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The Observer

Central Washington University

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READY FOR WRESTLING?
CENTRAL SENDS EIGHT
TO NATIONALS
PAGE 12

PHOTO BY DERRICK CLARIT



The OBSERVER

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POLAROID STORIES

PAGE 8



POT PROBLEM
MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY
FACES OFF AGAINST CLE ELUM
AUTHORITIES
PAGE 3

PHOTO BY CAMILLE MEADOR

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F	3-07	Polaroid Stories, March 7, 7:30 p.m. Milo Smith Tower Theater
Sa	3-08	Men's Rugby vs. Boise State University, 1 p.m. Varsity Soccer Field
Su	3-09	Guest Recital: Dorothy Stone, soprano with John Pickett, piano, 7 p.m. Mcntyre Music Concert Hall
M	3-10	ASCWU-BOD Public Meeting, 7 p.m. SURC Pit
T	3-11	Jazz Combo Nite I, 7 p.m., Mcntyre Music Concert Hall Jazz Combo Nite II, 8 p.m., Mcntyre Music Concert Hall
W	3-12	Brass Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Mcntyre Music Concert Hall

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Marijuana moratorium causes problems



JAMIE WINTER/OBSERVER

BY BARBARA LEWIS
Staff Reporter

Cle Elum got its first medical marijuana collective about eight months ago, the Greener Frontier Collective, and now city officials are attempting to shut it down.

"The act of selling medical marijuana is not the issue," Scott Ferguson, Cle Elum city police chief, said. "The issue is doing so with the city having a moratorium in effect."

Cities around Washington reason that they enact these moratoriums, or bans, so they can have time to figure out any regulations, such as zoning issues, before any recreational marijuana producers, processors or retailers may come into their cities.

Although recreational marijuana officially became legal in Washington on Jan. 1, the moratoriums that individual cities enact prohibit both recreational and medical businesses from getting licensed.

The GFC claims they are not affected by the moratorium because it only bans marijuana businesses from the city.

"We are a collective garden and operate as such," Paul Brice, GFC head volunteer, said. "We are not a business."

A collective garden is a safe place where cardholders can get medical marijuana.

According to Washington state legislature, "collective garden" means qualifying patients share responsibility for acquiring and supplying the resources to produce and process cannabis for medical use.

Brice said the city's attorney had contacted them, but the GFC plans on remaining open unless they are deemed illegal. Cle Elum's six-month moratorium was enacted last October.

"The building was leased before their moratorium was even up," Brice said.

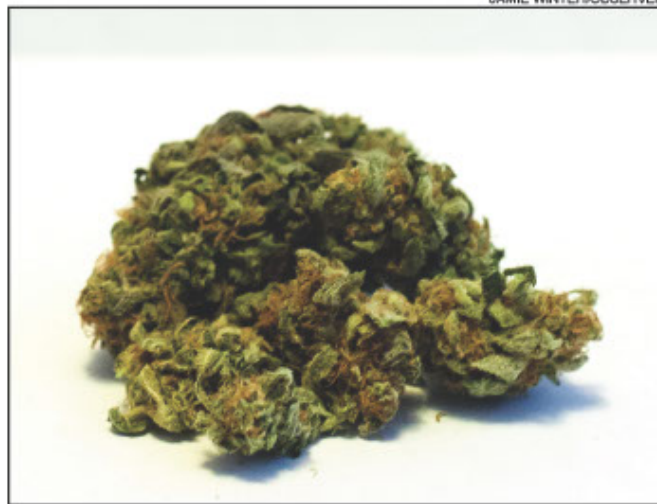
Mike Kenyan, Cle Elum city attorney, said that the GFC broke the law, because they did not obtain a business license prior to opening.

"The council takes every issue seriously when ordinances are being violated," Kenyan said.

CLE ELUM CONTROVERSY (Above) The business is located in Cle Elum, which has a moratorium on marijuana.

GREEN MACHINE (Below) One of the ten strains of marijuana offered by the GFC.

JAMIE WINTER/OBSERVER



nyan said.

However, Brice believes there may be a misunderstanding with the city and the collective garden because the state does not recognize licenses for collective gardens; only medical marijuana businesses can obtain licensing.

"If we did apply for a business license, it would not be recognized," Brice said.

Before the law went into effect, the Liquor Control Board had not addressed medical marijuana.

Moratoriums are being placed throughout Washington in cities that prohibit medical dispensaries from opening up legally. The policies, intended to effect recreational marijuana, have also effected medical dispensaries.

According to an article by King 5, Washington legislators do not want cit-

ies to pass moratoriums. They want recreational pot shops to be treated as any other business.

King 5 reported that a bill had been introduced to the House in mid-January that would not allow local regulations to keep recreational pot shops out of cities.

"There's nothing in there that allows a community to opt out," Brian Smith, Liquor Control Board communications director, said.

Recreational marijuana in the state has greatly impacted the marijuana industry.

In order to maximize tax revenue, the Washington House of Representatives passed a bill, H.B. 2149, that will abolish collective gardens by May 1, 2015.

"The minute the state says we're no longer allowed here, we'll be gone," Brice said.

Health Department raises cancer, STD vaccine awareness

BY COLT SWEETLAND
Staff Reporter

On March 12, the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KOPHD) will be hosting an event in the SURO pit where they will provide free Human Papilloma virus (HPV) Vaccines to students.

The vaccine prevents cancer and genital warts. The KOPHD will also be helping students sign up for health care if they are not already insured.

Skyler Griessel, a Community Health Specialist I with the KOPHD, helps transport vaccines when necessary to different locations and does graphic design and community outreach.

The HPV vaccine is the first vaccine that prevents cancer, cervical cancer in women and rare types in men.

According to Griessel, there are often no signs of having this sexually transmitted disease, so students may not notice any symptoms from it.

"A lot of the time you don't have symptoms, so you can absolutely be a carrier and pass it. So just get vaccinated," Griessel said.

Griessel said that in the SURO pit, there will be assistants ready to help students and anyone else with questions that they may have about insurance or the vaccine.

"That's actually going to be our bigger push; the insurance sign-ups and six in-person assistants will be there to help people look at their options," Griessel said.

According to Griessel, the vaccine is equally important for both men and women to get.

"I'm the type of person that is wary about vaccines if I'm already healthy; but this one will absolutely protect against four strains of cancer," Griessel said.

The KOPHD receives federal funding to give the vaccine to those within the ages of 19-26.

"I think if a 26-year-old wasn't vaccinated and wanted to get this, personally, it would be our public health duty to just vaccinate him if he wanted it," Griessel said.

Cherie Wilson, associate director of student union operations, said that 17,000 events, meetings and conferences are scheduled each year at Central.

"There will be two 6 foot tables at the top of the SURO pit and three 6 foot tables in front of the fireplace," Wilson said.

Outside groups within the Ellensburg community, or Washington, are charged a room rental fee, Wilson said.

