I was one of them.

I went through all of high school and my first year of college thinking football was a stupid sport. I tried going to my school's games, but always ended up walking around the stadium talking to friends.

I never understood anything about it and found myself drawn to soccer and baseball, saying they were more exciting and easier to understand.

I am ashamed now of my previous way of thinking.

All it took for me to completely fall in love with this great game was finding a team I actually cared about.

In the beginning of the 2009-2010 season, I found that team. I don't remember how exactly, but that season I fell head over heels in love with the Baltimore Ravens.

Now don't get me wrong, I love the Seahawks. They are my second-most-loved team, but that season I fell so deeply in love with the Ravens, they have stuck firmly in first place in my heart ever since.

Thinking back, I do believe that one of the reasons I've stuck with this team for so long, actually has a lot to do with the

Seahawks. The Ravens' biggest rival team just happens to be the Steelers. Just like most green-and-blue-blooded Washingtonians, I still have the Steelers for Super Bowl XL. Because of that, I absolutely adore seeing the Ravens and the Steelers match up, and more often than not, I love watching the Ravens show those damn Steelers what's up.

Unfortunately, being a Ravens girl in Seahawk country can be problematic. When I wear either my Joe Flacco or Ray Rice jersey around campus, the day does not finish without me getting at least one derogatory comment about how the Ravens suck, or how Flacco is a terrible quarterback.

Flacco gets a lot of flak (haha) for being one of the highest-paid players in the NFL, but frankly I think he has earned it. He led the Ravens to an amazing victory last year against the 49ers.

I take the hate in stride, however. I know that my team is a great one, despite our less-than-outstanding season this year. I bleed black and purple and have nothing but love for the previously mentioned players, as well as Justin Tucker, Michael Oher, Dennis Pitta and the rest of our outstanding lineup.

Every year, I count down to pre-season. On game day you can find me camped out in front of the TV, decked out in black and purple from head to toe. I bought my first Ravens jersey in Baltimore and wore it as much as I could for the rest of the season. Since then, my collection of Ravens merchandise has grown, owing a lot to the fact that my parents spent a few days before this Christmas stuck in Baltimore. Bad for them, GREAT for me. Black and purple everything!

What it all boils down to is I get it if you don't understand or even like football, if you don't have a team you bleed for. But don't look at me weirdly if I'm already excited for next season just days after the last one ended.

catch phrase and is what made me realize that writing a list didn't accomplish any more than thawing chicken without actually cooking it.

That night, hearts pounding, we leaped out of our comfort zones by belting out Joan Jett at a karaoke bar and riding the Extreme Scream at the Washington State Fair.

Soon after, our goals of running a 5K, competing in the Seaside Volleyball Tournament and road tripping to San Francisco (to name a few) were complete.

Through checking items off of this list, we discovered new interests such as rock climbing and pottery classes, but we also ran into experiences that we would never do again. We learned we would rather use our cash to buy tornado fries than on a splochy orange spray tan. That learning an entire Bollywood dance can be a more enjoyable workout than getting lost while hiking in the rain, somewhere near Mr. Rainier.

Good and bad, these are all experiences I wouldn't trade, even for all seven seasons of "Gilmore Girls" and a tub of Chunky Monkey. Well, maybe I'd trade them for a trip to Glacier Falls, Iceland.

You may be like me and are not rolling in moolah. But even if you can't take that longed-for trip to New York City next week, you can easily begin putting some money away for it today.

Pursuing dreams and making a list of goals are important steps to a positive change, but don't stop there, or I can guarantee you will miss out.

It still bothers me that I put off seeing a drive-in movie that summer, only to find out I had missed the last night's showing of the only drive-in movie theater remotely near my home before it closed down for good.

Living in the future will guarantee that you will miss out on today. So whether it's participating in open mic, hitting the gym or facing your fears, "Why not tonight?" Ellensburg?

Flappy Bird makes me angry, and not because it's hard

BY ADAM WILSON / SCENE EDITOR



It's not difficult to see that Flappy Bird is the latest craze in mobile gaming.

Everywhere I go, whether it's class, the SURO or even my neighbors' apartments, I can find at least one

person trying to maneuver the crudely animated bird through pipes that look similar to a certain plumber's best transportation tool.

I'm not usually one for mobile games. I grew up playing video games as my primary source of entertainment and nowadays I prefer story-driven games, like The Last of Us or Journey, or games with complex mechanics, like DOTA 2.

Even on the mobile market, I prefer serious, artistic games like "Device6" and "Year Walk" to a time waster any day of the week. (On that note, buy both of those games, they're fantastic).

Every now and then, I get hooked on a mobile game for a few days.

While I managed an impressively high score, at least based on how mad my friends got when I showed them, I can't help but feel underwhelmed by Flappy Bird.

When I look at the history of mobile games with huge followings, I see games that, while simple in concept, turn out to be quite complex by mobile gaming standards.

The obvious one here is Angry Birds. I know a lot of people seem to despise the series for whatever reason, but I actually appreciate what the developers did with the game.

The puzzles are challenging and thought-provoking, even more so as more birds and structure types get thrown into the mix. And don't even get me started on Angry Birds Space, because the gravity mechanics in that is absolute genius as far as I'm concerned.

The next big game is Temple Run. Nowhere near as complex as Angry Birds,

but once you get a run going longer than 15 seconds, the car-like reflexes start to come out. And just as important is the ability to execute the necessary action under pressure.

Up next we have the Candy Crush Saga. I have my own reasons to hate the game (Hint: they trademarked "Candy"), but the bejeweled-remix is at least done well.

It's also incredibly difficult when it starts adding new victory conditions to every puzzle. Removing a whole section of gray blocks gets frustrating after a while.

Lastly, perhaps the least player engaging of all of the games I've mentioned is Clash of Clans.

It's the only mobile game I've actually seen a commercial for (unless Angry Birds had one back in the day). Sure, you only have to play the game for a few minutes a day to set up upgrades and attacks, but in the grand scheme of things it can be as complex as you want it to be.

And then I look at Flappy Bird. You press the screen and the bird jumps. Get through the gates, and you get points. It doesn't get any more complex than that. No unlockables, no different

modes, just that. It doesn't get faster or more difficult either. Once you get a rhythm for the first five or so gates, the next twenty become trivial.