"The KOPHD went to the student union advisory board and asked for a waiver of the room rental fee because of the service that they are providing to students," Wilson said.

Since the SURO is a student funded building, only students are allowed to vote on policies and events in the SURO.

"They are here for the students, and it's not something that they are profiting off of," Wilson said.

Kasey Knutson, also a Community Health Specialist II with the KOPHD and an in-person assistant for the event on March 12, said that most college age students are used to the idea of getting vaccinated and there shouldn't be many issues in educating them about the vaccine.

"I just hope we see some folks taking advantage of it, and even if we get just one student, we're hoping for more," Knutson said.

STEM majors win place in Samuelson renovations

BY JACK JOHANNESSEN
Staff Reporter

Locating departments in Samuelson has been subject to change, due to the legislature's preference in funding science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs over liberal arts.

According to Linda Schachtler, Central's chief of staff, at the beginning of the academic year of 2013 the sixth proposal for locating departments in Samuelson was rejected by the legislature.

"At that point the departments in Samuelson were public affairs, ITS and communications," Schachtler said.

Schachtler said the proposal to install those departments in Samuelson was rejected because the legislature is more interested in funding STEM programs.

"The conversation is focused on STEM," Schachtler said.

STEM departments replaced public affairs, communications and information technology services (ITS) in Samuelson.

"There is a significant, open and plain bias in funding STEM," Schachtler said.

Schachtler said the legislature is focused on educating students in technical fields because of technology-oriented business' influence on the legislature and society's more positive perception towards the sciences.

Schachtler also said Samuelson would accommodate more online learning facilities, due to the increase in online enrollments.

Laurie Stehle, director of online pro-



JAMIE WINTER/OBSERVER

RENOVATION Central is still waiting on funding to renovate the Samuelson building.

grams, said housing Central's online learning programs within Samuelson gives professors a place to work, adds value to online classes and allows professors to reach students outside the traditional classroom.

"We're happy to get the opportunity to spread out," Stehle said.

Stehle said her department has a wish list that includes computer labs and network offices that would allow students to practice cyber threat defense. Information Technology and Administrative Management (ITAM) offers minors in cyber security, and Samuelson could offer the facilities ITAM needs to enhance cyber

security education.

According to Tim Englund, math department chair, the department would benefit from moving into Samuelson.

Englund said the math department is disjointed; classes are taught in both Bouillon and Hertz Hall. Samuelson will allow the math department to be consolidated into one place.

Englund hopes a student study lounge will be among the features in Samuelson.

Meanwhile, public affairs, ITS and communications will have a difficult time being included in legislative proposals indefinitely.

"I think that the legislature probably doesn't have the right perception," Cesar Garcia, communications department chair, said.

Garcia believes the legislature incorrectly lumps communication together with humanities, rather than seeing it as an important field to outside industry. Garcia said the communications department is disappointed that the department no longer has a place in Samuelson.

Both Schachtler and Garcia said value in communication and public affairs should not be ignored by the state legislature or society.

"The reputations of companies is one of the most important assets," Garcia said.

Garcia hopes perceptions will change, but understands that change will be slow.

Schachtler said the theoretical final departments in Samuelson include ITAM, Math, Computer Science and Online Learning.

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Tuition depends on legislative budget

Central administration says academic funding still in flux

BY AARON KUNKLER
Staff Reporter

Tuition may be on the rise again at Central, pending a state budget awaiting approval in the state legislature.

Every two years, the Washington legislature allocates budgets for state-sponsored universities. The current cycle Central operates on is the 2013-2015 budget.

Last year, tuition did not rise because the legislative budget allowed for full funding for university projects and expenditures in conjunction with existing tuition.

This year, however, the legislature is re-negotiating terms laid out in the original budget, and it may affect future tuition rates.

According to Central Chief of Staff, Linda Schacder, Central receives roughly between \$32 million and \$33 million per year from the state legislature. This comprises around 16 percent of the annual budget.

Currently, in the state legislature, the Democrats who control the House, the Republicans who control the Senate and the governor have all released separate budget proposals.

The legislators are meeting to hash out what the 2014-2015 budget will look like, and consequently, how that could affect tuition rates. The legislature has until March 13 to finalize and approve a bud-

Recent tuition changes

- Over \$30 million from state legislature makes up 16 percent of the annual budget.
- Tuition at Central was increased by 14 percent in the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

get, barring an extended special session, according to Schacder.

"That's when we'll know if we have funding for academic programs," Schacder said.

In 2011 and 2012, tuition at Central was increased by around 14 percent. This was due to budget allocations, which did not meet the expenditures of the college, and the price was passed on to the student.

For many students, tuition is an ever-increasing obstacle. According to Adrian Naranjo, director of Student Financial Services on campus, some students are hit harder than others.

"I would say that students who are not in the 'high need' category are the worst affected," Naranjo said.

Particularly, Naranjo says, this is in regards to students who require financial aid but are categorized as having parents who

can help foot part of the bill.

On the Washington Student Achievement Council's website, students can check out various charts with sliding scales of the State Need Grant (SNG), determined by family size and family income.

For example, a family of four, making \$37,500 annually his, and, if above, exceeds the amount of income to be eligible for a SNG grant. This creates the situation of having a family which may not be able to help students financially, but the students are disqualified from receiving certain grants.

Naranjo said there were many different grants and financial aid options.

Aid can come from both the federal and state levels and is awarded on varying criteria, not just the student needs grant discussed above. However, he does say that one of the biggest issues he sees in students being rejected is simply missing deadlines.

"I can't tell you how many times there's been students who would meet the requirements, who apply two or three weeks late," Naranjo said.

"I can't tell you how many times there's been students who would meet the requirements, who apply two or three weeks late."

-Adrian Naranjo
Director of Student Financial Services

Naranjo said deadlines are applied and enforced because the state simply does not have enough money to aid every student who may need or request it.

Central, under the Financial Aid section of their website, has a tuition calculator, so students or potential students can check out how much tuition may cost for them.

The financial aid department, located in Barge 115, is also available and open weekly to discuss various forms of grants and aid with students.

Though it has not been announced if the state will provide adequate funds to keep tuition rates the same, Schacder remains optimistic, but wary.

"We're hoping they do the same this year," Schacder said, referencing last year's budget. "It's not likely, but we'll see."

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Don't put baby on a soapbox

I will not speak on behalf of the entire gay community, no matter how much you want me to

BY COLLIN DYSART/COPYDESK

There are particular moments when I can be irritatingly reminded of my minority status.

It is in these moments I can feel myself shrink and my identity threatened on all fronts.

In an instant, the conversation shifts and all of the sudden I'm the representative from "Planet Gay" here to speak on behalf of my people.

And why not, because all I think are gay thoughts; I spend all day gay walking, gay talking — it's just a really squarely defined gay experience.

Recently, in a class of mine, groups took turns presenting various cultural stereotypes and how they are perpetuated through the media.

One group selected for its topic the media circus surrounding the announcement of NFL draft pick, Michael Sam. Sam, if drafted, will hold the title of the first openly gay player in NFL history.

The presenting group did an admir-



able job with their topic and tactfully and competently explored the issue at hand.

The trouble for me began when it came time for the open class discussion.

Now, bear in mind, perception is reality, but in that instant, I could feel all the eyeballs in the room slanting in my direction. Then, to confirm my suspicion, I counted multiple sets of people staring unapologetically at me.

"Can I help you?"

I wanted the floor to open up and let me slip into the crack.

I realized people were expecting me to say something, to offer my 2 cents.

Why? Because I'm



PHOTO COURTESY CREATIVE COMMONS

DRAFT WORTHY Michael Sam, if drafted, would be the first openly gay player in the NFL

a gay man and in all gay matters I should hop on my soapbox and pontificate on the issues of my people.

No. No. No. This is not a well-intentioned-but shallow TV movie or Oscar wannabe biopic, where the music swells and I give a rousing speech about the plight of the poor-persecuted homosexual.

Nope, because, in actuality, I'm indifferent to Michael Sam. I do not give a rat's whisker about the NFL.

Sure, I'd really prefer it if a lobbyist would stop hogging the news me-

dia with moronic intentions of drafting a bill to ban gays in the NFL.

Good luck on that one Jack Burkam — you are officially the biggest dunce in the room.

But back to my original point: Why should I have to say anything about this issue un-related to me?

Gays come in all shapes, colors, backgrounds, and interests. Some are out advocating tirelessly for social causes, and all the more power to them.

I have the right, as anyone else does, to be as socially conscious and active as I want.

So just keep in mind the next time you are in a group setting, discussing hot-button social issues, no one — regardless of affiliation — is under any kind of obligation to be the spokesperson.

And just because I may hesitate to vocalize my feelings on something does not make me any less brave than anyone else.

Acts of bravery can take all different forms.

If you want to climb on the soapbox, be my guest, but do not expect anyone else to join you.

End awards in journalism

BY PATIENCE COLLIER/NEWS EDITOR

If you've been watching the Observer on our various social media streams, you may be aware we just came in third place for a national award in college newspapers.



I have to admit that I'm not all that excited about this award. Honestly, I feel that our focus is frequently taken off of informing the Central Community, at the cost of gaining recognition in official circles for our work. But it's not just us — this is something that seems to be at the center of a nasty tangle of the practice of journalism.

The public perception of journalism and media has been declining for the last several decades; we're dishonest, profit-driven, arrogant snoops. Countless books, essays, documentaries, and articles have been written about how to save journalism and the media.

But the fact is, journalists continue to

talk as if our most important audience is each other. A reporter who wins awards or is noted among their peers is not necessarily better at informing a readership of non-journalists. I'm not saying that no writers should ever write for fellow journalists, but if we're all preaching to the choir, what's the point?

On a personal level, I understand that these contests can be important for this stage of a career; working for an "award-winning newspaper" looks pretty good on a resume, which is something that definitely looms close in the future for many of us.

Here's the problem: outside of the field, it doesn't matter. This is something that I believe is a problem with journalism in general, representative of a philosophy that cares more about what other writers think of our work than about how much information reaches the public.

Layout, print-making, photography, and writing are all artistic pursuits in their own rights, with their own merits, but in the field of journalism, they should serve the purpose of presenting information in the easiest possible way to understand.

In theory, we should make all decisions with an eye to making more information available and more easily understood, with official recognition as an afterthought, at best.

If we win an award in the SPJ circle, does that mean we're going to reach more Central students next year?

Will we get more people to care about local, national, or international politics if we have a shiny piece of paper on the wall?

The point of journalism is to inform the public. That's it: to distribute information to the public in a clear and reasonable manner. Not to tell people what to think, not to advertise — or even to sell ad space — not to smear people we disagree with, and most certainly not to compete for recognition and prestige in our field of work.

When awards serve the purpose of pushing us to higher standards, I see their benefit. When we start making editing and reporting decisions based on getting higher judge ratings, then our focus is no longer informing the public. At that point, we



not doing our jobs. as well put down the pen and walk away, because we're

If we spend our college careers learning to write stories we think will impress the judges of some competition, rather than stories we believe our audience needs to read, I believe we will fall into the trap of doing the same thing in our careers after graduation.

I'm a journalist, and even I'm bothered by the media

BY SARAH RUIZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Whenever someone on campus asks me what I want to be when I graduate, I hesitate to tell him or her I want to become a journalist.



Let's be honest, most people don't like journalists. And I can't say I blame them.

We turn on the news or pick up the paper, and we see the bad in the world. News of invasions, wars, murders and rapes make the front page.

Corrupt politicians and celebrities fill the news racks and make us think the world is led by the worst.

It's no wonder I hesitate to tell people I plan to join the ranks of people bringing them this news.

Even I am skeptical of the news and what the media feeds us.

It breaks my heart to see all the bad news and the stories of heartbreak.

Where is the good? Where are the stories of people doing amazing things? Where are the stories that will give us hope?

I'll tell you where they are: They are all around us because people are fundamentally good.

Here in Ellensburg, I see it everyday. I see it in the person who holds the door open for someone with their hands full of books, or a professor who treats you like a person instead of a number.

But the stories of the good in the world have fallen by the wayside; instead we run stories of pain, and I think I know why.

Somewhere along our way we stopped valuing people for their good and their skills and instead we see most people as

competition.

The media is giving us the bad news because it makes us comfortable. It makes us feel better to read stories of crimes and corruption because it's not happening to us. By hearing the bad, we believe we are doing okay. We think "At least that's not me," or "He, I can't be doing that bad, look what that person is doing."

Feeding us the bad puts us in a bubble. If we listen to the bad in the world, we will feel better about ourselves.

That's why you hate the media, but you can't stop absorbing news.

It's an addiction. You want to be informed, but you become complacent in the news the media tickles down to you.

Stories of the good in humanity are everywhere. Social media is proof of this.

All the viral stories you share and see and love are proof we want to know the good news as well.

It is comforting to know there are people in the world doing well and making a difference.

However, until mainstream media notices this trend, you will likely see positive stories only on your timeline, not your TV's.

Human-interest stories are my passion. I want to be a journalist who brings you news that makes you smile and inspires you to be better. I believe each and every person is a beautiful story waiting to be told.

So please don't roll your eyes or groan when I tell you I want to be a journalist.

I want to be the change. I want to take what is happening on social media and blow the trend wide open to the public. I want you to read the news and smile.

There is good all around us, and I promise to, one day, do my best to bring that news to you.

Camille talks Oscars

BY CAMILLE BORODEY/ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

Host Ellen DeGeneres opened up the 86th annual Academy Awards with a traditional monologue, where she acknowledges all the stars in the room.