Don't get me wrong, it's extremely hard to get a rhythm. I guarantee you won't get through more than two gates on your first try. But it took me, what, 10 minutes to get over the learning curve? Within a couple days I hit 119, and a typical run usually gets me 30-40 points.

Sure, it's addictive. I'm not trying to say it's poorly designed. But when I look at the history of popular mobile games and see how complex they actually can be or get, Flappy Bird disappoints me. I hope this game doesn't start a downward trend of simplicity in the mobile game market because they're already much simpler than a standard console or handheld game.



Why not tonight?

BY JASMINE ACKERMAN
COPY EDITOR

We all know New Year's resolutions are considered a joke since they are often forgotten by the time midterms roll around.

Our drive to become fit fades, and we begin to stuff our faces once again with, well, whatever we told ourselves we would not eat. Needless to say, these decisions don't usually end with the life-altering results we had initially hoped for.

Just as New Year's resolutions don't guarantee a successful, goal-achieving year, bucket lists don't promise a lifetime of unforgettable experiences either.

Aspirations such as losing weight, eating healthy, learning to play an instrument, writing a novel or training for a marathon are repeatedly put off until "tomorrow."

Continually postponing new experiences means missing out on living.

Before the summer of 2011, I was a huge procrastinator. I was incoordinated and afraid of new experiences and change. I postponed my dreams and goals to be achieved until any day other than "today." I traded it all for a seat on a comfy couch watching "Gilmore Girls."

This was the summer of my blaring wake-up call. If I didn't break out of my shell, a change wasn't going to happen magically overnight.

My best friend and I made a "list of things we must do this summer," which at that point consisted of fears we had yet to conquer.

When she asked me which one I wanted to face that night, I started making excuse after excuse until she finally asked, "Why not tonight?" This became our new

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I hate how everyone complains about how tuition goes up but no one is willing to seriously campaign against it. #icant #lazy #CWyourant

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#CWyourant wth is up w the logo? I'm still bitter.

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If I had a quarter for every time a professor pissed me off I could pay for my tuition!! #CWYouRant

NEED TO RANT OR RAVE?



Tweet your screams and shouts about CWU to @CWUobserver with the hashtag #CWyourant

The Lounge gets a hazy makeover

BY CHELSEA ALEAGA
 Staff Reporter

There are four new, young and motivated owners of the hookah bar in town formally known as The Lounge. New owners, Daren Russell, Steven Thomas, Derek Cockrum and Tawnie Shockley, felt it necessary to rename the hookah bar to The House of Haze.

"These guys are dedicated, motivated and they have a team in place ready to go," TJ McDonald, former owner of The Lounge, said.

McDonald and the new owners have a history; they all grew up together in Yakima. With a relationship already built it wasn't hard for McDonald to pass on his business to the four entrepreneurs.

"The hookah bar kind of just fell into our lap," Thomas said. "We were already talking about starting a head shop then we heard TJ was selling the place. It was like a double whammy of opening a head shop plus taking over the hookah bar."

The new title, The House of Haze, gives people imagery of what they will be walking into: an environment to relax, hang out, and smoke. With a bigger head shop, new renovations, longer hours and bigger events planned, the new owners are ready to open up The House of Haze and get to work.

"College people want a place to kick it and relax," Cockrum said. "The House

of Haze is for people to unwind, chill and hangout with cool people."

The House of Haze is opening its doors earlier in hopes of students doing their homework there instead of the stuffy library or crowded coffee shops.

"Having students come in, get on Wi-Fi, do their homework, while being able to smoke is what we want," Thomas said. "Especially on Sundays because that's when people want to chill."

The new owners will be adding three brand new TVs, different brands of sheesha, more glass pieces, and making renovations to add more comfortable seating. The goal for these changes is to have their customers feel like they are at home while at the House of Haze.

"We want members of the House of Haze to feel as if they're smoking in our house," Russell said.

Becoming a member of The House of Haze gives members the rights to go into the establishment and smoke tobacco, and for members 21 and over, smoke cannabis.

"We are one [of the few] places in the state of Washington that permits cannabis usage," Thomas said.

With Washington State being the second state in the U.S. to legalize weed, the new crew feels Ellensburg is the perfect community to practice the new law since it is a college town.

"People are becoming to know that

College people want a place to kick it and relax ... The House of Haze is for people to unwind, chill and hangout with cool people.

-Derek Cockrum
 Owner of House of Haze



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAMIE WINTER

cannabis is more than just getting high," Thomas said. "We are hoping the head shop lures in tobacco and cannabis smokers for awesome new merchandise we have coming in."

The head shop is the public part of the facility called "The Shed", where the owners hope to expand their business. They are stocking up on more brands of sheesha, glassware, and even vape pens.

The current hours for The Lounge are Wednesday to Saturday 7:00 p.m. through midnight. The new owners want to open The House of Haze earlier in the day at 4:00 p.m. and stay open until 4:00 a.m. on weekends for after bar hours which will attract people who aren't ready to go to sleep. These late hours will give them a chance to smoke and relax after a long night of drinking.

Ellensburg is a college town with limited places to hang out. The House of Haze is the perfect place for locals and students alike to kick back, relax, and get hazy.

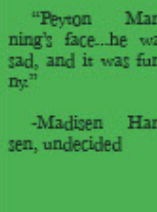
Superbowl reflections

The Seahawks won their first Superbowl, dominating the Broncos 43-8. The Game was full of many exciting plays and Central students weigh in on their favorite moments.



"I think that the 87 yard touchdown was, by far, the best."

-Luis Padres, food science and nutrition major



"Peyton Manning's face...he was sad, and it was funny."

-Madison Hansen, undecided



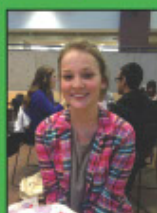
"Probably the halftime. I'm a huge fan of red hot chili peppers and I think the mix with Bruno Mars went pretty well."

-Dakota Teterud, undecided



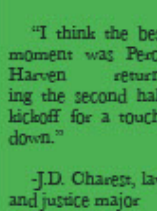
"Probably Seattle's defense. I loved the way they played. Manning didn't do anything because of the good defense."

-Luis Ortiz, safety and health management major



"The safety at the beginning"

-Nikki Christopher, undecided



"I think the best moment was Percy Harvin returning the second half kickoff for a touchdown."

-J.D. Chavez, law and justice major



"The first touchdown."

-Lovren Rike, undecided

Greater Works Chorale to grace Central

BY SPENCER BAKER
 Staff Reporter

It's not very often that an award winning gospel choir takes the stage at Central. Singing, dancing and worshipping are all going to be present when DaNell Damon and the Greater Works Choral perform at Central's concert hall in the music building on Friday Feb. 7.

"Choir has always been a significant part in the black community," Mal Stewman, Diversity Officer for the Center for Diversity and Social Justice, said. Stewman is the man responsible for Daymon and his choir's future performance here at Central.

Stewman is from the Seattle area and has a cousin that performs in the chorale. She is the one that told Stewman about the group. Stewman checked them out online and decided that they would be a perfect fit for a Black History Month event here at Central.

"I took the proper steps within me to unveil their greater good," DaNell Daymon said.

Daymon worked in the music industry for over 20 years in New York. Those proper steps brought him here to start his Greater Works Chorale.

Daymon and his chorale bring their high-energy to the show whenever they perform. The choir is known for winning Verizon's How Sweet the Sound competition in 2012 and bringing a packed Staples Center to its feet.

During their performance at Staples Center, The Greater Works Chorale



GREATER WORKS CHORALE/FACEBOOK

HEART AND SOUL DaNell Daymon gives his all on stage at Verizon's "How Sweet the Sound" competition in 2012.

brought all the energy one stadium could handle. The piece that they performed started slow and built up into a fast pace gospel piece. Daymon was singing and dancing while he was conducting the choir. The members of the choir fed off of Daymon's energy and were freely dancing most of the time, but every once in a while, all of them would do choreographed moves that made the piece come together.

The Greater Works Chorale is "an aggregation of singers in the [Pacific North-

west] that sing professionally in various environments that allow people to discover the greatness within them," Daymon said.

The Chorale started four years ago by networking with various singers in the Seattle area. "I put the vision in front of them," Daymon said.

Today the Greater Works Chorale consists of 30 members that travel the country performing to promote God. They are trying to communicate God's love through song and presentation.

"It will help with how to engage yourself in your music," Conner Sines, junior music education major, said. "It seems like they never stand still, and their arms are always moving."

Not only can viewers find God's power through this performance, but it will also be something new that the music majors can look forward to.

"There are a lot of good choirs around the state but none of them inspire you like they do," Sines said. "Daymon could have a spiritual impact for a lot of people and inspire a lot of musicians on campus to step up their games."

The Greater Works Chorale performance is one of many events that are happening around campus for black history month. Black Student Union is putting on "Show Time at McConnell" and Monday Movie Madness is showing "The Butler."

"One of the things we are doing in Center for Diversity and Social Justice is bring awareness," Stewman said. One way they are going to do that is bring Daymon and his chorale.

Tickets are available online at www.cwu.edu/tickets. Show time is 7 p.m.

Pizza Rita becomes Pizza Colin

BY JUSTIN MERRELL
Staff Reporter

Although local pizzeria Pizza Rita changed ownership on Feb. 1, the pizza will stay the same. The downtown storefront and menu will remain, and pepperoncinis will even be included in orders now.

The easiest change to identify in the restaurant will be its name: Pizza Colin.

"It's not nearly as Italian as Rita," new owner Colin Lamb, who has worked at Pizza Rita for two and a half years said.

Many may have seen Lamb around town delivering pizzas in his green, retro Volkswagen van.

Lamb graduated from Central in 2009 with a Bachelor's in anthropology and is now a graduate student in resource management. He

met previous owner Rita Ritter during his freshman year.

Ritter lives in Spokane, where she manages Pizza Rita's four other stores. When she left, Ritter made Lamb the manager of the Ellensburg shop.

After deciding to go to nursing school, Ritter chose to put the Ellensburg storefront up for sale, and Lamb opted to buy the store himself.

"Colin is going to do well because he loves Ellensburg so much," Ritter said.

Lamb never dreamed of owning a pizza joint or any other restaurant for that matter. Before working at Pizza Rita, Lamb never had a job in the food industry.

"The business was for sale," Lamb said. "I bought it so I could keep my job because I like my job."

Lamb doesn't consider himself a pizza chef. As an anthropologist, he is interested in people and enjoys working with them. He is fond of the opportunities the pizza shop provides, considering its location in the heart of Ellensburg.

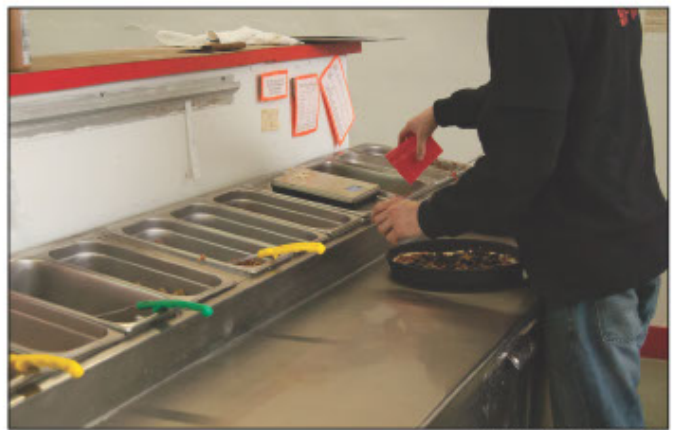
I was a huge customer [of Pizza Rita] before I worked here . . . I always told Rita I was going to get a job here and then I finally did. It's crazy how life turned out like this.

**-Colin Lamb
Owner of Pizza Colin**

turned out like this."

Pizza Colin's menu will still feature customer favorites such as Rita's Real Pizza, a pizza with pepperoni, sausage, beef, olives, onions, green peppers and mushrooms and the pounder, a large pan pizza that boasts 11 toppings.

"This is a well-oiled machine," Lamb said. "Customers may have to get used to the new name, but they'll still enjoy the



COURTNEY LEWIS/OBSERVER

TRADITIONAL Pizza Colin will continue to use the same pizza recipe as before.

same great pizza."

On top of their usual menu, Pizza Colin features a custom made menu for the Iron Horse Pub next door, where customers can enjoy pizza accompanied by a local brew.

Lamb and several other employees met with the Iron Horse staff, where they tasted pizzas and paired them with Iron Horse beers. Pizzas offered at Iron Horse include the Hipster Delight, the Marketer and the Iron Horse Special, an employee favorite.