DeGeneres was a much safer choice than last year's host, Seth MacFarlane. The nice part about DeGeneres is she includes everyone in her jokes, without embarrassing anyone too much. She even tweeted a selfie featuring Jennifer Lawrence, Brad Pitt, Bradley Cooper and other stars. The picture received over 1 million re-tweets in just 45 minutes.

DeGeneres pointed out that this Oscars marks Meryl Streep's 18th Oscar nomination and sympathizes with the amount of money Streep has to spend to attend the show.

"Simply put, Meryl cannot afford to be nominated again," DeGeneres said.

The host also poked fun at Jennifer Lawrence, who not only tripped while walking up the Oscar stage last year, but also tripped on a traffic cone while walking out of her car onto the red carpet.

"If you win tonight, I think we should bring you the Oscar," DeGeneres said.

Lawrence didn't win though; The Oscar for Best Supporting Actress went to Lupita Nyong'o for her compelling performance as Patsy, a slave who endures countless abuses in "12 Years a Slave." During her acceptance speech, Nyong'o said, "When I look down at this golden statue, may it remind me and every little child that no matter where you're from, your dreams are valid."

"12 Years a Slave" also won Best Adapted Screenplay and Best picture.

The first award of the night went to Jared Leto who won Best Supporting Actor for "Dallas Buyers Club" for his portrayal as a transgender woman with AIDS. In his acceptance speech, Leto thanked his mother and said, "This is for the 36 million people who have lost the battle with AIDS."

One issue I saw during the awards was how often the actors who were presenting messed up. Could they not read the teleprompter? The worst hub of the night was when John Travolta presented Idina Menzel, who performed "Let it Go" from "Frozen" as Adele Hazeem. "Let it Go" went on to win best song and "Frozen" also won Best Animated feature.

Pop singer Pink, also performed a beautiful version of "Some-where Over the Rainbow" during a "Wizard of Oz" tribute. After the tribute for those who passed away this year, Bette Midler performed, "Wind Beneath my Wings." Although Midler's vocals were great, that song has been way overdone.

"Gravity" took home seven awards including Best Director for Alfonso Cuarón. I was a little disappointed that this



OSCAR.GO.COM

award did not go to the director of Best Picture winner "12 Years a Slave," Steven McQueen, but Cuarón, who also directed "Children of Men" has always been a great visionary director.

Matthew McConaughey, who lost 45 pounds for his role, took home the award for Best Actor for his performance as a man with AIDS who worked to get medication to AIDS patients in "Dallas Buyer's Club." This is McConaughey's first win and first nomination. Along with thanking God, McConaughey also thanked his father in heaven.

"He's got a cold can of Miller Lite, and he's dancing," McConaughey said.

I was rooting for Leo DiCaprio, but at least this will spring more hilarious memes making fun of DiCaprio's lack of love from the Academy.

The always lovely Cate Blanchett received her second Oscar for her performance as an alcoholic woman on the edge of cracking in "Blue Jasmine."

In her speech, Blanchett thanks the film's director, Woody Allen, and said, "Those of us in the industry who are still foolishly clinging to the idea that female films, with women at the center are niche experience, they are not. Audiences want to see them and, in fact, they earn money: The world is round, people."

Will Smith took the stage to present the award for Best Picture to Steven McQueen's "12 Years a Slave," the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man in 1800s New York, who gets kidnapped and is forced to work on a southern plantation.

After the cast took the stage, Brad Pitt introduced the "12 Years" director, Steve McQueen. I think it would have been more appropriate for the film's star, Chiwetel Ejiofor, to introduce McQueen, for Pitt was in the film for only ten minutes. After saying a few words, McQueen literally jumped for joy before heading back stage with the rest of the film's cast and crew.



People won't "Let It Go"

BY MIA PATTERSON/COPY DESK CHIEF

If there was one specific performance of the night that has consistently been criticized since the airtime on Sunday evening, it was Idina Menzel and her live performance of the Academy Award winning song, "Let it Go."



From John Travolta's butchered introduction of Idina, calling her Adele Hazeem for whatever reason, to the incredibly fast and off key performance... let's be honest it was a great big hot mess.

I am an incredibly loyal Disney fan, and I absolutely loved the newest Disney classic release 'Frozen.' But, speaking as a fan, I was incredibly disappointed in the performance from Idina at the Oscars.

I did not watch the Oscars, but thanks to social media I was able to get access to who won awards and in which category. From social media I heard about the John Travolta mix up, the Leonardo DiCaprio upset and Ellen Degeneres ordering pizza.

I originally went online to see how bad Travolta butchered Idina's name, and based on the glorified reputation of Idina and her live performances as Elphaba in "Wicked," I continued to watch the clip.

At first I felt that maybe it was just

my speakers on my computer, and then I thought that maybe it was just the quality of the video. My realization came soon after Idina missed the first big note; it was then that I realized that she really was not that great at performing live.

Of course I couldn't just leave my judgment to be based on that single performance. I continued to search for other performances and, after five or so renditions of the song "Let it Go" sang by Idina Menzel, I have come to the conclusion that she is not consistent and she is a bit pitchy whenever she sings live.

This all falls back on the studio recordings of vocalists for animated films and albums because fans get their hopes up based solely on the voice that they hear. As for whether that individual can actually deliver the same performance live versus being safe in a studio protected by all of the sound altering technology, this is where we enter a gray area. Yet, I understand the importance that studios play in altering vocals and voices to make them near and perfect for certain instances.

Now, I still love the movie 'Frozen' and I will still listen to the song "Let it Go" on my iPod and Pandora, but I sincerely hope that Idina will be able to pull her vocals together or else it is going to be a long and challenging venture to the pinnacle of her vocal artist career.

Sharee Samuels gives workout insight and tips

BY CAMILLE BORODEY
Assistant Scene Editor

Student Sharee Samuels, famous for losing 121 pounds and being on the cover of People Magazine, offered tips and inspiration to fellow students last week.

During her speech on Feb. 25, the woman behind the Tumblr blog "Funeral for my Fat" discussed her weight loss journey in the SURC Ballroom.

"I wanted to make it meaningful," Samuels, a Central graduate in school psychology and fitness instructor, said. "I lost a lot of weight, but people lose weight all the time."

Samuels stressed that results do not happen overnight. She also discussed how it took several wake up calls for her to really commit to losing weight.

Samuels also discussed how long-term goals may be scary and suggests that people trying to lose weight should also set realistic long-term goals; a five-pound goal is a lot less intimidating than a 100-pound goal.

Although she thinks a one-day detox or the no-processed-sugar-challenge can be fun, Samuels urges people not to fall for scams like month long detoxes, diet pills or crash diets.

"How you reach your goals is how you maintain [weight loss]," Samuels said. "Your body does not run on 500 calories because you decide it should."

When she was 17, Samuels came across the vegan book "Skinny Bitch." She also began tracking her foods, so she could see on paper how much she was eating every day.

Samuels credits her vegan diet for much of her weight loss, but she understands that the vegan lifestyle does not work for everyone.

For her fitness, Samuels started doing Zumba with her mom and started working with a personal trainer.

"She taught me that you're not going to change in your comfort zone," Samuels said. "You're not going to change with 30 minutes on the elliptical at a steady pace."

Her trainer also scolded her for complaining when she had only lost one pound.

"Every pound is a victory," Samuels' trainer told her, "and if you ever complain about it again, I'm going to make you regret it."

Samuels also recalled a time when she felt awkward and insecure when she first began taking fitness classes in the Central rec center.

"I got over this irrational fear that everyone was judging me and everyone was watching me," Samuels said.

Samuels said one of her biggest issues in the beginning of her weight loss was that she wasn't making it about herself. Once she started focusing on herself, her journey really began.

Samuels wore a lot of black when she started working out because she did not want to stand out which actually coined her website's catchphrase "I wear black when I workout. It's a funeral for my fat."

"I went from the girl in the back to the girl in the front with all the color," Samuels said.

One audience member asked what healthy options Samuels ate on campus. Samuels said that Central has some great healthy options, and that she loves the wraps.

She also advises students to choose real cheese over nacho cheese, and choose whole wheat options, when available.



CAMILLE MEADOR/OBSERVER

OPTIMISM Eurydice (Skyley Gahley, bottom), explains the excitement she feels for her future to Persephone (Monica Domena)

From Greek to street Polaroid Stories remixes mythological tales

BY SPENCER BAKER
Staff Reporter

Central is in for a shock when "Polaroid Stories" starts its production in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre.

"It's not your parents' play," Patrick Disney, the director of the show, said. "It's intense as hell and not for the faint of heart."

"Polaroid Stories" is written by Naomi Iizuka and tells the stories of Greek mythology as if it was set in the 1990s drug scene. It is a 10-person cast starring Zeus, Hades, Persephone and more.

Disney explains the show as being about personal transformation.

"It's a really non-traditional view of our desire to transform and change ourselves into something we are not," Disney said.

The play is set on the streets but mirrors the Greek "underworld" of Greek mythology.

Although "Polaroid Stories" is about Greek mythology, Disney understands that not everybody knows the stories. He also does not want this show to be a lesson on Greek mythology.

"The story will live on its own," Disney said.

"Polaroid Stories" is rather difficult to follow for a few reasons. One being that,

according to Disney, characters often times "inhabit" other Greek characters.

The next thing to watch out for is the show does not always happen in chronological order; it jumps around through time.

To complicate things even more, the playwright loves to use verse in the show.

"It's got a rhythm and poetry that Central has not seen since the last time we did Shakespeare," senior theater performance major Jordan Whidbey, who is playing the part of Narcissus, said.

Iizuka made the show feel more realistic by having some of the stories the characters tell within the show be completely made up in order to push their personal agendas. She also interviewed multiple urban kids to get the right atmosphere for the show.

"I get to really be me up here," Whidbey said. Whidbey is especially excited for this role because he sees himself and Narcissus as storytellers.

Several of the cast members are looking forward to seeing the audience's reaction to the show. Whidbey said that some of the scenes can have a sad topic but have an upbeat feel.

"Get ready to laugh and cry at the same time," Whidbey said.

Senior theatre major Monica Domena

Show Info

Polaroid Stories

When: March 6-8 and 13-15
@ 7:30 p.m., March 16 @ 2:00 p.m.

Where: Milo Smith Tower Theatre

Cost: \$7 w/ CWU ID, \$12 for general audience

will be playing Persephone, who is a prostitute in the play.

"I'm having fun playing a grittier role," Domena said, adding that the show is "kind of a trip."

She also said the theatre department does not perform modern shows very often.

"It's a tragic tale of woe and love," Disney said. "By the end, you are left pretty intrigued."

Disney said "Polaroid Stories" is fast paced and keeps the action moving, whether it be a drug deal or violence.

"It's not a traditional look of a play," Disney said. "It's beautiful in a dark way."

Psychedelic 5k

Club hosts run to raise money for Portland Conference

BY CHELSEA ALEAGA
Staff Reporter

It might confuse students that the Psychology Club is telling everyone to 'get outta yo' mind,' but don't worry - the club only wants people to go crazy in a fun and healthy way by throwing its first 5k fundraiser.

The "Get Outta Yo' Mind" 5k is a fundraiser for Central's Psychology Club, which aims to send its members to the 2015 annual Western Psychology Association Conference.

Next year, the conference will be held in Portland, and the trip is estimated to cost \$3,000 for 15 students to attend.

The club usually raises money with bake sales, but with expenses for the conference rising, they felt it necessary to throw a big event to raise as much money as possible.

"\$25 sounds like a lot of money, but it's worth it," Toni Caldwell, Psychology Club secretary and host of the 5K, said. "Participants get a T-shirt to tie-dye after the run and a color changing water bottle."

Alex Kim, junior clinical-physiology major, also known as DJ Rex Ruthor, will be the entertainment during the 5k. He'll be playing Electronic Dance Music of Progressive and Electro-House.

"My friend asked me if I wanted to DJ a 5k, and it sounded fun. Plus it helps out

Run Info

When: March 8 @ 11:00 a.m.
Where: SURC East Courtyard
Cost: \$25

Attendees can register starting at 9:00 a.m. until the run starts.

a campus club," DJ Rex Ruthor said. "To get a preview of what I'll be playing, check out my SoundCloud and search my name Rex Ruthor."

Having heavy high-energy music playing during the 5k should keep runners motivated.

Rockstar will also sponsor the event, and Rockstar energy drinks will be available during the event.

The inspiration of the 'Get Outta Yo' Mind' theme came from Caldwell. She wanted attendees to be able to let loose and have fun in a healthy way.

"I was trying to think of ways of how people could get out of their minds without drugs or alcohol," Caldwell said. "A runner's high is the healthiest and most natural way to get out of your mind."

The theme has a play on words for the Psychology Club. The club is full of Psy-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TONI CALDWELL

chology majors, who study human behavior. They just want participants to have a good run/walk while enjoying great entertainment.

The Western Psychology Association conference hosts the most prestigious psychologists and educators in the nation.

"The conference allows us the opportunity to form relationships with these knowledgeable people and make connections," Whitney Biehl, junior psychology

major and treasurer of the Psychology Club, said.

Professors and researchers alike get together to share and educate each other on different psychological findings throughout the year. Attending this conference looks outstanding on resumes and will help club members become a part of the professional psychologists working world.

"It's going to be an awesome event; you won't want to miss out!" Biehl said.



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PHOTOS BY BRIANA JONES, COURTESY OF KHAMBATTI DANCE COMPANY

The art of truth and virtue

Khambatta Dance Company comes to Central

BY MARIA HARR
Staff Reporter

Seattle-based Khambatta Dance Company will perform two works, "Vice and Virtue" and "Truth and Betrayal," and hold a dance workshop during their visit to Central.