There were also murmurs of a "secret

menu" at Pizza Colin, which will be made more public in the future.

Toppings at Pizza Colin include pepperoni, ground beef, sausage, mushrooms, olives, green peppers, onions, ham, pineapple, bacon, tomatoes, jalapenos, pepperoncinis, anchovies, chicken and garlic. Sides on offer are wings, crispy and cheesy eights (house-made breadsticks), and apple and berry eights (mini turnovers with white caramel frosting). Pizza Colin also offers gluten free crust medium-sized pizzas, and they accept all competitor coupons and offers, current and expired.

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SARAH RUIZ/OBSERVER

COMICS GALORE Central City Comics, located across from Wells Fargo, offers a variety of comic books, cards and other products for comic book lovers and gamers alike.

Central City Comics is no small town shop

BY MARIA HARR
Staff Reporter

Until eight years ago, Ellensburg was without a comic book shop. Gus Foster saw the store-shaped void in town and filled it with comic books, tabletop games, trading cards and tournament events.

Walking in, the store looks like other comic shops. Rows of file boxes filled with comic books line one side of the store, posters plastered above them bringing color to the walls. Shelves and cases at the entrance display games and Magic the Gathering cards.

Two large pieces of plywood in the back of the store serve as card tables, folded up onto the wall to conserve space during normal business hours. An arcade game with an X-Men themed shell sits at the front of the store. The main menu animation of the game plays over and over on mute, so customers can hear the music Foster plays in store.

Central City Comics sets itself apart from other comic shops due to Foster's seven year old pug, MODOK. The pug is friendly and allows customers to pet him and rub his belly.

Foster opened Central City Comics eight years ago and has been serving the Ellensburg need community, making a hub of trading card game activity outside of Central's own board and card gaming clubs. Foster graduated from Central in 2007 with a major in English literature.

Regular customers are greeted by name, and, with a few words, Foster knows how to serve them. He is behind the coun-

ter to pull out Magic the Gathering cards to show some guests. Foster used to play Magic and uses his knowledge of cards to help his customers build their decks.

"You don't want that one," Foster said, laughing to one regular customer who was going through some cards. After a discussion of how the deck being built, Foster made his recommendations and checked the price of the card in question. "It should be twelve. I'll sell it to you for eight."

One regular customer purchased two cards he hated specifically to rip them in half. When Foster heard he was going to destroy the cards, Foster gave the customer a special deal, and they ripped the cards together.

Foster said many funny and interesting things happen at the store. He recalled a time when he used to charge customers a dollar for "dropping F-bombs," which is not encouraged because a lot of kids visit the store.

"I appreciate that even a small town like Ellensburg has a fully equipped comic shop," experimental physics graduate student Tyler Sharp said. "If you're looking for something he doesn't have, Gus will get it for you."

Sharp has attended several of the Magic the Gathering tournaments held at Central City Comics. Sharp enjoys going to tournaments to socialize not compete.

"The spirit of the event is the main draw," Sharp said.

The store hosts Warhammer on Wednesdays, Dungeons and Dragons on Thursdays and Magic the Gathering on



SARAH RUIZ/OBSERVER

SNOOZING Gus Foster's pug MODOK can often be seen lounging around the shop.

Fridays. The store also hosts pre-release events for new Magic the Gathering decks, like one on Feb. 2, ending in time for the Super Bowl coin toss.

The stubby legged MODOK wanders out of the back, straight from a nap, and heads to the gang of customers talking to Foster near the front.

MODOK is named after a villainous Marvel character, which stands for Mental Organism Designed Only for Killing. The name barely fits the cute pug, except the character's squashed face reminds Foster of his dog.

That very same face graces several Central City Comic T-shirts above the store's number, the last four digits of which spell out the word HERO. The pug has even garnered fan art, one of which shows him in an X-Wing spaceship from Star Wars.

Foster anticipates the pug's death with dread, saying it will be the worst day of his life; however, he won't be the only one to mourn the shop's popular furry mascot.

"MODOK is the best mental organism designed only for killing I have ever

met," Nick Whitney, a history freshman and long-time customer, said. "Everyone should own a pug."

Foster is looking forward to the upcoming Free Comic Book Day on May 4, which his store will participate in.

"[I plan to] continue to offer an outlet for gamers and needs of all flavors in Ellensburg," Foster said.

Central City Comics

Central City Comics is located at 113 E. 4th Avenue in Downtown Ellensburg.

You can contact the store at 509.962.4376

CRITICS CORNER

Movie review: Nebraska

"I never knew the son of a bitch even wanted to be a millionaire"

BY CAMILLE BORODEY
Assistant Scene Editor

Releasing a movie in black and white is always a risky move, for it often repels mainstream audiences. Director Alexander Payne's choice to shoot "Nebraska" actually strengthens the emphasis of the bleak, rural setting, while allowing the actors to carry the film's multi-layered characters.

When he receives a certificate for \$1 million from a sweepstakes, Woody Grant (Bruce Dern) is determined to walk from Montana to Nebraska to claim his prize, which everyone knows is a scam except for Woody. His son, David (Will Forte), who was recently left by his girlfriend, offers to drive his boozey father to claim the prize.

Dern and Forte make a compelling pair as father and son, but it's June Squibb as Woody's wife, Kase, who steals the film. Since Woody is a man of few words, his wife helps fill in the gaps with her constant, but hilarious, nagging: "I never knew the son of a bitch even wanted to be a millionaire! He should have thought about that years ago and worked for it!"



she tells David before the road trip.

The family that Payne (The Descendants) and screenwriter Bob Nelson craft is endearingly realistic, making every member likeable and unlikeable at times throughout the film. The dynamic thrives when Woody and David stop in Woody's hometown to visit his relatives. What re-

ally makes the Grant family so genuine is that, like a normal family, even though they do not always appear affectionate towards one another, they end up connecting over the obvious scam.

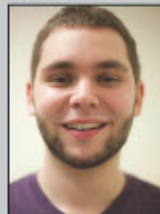
David doesn't learn much about himself on the trip, but he begins to understand that his father isn't greedily seeking

fortune. Woody is simply an aging man looking for some thrills in his final years.

Nebraska manages to pull viewer's heartstrings without taking itself too seriously. With a mix of laugh out loud comedy and endearing moments, "Nebraska" is all about the journey and not the destination.