The company uses modern and contemporary dance that is, according to Artistic Director Cyrus Khambatta, "highly athletic and very physical."

Theresa Young, the dance program director at Central, said this was one of the reasons she asked the company to come and perform, as part of a collaboration between the dance and theatre programs.

"Modern dance is my favorite," Young said. "It's so expressive; you can communicate your thoughts and feelings."

Khambatta expressed similar thoughts on the matter, saying he hopes the audience will get a familiarity with other people through his work and any art they encounter.

"We don't necessarily connect in the same way as we did before social media," Khambatta said, hoping the crowd can relate to what they're seeing.

The dance company's website calls the dancer's style "both visually beautiful and physically demanding," which Young thought was a great blend of concepts.

The dance company is currently touring with a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation as part of the Pacific Northwest Program, which funds arts, cul-

ture, libraries and education in the Pacific Northwest.

With its focus on the Pacific Northwest, the dance company reached out to Central and Young, recognizing that they were a "beautiful modern dance company," and asked them to come.

The dance company will be performing two of Khambatta's most recent pieces—the first two in a sequence of pieces that will be created and performed once a year over the course of ten years.

Khambatta says his works are emotional, dramatic and somewhat abstract, dealing with things that we as humans struggle with.

In the cases of "Vice and Virtue" and "Truth and Betrayal," each piece focuses on the concept within their titles.

One of the five dancers in the company is Ellen Cooper, a frequenter of the dance studio at Central. Cooper, an Olympia native, never formally attended Central but would often visit a friend in the dance program and participate in dance classes.

"It's really fun to go somewhere where I know people," Cooper said, mentioning she's looking forward to doing the dance workshop and saying hello to Young. "We're really excited to come."

Cooper explains "Vice and Virtue" as having themes of temptation and trying to convince oneself that taking what one wants is OK and also that those who think themselves to be virtuous can still hurt others through their actions. Cooper has a duet where a man rejects her character



“There’s something very beautiful about watching a non-verbal representation of our inner states ... In watching the waves of the dancer’s sequence and movement wash over you.”

—Cyrus Khambatta
Khambatta Dance Company Artistic Director

with no case at all to her feelings.

In "Truth and Betrayal," Cooper's character is constantly testing people to see if anyone is worthy of her trust.

"There's something very beautiful about watching a non-verbal representation of our inner states," Khambatta said. "In watching the wave of the dancer's sequence and movement wash over you."

While it's mandatory for members of Central's dance company, Orthesis, to at-

Show Info

Khambatta Dance Company

When: March 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

Where: McConnell Auditorium

Cost: \$7 w/ CWU ID, \$15 for

general audience

tend the performance, it's not mandatory for other students in the dance program.

"From a dancer's perspective, it's such an opportunity; it doesn't have to be mandatory," Young said. "They're all so excited."

Young thinks students in other programs could benefit from watching as well. Theatre students will be drawn in because of the lighting, set design and costumes. She expects athletes to be drawn to watch too because of the athleticism displayed in the show.

"There are so many things in a show like this that is good for students," Young said.

CLUB WRESTLING



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

TAKE DOWN Senior Kyle Moore takes his opponent to the ground at last Saturday's Northwest Conference Championships in Ellensburg. Moore missed out on making the national tournament, but the Wildcats sent eight wrestlers to compete next Thursday in Allen, Texas.

Wrestling club sends eight to Nationals

After finishing first at the 2013 Northwest Conference Championships, Central again dominated the conference tournament, finishing second and sending eight to nationals for the second straight year

Making the trip to Nationals

Andrew Vulliet	125 lbs	Chris McElroy	174 lbs
Matt Yutse	149 lbs	Andrew Huerta	184 lbs
Nick Bendon	157 lbs	Zack McCarley	235 lbs
Steven Alfi	165 lbs	Kevin Madson	285 lbs

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday, Central Washington University hosted the Northwest Conference regional wrestling tournament and finished second out of the nine schools.

Head coach Eric Idler wasn't completely satisfied with his team's performance; he said that they could have won the conference.

"Overall we did well, a few individuals did exceptionally well," Idler said. "My expectations are to improve on last year's performance at nationals."

Central had three wrestlers take first place: Andrew Vulliet at the 125-pound weight class, Nick Bendon at 157 pounds, and Kevin Madson at 285 pounds. That gave them automatic bids to the national tournament.

Bendon said it "puts me in a really good seed going into nationals, and four more wins to my postseason career. My finals match was exceptional because I beat a kid who had beaten me at the first tournament of the year. The rematch was highly anticipated and I rose to the occasion."

Sophomore Andrew Vulliet pinned his way through the finals, including a two-minute pin in the first round.

"It felt awesome. It's pretty cool to be one of two consecutive regional champions on our team," Vulliet said.

Central also had two second-place finishes by Andrew Huerta in the 184-pound weight class, and Steven Alfi, who wrestled in the 165-pound division.

"I am very disappointed with the way I wrestled in the finals," Alfi said. "Just barely lost; I couldn't quite pull it out. I'm

glad because it keeps me motivated and humble. I'm getting geared up for nationals, looking for improvement as an individual and as a team."

There was also a peculiar finish that made another Wildcat eligible for the tournament. Chris McElroy finished in third place for his weight class (174). However, there was an injury to the second place finisher. Brandon Todd re-aggravated an injury he sustained earlier in the season. This automatically put McElroy in the tournament.

"It's an awesome opportunity for a true freshman to get some national competition," Bendon said. "This will be a good experience for some of the younger CWU wrestlers."

In addition to the six wrestlers who finished in the top two for their weight class, Central was given two wild card bids (Matt Yutse and Zack McCarley).

Each conference is given a certain number of wild card bids, which are then voted on amongst all the coaches from the conference. The remaining bids were given to Jake Crawford from Western Washington University and Christian Sartin from the Evergreen State College.

"It's great to see that our numbers are growing and we qualified more people this year than last," Alfi said. "I was let down by the number. However, I thought we could have performed better as a whole, myself included. That's how postseason goes—everyone starts to peak at this time of the year."

Central finished just three points shy of Washington State University. Eight of Central Washington's wrestlers will move on to the national tournament next Thursday in Allen, Texas.



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

MID-LEVEL ATTACK Zack McCarley looks to take down an opponent at Last Saturday's tournament. McCarley earned a wildcard bid to the national tournament.

MENS BASKETBALL



AMBER WOOD/OBSERVER

DRIVING THE LANE Senior forward JB Pillard III drives to the hoop for a layin against Seattle Pacific University last Thursday. Pillard finished the season averaging 14.2 points and 7.6 rebounds, while shooting 63 percent from the field in his last season as a collegiate basketball player.

Wildcats miss postseason; season over

After being picked to finish fourth in the preseason, Central finishes seventh, missing the tournament

BY DILLON PETERSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University men's basketball team's 2013-2014 season has come to an end. With the Wildcats coming just one game shy of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament, the season wasn't a total flop.

"It felt good to get a victory tonight," head coach Greg Spaulding said. "I thought our kids played pretty relaxed. They were having fun out there, and I'm glad we sent our seniors out with a win."

Senior guard Mark McLaughlin and senior center Kevin Davis each set a school record. Davis set the record for the most career blocks in a Central career and McLaughlin had both the GNAC and Central's records as the fastest player to reach 1,000 points.

McLaughlin also fell just three points short of tying the school record for most points in a game against rival Western Washington University.

The four seniors that played their last games for Central were forward JB Pillard III, Davis, McLaughlin and center Jeff Budinich, all will graduate this year.

"It was a good way to go out with a win and I love my team and love my coaches," Budinich said.

The season overall was very up and down for Central, which is not ideal for any team, but they took it in stride every step of the way.

The Wildcats started the season off with three losses before their first win against Colorado Christian in Seattle. From that win they went into the GNAC/PAC-WEST Challenge, where they lost the first game of the four game series. The Wildcats finished the challenge strong by com-

ing out on top of an overtime win over BYU Hawaii.

After the challenge, the Wildcats went 2-4 before going to Las Vegas, Nevada, for the South Point Holiday Hoops Classic. At the classic, Central lost two close games to No. 11 Tarleton State and West Florida by four points each.

Following the tough losses in Vegas, Central was determined to come back and went on a three-game winning streak to start GNAC play.

With half the season behind them and the majority of the GNAC season ahead of them, the Wildcats were poised to make the GNAC tournament again. The team also had the two big games against rival Western to look forward to.

The Wildcats lost their first matchup to Western at home, 94-99, where McLaughlin was just three points shy of the Central single-game scoring record, racking up 43 points.

From that game on they won the next two games at home and lost the next road game against Western Oregon University. After that, Central traveled over to Lacey where they beat Saint Martin's University, 77-73.

The next couple of weeks, the season took a turn for the worse and the hopes



"It puts a small smile on your face to go out like that with a win for the four seniors. Just give the young guys advice to work hard and don't cut corners, and hopefully they won't be in this situation next year."

-JB Pillard III
Senior forward

of a tournament run were over. The Wildcats went on a five-game losing streak, with three of those games being at home. This streak would knock Central out of the tournament by just one game.

Although Central fell short of the GNAC tournament, it was able to go out on a happy note. The final game at home was not only the final game, but was also senior night. The game was exciting, with everyone getting big dunks and having fun on their last night.

"It was a fun game, we were dunking and hitting threes and all the seniors got a big start," McLaughlin said.

The 2014 senior squad for Central is leaving the team physically but will not be forgotten. With score-setting records, blocked shot records and overall leadership, the juniors and underclassmen of the team have learned a lot and will be back with hunger for the 2014-2015 season.

"It's disappointing where we are at," Pillard said. "It puts a small smile on your face to go out like that with a win for the



AMBER WOOD/OBSERVER

AND ONE Senior guard Mark McLaughlin draws contact on his way to the basket. He finished the season as the NCAA Division II leading scorer averaging 27.1 points. McLaughlin also earned All-Conference First-Team for the second straight year.

four seniors. Just give the young guys advice to work hard and don't cut corners, and hopefully they won't be in this situation next year."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Central finishes season last in standings

BY JAMES NARANJO
Staff Reporter

On senior night in Nicholson Pavilion, the Central Washington University women's basketball team lost its final game against Saint Martin's University, 59-52. It was the end of a season plagued by missed free throws, turnovers and poor decision making. The true test for head coach Shawn Nelson will be next season when he has a team fully made up of his own recruits.

Wildcats finish last in conference
In a roller coaster season that had more downs than ups, the Wildcats posted a 7-19 overall record and went 2-16 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

The team finished last in the conference and won only two games for the second time since 2010. Eleven of the Wildcats' 19 losses were decided by 10 or fewer points.

Free throws, turnovers, and consistency

The players and staff pointed to a few specific problems over the course of the season.

Junior forward Courtney Johnson said that free throw shooting and defense improved down the stretch.

"Throughout the course of the season those were kind of our weaknesses," Johnson said.

Nelson echoed Johnson's sentiments, adding that turnovers and consistency were other big problems.

Effort, however, was not something the Wildcats struggled with.

"I have been here for eight years," said Sammy Henderson, director of athletic communications. "I haven't seen a girls program work as hard as these girls did this season."

Central's Big 3

Statistically, over the course of the season, the Wildcats' top contributors were senior guard Jessica VanDyke, sophomore center Jasmine Parker and Johnson:

- VanDyke averaged 13.5 points, 6.2 rebounds and 1.3 assists-per-game.

- Parker averaged 9.8 points, 7.4 rebounds, and 2.0 blocks-per-game.

- Johnson averaged 11.9 points, and 4.3 rebounds-per-game.

Leader goes down

Adding injury to insult, with four weeks left in the regular season, VanDyke, the Wildcats' top player, went down with a serious knee injury that effectively ended her college career.

"I feel so bad for Jessica," Nelson said. "She has worked so hard over her three years here at Central and for her to go out like this just kills me."

In three years Van Dyle scored more than 1,000 points and set the school record for three-pointers made with 174.

Bright future

Despite posting losing numbers, Nelson's philosophies appear to be having a positive effect.

Seven Wildcats, for example, made the GNAO All-Academic team.



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

BALL SECURITY Senior guard Daisy Burke looks for an opening in the defense against Saint Martin's last Saturday. Burke started four games and averaged four points this season.

Athletic Director Dennis Francois said that since Nelson's arrival, the program's cumulative GPA is well above where it was before. Francois also said that Nelson has instilled a "team first" philosophy.

Next season will mark the first time

Nelson has a full group of girls recruited by him and his coaching staff.

Although he did not name her, Nelson says that he's excited about getting a pass-first point guard who can also shoot and defend.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Central's seniors end career with a win

BY CHACE DAVY
Staff Reporter

Mark McLaughlin, JB Pillard, Kevin Davis, and Jeff Budinich.

These four players played their final game in Central Washington University colors on Saturday in a 91-88 victory against Montana State University Billings.

All four of these seniors were honored with their loved ones before the game, each receiving a bouquet of flowers as Central's way of saying thanks for their time spent on the team.

"This night is always the hardest night, to say goodbye to your seniors," head

coach Greg Sparding said.

The game started out incredibly slow paced. With 15:28 remaining in the first half, Billings and Central had combined to make only five field goals for 13 points. Billings led 7-6 at that point.

Missed shots were the name of the game in the first half. Central was only 8 for 22 from the field in the entire first half, and McLaughlin was the only player to make more than one shot in the first half.

Compared to Billings, which shot 15 for 37, the Wildcats were dismal shooting the ball before halftime. However, Billings couldn't keep itself out of foul trouble. Fifteen made free throws kept Central

close throughout the first half, and the Wildcats were only down by 1 point headed into the break.