Video game review: Broken Age

"People call me Vella ... Well, a lot of people call me Traitor"

BY ADAM WILSON
Scene Editor

Broken Age made headlines before it even started development. Tim Schafer, founder of Double Fine Productions, launched a Kickstarter campaign for the game in 2012 asking for only \$400,000.

In less than 24 hours backers had given Schafer over \$1 million, and by the end, the campaign raised over \$3 million. At the time, it was the most funded project on the website and is still in the top ten most funded today.

Their Kickstarter campaign is what put this game on my radar, and when the first half of the game finally released on Jan. 28, I was very much excited to play. Any PC gamers dying for an excuse to stop playing League of Legends for a few hours should be too, provided they can handle the slower pace of a point-and-click adventure game.

Schafer fans will immediately be drawn to his iconic art style. Each of Broken Age's wide-eyed, oddly-shaped characters are hand drawn, but their smooth animations would convince you otherwise. The

two main characters - Vella and Shay - move through their respective worlds one section at a time, with each section given a beautiful backdrop that, on several occasions, I had to stop and admire.

These occasions happened significantly more in Vella's storyline. The teenager was selected as one of several women to be sacrificed in the "Maiden's Feast," and although the other girls almost fetishize the thoughts of being selected, Vella feels nothing but disgust.

Unfortunately, this is where the interesting part of her story ends. Vella's goals are honorable and ambitious, but the process she goes through to reach them isn't exciting. The beautiful aesthetic Vella is surrounded by left me wanting more, and not in a good way.

The mediocre voice acting that Magasa Moyo brought to the table doesn't help at all. I recall her having what should be an emotional realization about her family, but the delivery of her script felt like a high schooler who was forced to take Drama to graduate. While I like Vella as a character, I really hope Moyo brings a better performance in the second act.

On the flip side, every moment of Shay's half of the story was what I expected the game to be. Shay has lived his whole life on a space ship, raised by artificial intelligence. The ship was designed as a toddler's play place, which has



left the teenage Shay bitter, wanting more from life than what his "mom" can give him (truly living up to the name "Broken Age").

Shay's story didn't have the same beautiful seepieces Vella's did, but every one fit perfectly into the atmosphere Double Fine was aiming for. I could feel the despair Shay had as his mom fed him like a two-year-old and had him embark on pretend space missions, one of which involved saving a pair of talking dolls from an ice cream avalanche by eating it all.

Part of this comes from Lord of the Rings star Elijah Wood's fantastic voice work as Shay, with voice acting all-star Jennifer Hale as his counterpart on the

space ship. The pair works fantastically together, and I'm excited to see how Shay's and his mom's personalities will drive the second half of the game, if only because I'm afraid Vella's (or her subpar supporting cast) can't.

While I'm a little upset that I can't play Act 2 now, Double Fine has shown me just what is possible when their funding comes from its primary audience and not a major publisher. I do hope that they can fix the issues with Vella's story while maintaining the quality of Shay's. But as long as they can keep giving me the amazing visuals they started with, I think I will be okay with whatever happens in the second act of Broken Age.

CWU Music Dept. goes over the top

Students, alumni and faculty to sing in opera showcase

BY KATHERINE GOLARZ
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 8, Central's talented vocal students, faculty and even some alumni will be performing "Opera-Over-the-Top" at 7 p.m. The concert will be an innovative and fun evening of opera arias sprinkled with fan favorite duets and ensembles.

This is a new idea for Central's music department and is the first time "Opera-Over-the-Top" will be performed. The concert will showcase the hard work students have put into learning and perfecting an aria repertoire.

A mysterious special guest will be hosting the event. Be prepared for moments of hilarity and silliness interspersed with the gorgeous sound of magnificent voices.

Gayla Blaisdell has taught as a voice and opera professor in Central's music department for the last six years, and she will also be performing an aria at the event. Blaisdell received her doctorate in vocal performance from New York University and has spent her entire career dedicated

to music.

Some of her experience includes performing a German opera piece, *Dich Teure Halle*.

Blaisdell was enthusiastic to explain that opera music is a universal expression of human emotions through stories.

It is incredibly important for voice students to train in opera ... Performance majors need to be able to move on stage and with their bodies.

**-Gayla Blaisdell
Professor of Voice and Opera**

"It encourages viewers to interpret what we are seeing, instead of something that is just given to us," Blaisdell said.

The music will vary between serious and dramatic interpretations. An aria is a solo piece which Central students do not have the opportunity to perform often. Performers will have the chance to showcase their talents through these solo performances, as well as some duets. Some will be standards the audience will recognize.

The students have been preparing for their performances all year long, some

since last year. Students have received applied voice lessons as well as dramatic coaching, where they have learned how to use their bodies to create a character; however, this showcase will not be a full scene production as the students have done in the past.



Last year, opera students from Central performed at the Capital Theater in Yakima. This will be very different than last year's fully staged performance "Die Fledermaus" which was the largest event the Central Opera program has ever performed. The program has won four national awards in the last five years, and students and professors continue to keep the music department strong.

"The students loved the professional theater, and the audience loved it as well," Blaisdell said.

Students will perform once again, at the end of the academic year, on June 6 and 8 in Herz Hall.

The performance will be staged mostly with a piano.

With this upcoming performance, the

performers are especially excited to show their personal talents through their arias. They also have the chance to explore costume options. They may "create the stage" through their character.

"It is incredibly important for voice students to train in opera," Blaisdell said. "Performance majors need to be able to move on stage and with their bodies."

Most importantly, Blaisdell expressed, "Opera is fun." Through social norms and human experience, audience members can take a lot from these types of performances.

"It is freeing, allowing the body to move through a character with their whole body," Blaisdell said. "Even the music education students are able to take a lot from these large performances and learn how to put together these types of productions."

Show Info

What: Opera-Over-the-Top

Who: CWU Music Dept.

When: Feb. 8 @ 7 p.m.

Where: Music Building Concert Hall

Tickets will be \$5 w/ CWU ID and \$10 w/o.

Tickets are available at www.cwu.edu/music/tickets.

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BASEBALL

'Cats have high hopes for new season

After finishing last season with their best record since 2008, the Wildcats hope to "go farther" this year

BY QUIN WALKER
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington baseball team has one thing on its mind: do better. Many of the returning players felt as if they were the best team in the league last year.

Baseball is a game where one tiny detail can mean the difference in the game. For the Wildcats, they hope the details swing in their direction this season. The Wildcats return 11 players from a team that finished 30-24 last season and had 19 conference wins.

The over-riding theme of this season is to build off of the success the team had last year. The players and coaching staff believe that they can achieve the goals set out for this season.

"We want to be better than last year. Our goal is to not only win the conference title, but we want to host it this year. We fell a little short last year," head coach Dest Storey said. "We want a regional spot."

The team has shown steady improvement. Winning only 19 games in 2012, but 30 in 2013, which players credit to the hard work being put forth throughout the program.

"We wake up every morning at 6 a.m., conditioning two days a week. We have been working hard in the cages and pitchers have been throwing bullpens," senior pitcher Skye Adams said. "We have been getting strong. We feel like we are ready, and hopefully we can make it to regionals this year."

Adams, an all-league starter, led the team in wins last season, going 6-2 with a 3.80 ERA. Pitching will be key in the success of the Wildcats. They return two senior leaders to the rotation, which looks to be top in the conference. Seniors Stuart Fewel and Skye Adams bolster a four-man rotation which also includes power arms Davis Engel and Brandon Williams whom are both juniors.

"Our pitching will keep us in games and our hitting will win us games," Adams said.

Hitting will definitely be something to look at only because of what the Wildcats lost last season. Kyle Sani, who hit 18 home runs last season, ran out of eligibility, so it's up to the depth of the Wildcats to make up for his run support. Another key loss has been the departure of Great Northwest Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year, Kramer Ferrell. Ferrell hit .352 last year and was key in the Wildcats' success. With subtraction comes addition though, and transfer Josh Potter looks to



ZACH OLNEY/OBSERVER

SAFE AT HOME Senior shortstop Justin Weigel gets ready to cross home plate. Weigel hit .320 last season and had 14 RBIs.

be a vital part in the Wildcats' order.

The Wildcat batting order won't be without experience. They return six of their top 17 hitters from last year, and four hitters who hit over .300. The consistency throughout the lineup was something Storey keyed on when talking about this year's group.

"In order to achieve these goals, we need to play as a team and have everyone do their roles. If we can do that then we have a chance to be where we want to be at the end of the season," senior pitcher Stuart Fewel said.

Storey added, "I think we are better than last year. We have a chance to be more consistent, regardless of who is going to be in the lineup. Our team speed



ZACH OLNEY/OBSERVER

FROM THE STRETCH Senior pitcher Max Dickinson delivers a pitch in a game last year. Dickinson went 3-0 last year, striking out 13 batters in 25 innings pitched.

will be better, and I also think we are a better defensive team. We have a chance to be better... We had so many new faces last year that we didn't know what to expect and how good we could be. With so many guys back I think we will have a better idea of what we are capable of and what it's going to take. With a little bit better talent and a little more knowledge of what we are capable of doing, I think we have a chance to go farther."

A team that believes a GNAC title is attainable this season took on San Francisco State in a double header this weekend in San Francisco, splitting the two games, winning the second. The Wildcats also had two games rained out last weekend.

Potter went a combined 5-8 in the two games against San Francisco State, with two RBIs which earned him the GNAC baseball Player of the Week award in his first games with the Wildcats.

Key losses from last season

Catcher Kyle Sani: .347 batting average, 42 runs (led team), 68 hits (tied for team lead), 14 doubles (led team), 18 home runs (led nation), 58 RBIs (led GNAC), .724 slugging percentage, (led GNAC). 2013 All-GNAC first team member and GNAC Player of the Year.

Third baseman Marc Garza: .360 batting average (third in GNAC, led team), 68 hits (tied for team lead), .395 on base percentage, 2013 All-GNAC First Team.

Left fielder Kramer Ferrell: .352 batting average, 32 runs (third on team), 50 hits, four home runs (second on team), .500 slugging percentage, 2013 All-GNAC First Team and GNAC Freshman of the Year.

First Baseman Justin Peterson: .295 batting average, .405 on base percentage, 2013 All-GNAC First Team. Peterson was a defensive anchor at first base, setting a Central single-season record with 365 putouts while committing just four errors (.990 fielding percentage).

Key returning players

Pitcher Skye Adams: 3.80 earned run average, 6-2 record, three complete games (second in GNAC), 45 strikeouts, 2013 All-GNAC First Team

Infielder Joel Johnson: .324 batting average, 26 RBIs (second on team), .394 on base percentage, nine stolen bases (second on team), 2013 All-GNAC Second Team.

Right fielder Ethan Sterkel: .329 batting average, 55 hits, two home runs, 16 RBIs, 2013 All-GNAC Honorable Mention

Pitcher Stuart Fewel: .482 earned run average, 5-4 record, one complete game, 2013 All-GNAC Second Team.

*All stats are from the 2013 season

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



NICK TERRELOBSERVER

RECORD SETTER Senior guard Jessica VanDyke dribbles near the three-point line. VanDyke recently broke the Central record for three-pointers made in a career.

Wildcats to face archrivals at home

BY JAMES NARANJO
Staff Reporter

Senior guard Jessica VanDyke and the women's basketball team hosts conference juggernaut Simon Fraser University tonight, and archrival Western Washington University on Saturday.

Prior meetings between the two teams were highly competitive and don't expect these games to be any different.

"They are two great teams," VanDyke said. "They have been power-house programs for a long time."

Simon Fraser comes to Ellensburg with a 12-6 overall record, and a 7-4 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

Look out for sophomore guard/forward Erin Chambers, who is averaging 23.1 points per game, and 4.7 rebounds per game. Chambers dropped 32 points the last time she played the Wildcats.

"Chambers is an amazing player—that's

why she plays for the Canadian national team," head coach Shawn Nelson said.

Earlier in the year when the Wildcats beat Simon Fraser 63-54, sophomore center Jasmine Parker had her best game of the year. She scored 21 points, had two blocks, and a steal.

"The key was I got going early and found a rhythm," Parker said.

Getting Parker involved early could be the key in a Wildcat victory. A key contributor, Parker is averaging 9.9 points-per-game, to go along with 7.9 rebounds-per-game.

Commanding attention in the post can lead to more open looks for VanDyke. Recently, VanDyke broke the school record for three-pointers made in a Central career. VanDyke comes in averaging 15.6 points-per-game, along with 6.9 rebounds-per-game.