The second half was a completely different story for Central, shooting wise.

"We put a little equation on the board [at halftime] of our percent from the 3-point line, how many times we've been to the free throw line, and how many points we're getting going to the rim," Sparding said. "So we decided to go to the rim and shoot some free throws."

Central ended up shooting 42 free throws during the game, making 36 of them.

Neither team was able to garner more

than a 5-point lead until Central went on a scoring spree late in the second half.

Davis had five blocks, adding to his Central record-holding blocks total, and three steals on the night to complement his 14 points and 11 rebounds.

The Wildcats certainly looked like they were enjoying themselves throughout the game, throwing up alley-oop passes and dunks from the onset of the game, though they were unsuccessful most of the time.

Even after big dunk misses, the players were running back down the court with smiles on their faces.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wildcats end season with loss

BY JULIA SANDERSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team lost its final game of the season against Saint Martin's University on Saturday night, 59-52.

"We kind of dug ourselves a hole, not coming out as strong, and we weren't hitting right away," senior guard Daisy Burke said.

Central completes its 2013-2014 season with a 7-19 record, going 2-16 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

Entering halftime, the Wildcats were

down 29-21 to the Sains.

In the first half, Central shot 26 percent from the field, while Saint Martin's shot 33.3 percent. Central also had 10 turnovers, which Saint Martin's was able to score 15 points off.

The Wildcats came out stronger in the second half and were able to outscore the Sains 31-30. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to make a comeback. At one point in the second half, Central got within four points of Saint Martin's.

"We fought back in the second half, but it just didn't go our way. It's hard to end the season on a loss," Burke said. "It kind

of sucks to go out on a loss, but if you look back on the season, most of those games were close and I don't think that our record shows the kind of team we are at all."

Senior center Amber Moser and senior guard Ally Schmitt were the leading scorers in Saturday night's game. Moser scored 12 points and Schmitt had 10. Close behind them was junior forward Courtney Johnson, who had eight points and seven rebounds.

"I didn't think we had much energy for whatever reason. I thought we would have a lot more energy being senior night," head coach Shawn Nelson said. "We re-

ally didn't start playing until the 10-minute mark of the second half. We just didn't make the shots that we made the other night. That's kind of been the thing all year is we just get open shots and we don't get them. And that was the case again tonight, and we gave up too many offensive rebounds."

Despite the disappointing season, the Wildcats will be practicing hard in the off season.

"Well we just got to get better. We got to get tougher," Nelson said. "Bottom line is we need our players to make plays."

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BASEBALL

Wildcats win one against former champs

BY QUIN WALKER
Staff Reporter

The Wildcats baseball team went south to Oregon this weekend to open up Great Northwest Athletic Conference play against the Western Oregon University Wolves. The Wildcats (5-7, 1-3 GNAC) had this originally as a home series, but weather made for a tough road trip to play the Wolves (9-8, 3-1 GNAC).

The first game of the doubleheader was a gritty back-and-forth battle with five lead changes. The Wildcats scored first, but the Wolves fought back and eventually took a 4-1 lead. With two people on base, senior infielder Scott Stone pinch hit, and smashed a three-run home run to tie the game. An RBI double brought in another run and the Wildcats found themselves up 5-4.

In the seventh and eighth innings, Western Oregon scored one run each, regaining the lead by one. In the top of the ninth, the Wildcats came up with the big hit coaches and players have been surviving for.

Senior infielder Josh Potter delivered an RBI single, then scored on a run-scoring bunt-single by junior outfielder Kyle Baumgartner.

With a 7-6 lead, the Wildcats were able to hold on, with sophomore pitcher Jake Levin getting the win. Levin pitched only one third of an inning, receiving his first win of the season. It should also be mentioned that Stone is from the Western

Oregon region. He was passed over for a scholarship out of high school, then was recruited by Western Oregon after his sophomore year at Mt. Hood Community College.

"Coach says every day, 'If you're not in the starting lineup, be ready to come in and contribute,' so I was just waiting for my time. Late in the game coach called my name and it was a big first-and-third situation, a big time to get a run. I just tried to work the count and get the ball in play and it ended up going over the fence and it was a huge three-run bomb for us," Stone said. "I had a bunch of friends and family there. I just wanted to play well."

Games two through four did not go as well for the Wildcats. In the second game, Central found itself in a deep 7-0 hole. Senior starting pitcher Skye Adams gave up five runs, four earned, on seven hits, in five innings of work. The Wildcats rallied back to make it a game, but fell 7-4.

Games three and four saw much of the same—decent outings by the starting pitching and close games. In game three, the Wildcats fell 5-3 after a late run in the closing innings. Senior pitcher Stuart Fewel received the loss after throwing 6.2 innings, giving up four runs on six hits.

Game four saw a 2-2 game go into extra innings when the Wolves rallied to score the winning run in the eighth inning, winning 3-2. Senior pitcher Kurtis Fischer started the game and gave up two runs, one earned, over six innings of work.

Going 1-3 in the four-game series was

a result of missed opportunities. Head coach Desi Storey felt the team let some games get away from them.

"It was a rough weekend. It was nice to open up GNAC play but I felt like it could have gotten off to a better start," Storey said. "The guys played hard and they kept coming. We made a run at Skye's game at the end. We made a run at Stu's game at the end. We didn't give in. I just think as a team we pressed. Guys have to understand it doesn't matter who we're playing. It's a new club, it's a new team, it's a different year. I think if we would have done that better I think we could at least earned a split or three games."

"I believe we were definitely in every game and showed a lot of good qualities as well this weekend," Adams said. "We showed we don't give up, we showed we can put up a lot of runs in late innings. In the grand scheme of things, I think this series just came down to who could play better fundamental baseball."

The Wildcats turn their attention to Northwest Nazarene this weekend with both doubleheaders starting at noon in Ellensburg. The Crusaders (7-10 overall, 3-1 GNAC) are coming off winning three of four games against Saint Martin's University.

The Crusaders are led by pitcher Aaron Vaughn, who is 3-1 this season with a 1.73 earned-run average.

"He's not an over-powering pitcher but he pitches backwards and throws strikes," Storey said. "He's kind of been their work-

“Guys have to start understanding what we're trying to do in scoring position. We don't need guys to come up with the clutch base hit and be the hero. We need guys to just do their job.”

-Desi Storey
Head coach

horse for them. They have a lot of new guys, including a new coach. They have played really well at home this season."

It will be interesting to see the progression of how the Wildcats handle the tight games this season. Situational baseball is one thing many players have said the team needs to work on. Busting the ball and playing sound defense will be the difference between the outcomes of the close games, Storey said.

"Guys have to start understanding what we're trying to do in scoring position. We don't need guys to come up with the clutch base hit and be the hero," Storey said. "We need guys to just do their job. If we would have had three fly balls in three separate games, we may have swept Western Oregon."

The Wildcats will try to move up in the GNAC standings this Friday and Saturday at home at noon.

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