Since the early season loss to Central, Simon Fraser went on to win four of its



NICK TERRELOBSERVER

SPOT-UP SHOOTER Junior forward Courtney Johnson shoots a three-pointer against Quest University earlier in the season. Johnson is the second-leading scorer for the Wildcats, averaging 12 points-per-game.

next six games. Catching fire at the right time, the Clan seek revenge.

Similarly to Simon Fraser, the Western Washington Vikings are big inside as well.

The previous meeting between the Wildcats and Vikings ended in a highly competitive, 71-64, Central defeat. Upset about losing, the ladies had nothing to hang their heads about.

"These girls work their buns off every day," Nelson said. "The game could have gone either way."

VanDyke had a double-double, logging 21 points and grabbing 10 boards against the Vikings.

Come Thursday, Feb. 8, the Wildcats seek revenge against their bitter rival.

The Vikings come into this game with an 11-8 overall record, and a 7-4 record in GNAC play.

They may not have a superstar like Chambers on their squad, but they are a team built with all-around solid basketball

players.

Keep an eye on junior guard Katie Colard. Colard is a natural leader, and plays the point guard position very well. She comes in averaging 13 points-per-game, along with 2 rebounds, and 2 assists-per-game.

Central must play smart and in the moment to win these games.

"We must make our free throws, and we must make good decisions," Nelson said.

Central comes in with a 6-13 overall record, and is 1-10 in GNAC play. The record may not reflect it, but the Wildcats have been in position to win the majority of their games.

Though the Wildcats are out of playoff contention, have no doubt coach Nelson will have his Wildcats ready to play.

Big players show up in big games, so count on VanDyke and Parker to set the tone and get their team fired up.

Wildcats ice cold after Alaska road trip

BY JULIA SANDERSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team had another unsuccessful road trip, failing to win in its annual trip to Alaska.

The Wildcats dropped to 6-13 for the season, and 1-10 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference play, after losing to Alaska Anchorage 77-70 and Alaska Fairbanks 88-68.

The Wildcats had a strong first half in their first game against Anchorage. Early in the first half they went on a 10-0 run after a three-pointer by senior guard Jessica VanDyke, giving Central a 22-14 lead.

"I thought we played well in the first half," Jessica VanDyke said.

Heading into half time, Central led 41-37.

Alaska Anchorage opened up the second half with a 17-3 run, leading 54-44. The Seawolves led by as many as 14 points in the second half. Late in the second half, a run by the Wildcats cut the Seawolves lead to just four points with 1:10 remaining.

Unfortunately, Central didn't get any closer, as Anchorage walked away with the win 77-70.

"We had too many turnovers, and they got too many second chance shots in the second half," VanDyke said.

Sophomore guard Hannah Shine scored a career-high of 19 points and VanDyke had 11 points, followed by senior forward-center Amber Motzer who had 10.

Another unfortunate loss to Fairbanks pushed Central further into last place in the conference standings.

Senior guard Ally Schmitt opened up the game, putting the Wildcats ahead 2-0. Unfortunately, that was the last lead for the Wildcats as the Nanooks went on a 14-0 run to take the lead 14-2. The Nanooks held onto their lead and entered halftime with a 49-36 advantage over the Wildcats.

Fairbanks held their lead throughout the second half, defeating Central 88-68.

"We lacked energy and had defensive letdowns," VanDyke said.

The Wildcats have improved upon their free throws to gain valuable points during the game. They made 18 of their 22 free-throw attempts, a season high 81 percent.

Junior guard Erika Locker had a season-high, scoring 15 points on Saturday night.

The Wildcats will be returning home to host Simon Fraser and rival Western Washington this Thursday and Saturday.

"To get ready for Simon Fraser and Western Washington University we need to limit turnovers, rebound and improve our defense," VanDyke said.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

McLaughlin earns GNAC scoring record

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Recently, Central Washington University's senior guard Mark McLaughlin became the fastest player in Great Northwest Athletic Conference history to score 1,000 points.

"It's cool, it means a lot. I'm trying to leave a legacy here," McLaughlin said. "I'd rather get a championship that's the ultimate goal."

McLaughlin is currently the nation's leading scorer, averaging 28.3 points-per-game, he is almost unstoppable at times. To go along with this, he has a very respectable shooting percentage with almost 50 percent from the field, 33 percent from behind the three-point line and is No. 11 in the GNAC with 3 assists-per-game.

McLaughlin has been on a tear lately, earning GNAC player of the week (second time in the last three weeks and the third time this year) and making more history by being the second player in GNAC history, and first player in Central history to post back-to-back games of 40 plus points.

McLaughlin contributes his success to his teammates and coaches more than to himself.

"Having good coaches and good teammates that allow me to do that," McLaughlin said. "You can't do it if your teammates are selfish or if your coaches don't call good plays for you, a lot of it goes to them."

His first 40-point game came against

rival school Western Washington University, where he scored 43 points but came up short as the Wildcats lost 99-94. In that same game he made even more Central history by making 42 straight free throws over a six game span.

It didn't take long for him to "re-bound" as he put up 40 points the next game against Simon Fraser University on the following Saturday. In that two game year he was shooting an astronomical 68 percent from the field and 55 percent from downtown.

Scoring isn't the only thing McLaughlin does well. Head coach Greg Sparding says that he's a great passer and that is what has helped McLaughlin and other teammates do well.

"Our guys understand that when he's scoring it's going to give them more scoring opportunities," Sparding said. "The JB Pillards and the Kevin Davis are seeing the rewards of that and getting the rebounds and the put back baskets."

The best is yet to come for McLaughlin. If he continues on this pace he will be the school's leader in points-per-game average, which has been the same since 1967. He is the current leader with 24.8 points-per-game, which is three points more than Central Hall of Famer Mel Orr.

"Mark is a volume shooter, he's a high percentage volume shooter," Sparding said. "It's hard to explain how good of a scorer he is, the only enemy Mark has is himself."



NICK TERRELOBSERVER

IN THE LANE Senior guard Mark McLaughlin shoots around a pack of Wolves defenders in a win over Western Oregon University earlier this year. McLaughlin leads the nation in scoring, despite being doubled and sometimes triple-teamed this season.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

THROW IT DOWN BIG MAN! Redshirt senior Jeff Budinich dunks the ball in the Wildcats win against Northwest Nazarene on Saturday. Budinich scored 11 points, hitting 3-4 shots from three-point range. Budinich is playing in his first season for the Wildcats after transferring from Montana State University.

Wildcats look to keep "climbing ladder"

BY DILLON PETERSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington Men's Basketball Team (10-8 overall, 6-4 Great Northwest Athletic Conference) looks to keep the momentum going after an 86-66 win over Northwest Nazarene University.

The Wildcats look to go on the road and get two big wins over Western Oregon University on Feb. 6 and Saint Martin's on Feb. 8.

"Talk about climbing the ladder cause the first weekend of the season we were in the cellar, and we keep each week climbing and climbing," head coach Greg Sparding said. "We gotta get up to the top and this team understands it's one game at a time."

Central travels to Western Oregon first where they will have to stay in Salem then travel to the university to take on the Wolves on Thursday.

Earlier in the season when these teams

met, it was a 106-103 double overtime win for the Wildcats in which senior guard Mark McLaughlin scored 39 points. Senior center Kevin Davis also had a big game scoring 25 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and blocking five shots against the Wolves.

The Wolves sit at 11-10 overall and 4-7 in GNAC standings so they will be coming out hungry for a win to get to the tournament.

"We definitely are not trying to go into overtime. We just gotta go over film and come ready to play," Davis said.

Davis has been one of the Wildcats' best players this year after missing about half the games last season due to injury. Davis is averaging 11.5 points-per-game, close to eight rebounds and is leading the GNAC with 2.3 blocked shots-per-game.

After they play Western Oregon, the Wildcats then get on the bus and travel to Lacey, Wash. to face off against the Saint

"Talk about climbing the ladder cause the first weekend of the season we were in the cellar, and we keep each week climbing and climbing and we gotta get up to the top and this team understands it's one game at a time."

-Greg Sparding
Head coach

Martin's Saints, who sit at 7-12 overall and 4-7 in the GNAC standings. Just like the match up on Thursday, Saturday's game versus the Saint won't be easy.

"They really try and get you outside the perimeter and get you to fall asleep so we really gotta watch film," senior forward JB Pillard said. "Both teams are hard teams and both are fighting to get wins to get to the GNAC Tournament just like Nazarene they are all hungry."

Winning its last six of eight games, Central is really trying to go out with a bang, especially for their seniors who have really developed the team. With a 83-77 win over Saint Martin's last time the teams met, Central is looking to sweep both teams for the season and get wins in their home court.

"It's going to be a tough road swing, but this team is rested on the road, its nice to have all airplane rides out of the way," Sparding said. "Western Oregon is a tough place to play but our guys understand its one game at a time than road trip up to Saint Martin's."

Wildcats continue to roll with big win

BY CHACE DAVY
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University men's basketball team stayed hot Saturday, winning their sixth game in its last eight attempts by dismantling the Northwest Nazarene Crusaders, 86-66. With the win, Central improved to 10-8 overall and to 6-4 Great Northwest Athletic Conference record.

The Wildcats keeps climbing, regardless of the flu bug that seems to be spreading rampant around the Central campus recently. Along with Sparding himself, a number of players on the usual starting lineup weren't feeling up to par. This particular game required everybody to contribute, and they certainly did. The Wildcats bench scored 30 points on Saturday.

"[Freshman guard] Jalen Peake was huge for us," McLaughlin said. "He's doing really well as a freshman."

McLaughlin also had high praise for freshman guard Marc Rogers.

"He's doing a great job of finding people where they're at and getting people to their spots, and running the right plays," McLaughlin said.

Not once did the Wildcats face a deficit or tie during the game. Central jumped to an early 13-6 lead and never looked back.

Central was up by as many as 14 points with eight minutes left in the first half before the Crusaders tried to mount a comeback. Northwest Nazarene went on a

quick flurry of scoring to pull within eight points with under 2:30 to play in the first half before heading in to halftime trailing Central by nine points.

The second half was more of the same from Central, quickly building the lead back to 14 points right when the second half got underway.

Redshirt sophomore Jeff Budinich was on fire all game, hitting four of five field goals and three of four three-pointers.

"As I hit my first shot, I knew I was in a rhythm," Budinich said. "That's just the way that I've been since I was little."

That turned out to be the way the rest of the team felt as well. The Wildcats collectively did not miss a shot, including free

throws, for the first five minutes of the second half, and ended the night shooting nearly 60 percent from the field.

Northwest Nazarene was able to hang tough and cut the lead to eight again with less than 14 minutes to go in the game, but from there it was all Wildcats.

A seal by senior center Kevin Davis is what ended up putting the game out of reach for the Crusaders. He took the steal all the way to the basket, pushing the lead to 69-54.

You can read the rest of this recap and other recaps and photo galleries on our website:
cwobserver.com

UNIVERSITY RECREATION

Power play

Annual powerlifting competition named after fallen teammate

BY RACHEL CHARLTON
Staff Reporter

Central's annual powerlifting competition is taking on a somber tone this year after being named the Aaron Harrison Memorial Powerlifting Competition. The event will run this Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center weight room, with a memorial service at 10 a.m. for friends and family to honor and remember Harrison.

A Central student and University Recreation employee, Harrison was just 15 credits shy of the graduation requirement before his untimely death last summer at age 45. Harrison had been working closely with his Anthropology major advisor, Dr. Pat McOutcheon, before drowning in the Yakima River. A dedicated student and hard worker, Harrison maintained a 3.8 GPA while still enjoying fishing and camping in his free time.

"Aaron was a fun-loving, hardworking, non-traditional student in every sense of the word. Those who met Aaron remem-



(ABOVE) JOSEPH ANDREWS/OBSERVER (RIGHT) PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC SCOTT

PUMPING IRON (Above) A lifter participates in the deadlift during last year's powerlifting competition. (Right) Aaron Harrison poses near Manastash shortly before his passing.

bered him, and he made a lasting impact on the lives of our students here in Recreation," Eric Scott, director of University Recreation, said. "He loved to tell stories and jokes at work."

The lifting competition, sponsored by University Recreation, has been an annual event, but this will be the first year that it

takes on a different title. A \$25 entry fee is required for competitors. The competition will consist of a dead lift and bench press in various weight classes. Winners will be awarded based on weight class.

"It's my hope that we are able to get together - the people on campus that knew and loved Aaron - and share our stories together," Scott said.



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