**Commissioners voice concerns on marijuana growers, processors**

**BY COLT SWEETLAND**
Assistant News Editor

The Kittitas County commissioners signed new land-use regulations on marijuana, even though they have concerns about the lasting effects marijuana will have on the community.

The regulations on marijuana, which were signed by the commissioners on Tuesday, May 6, say outdoor marijuana properties over 20 acres are allowed. Also, lots between 10-20 acres can be used to grow marijuana as long as certain requirements are met. Both light-industrial, trial lands, and agricultural zones can be used.

Other conditions include a 60-foot buffer, and fencing around all facilities. Also, the county has decided not to consider retail sales, according to Doc Hansen, a county planning official.

Paul Jewell, one of three county commissioners, voted against the regulations and said that the regulations that were passed were not consistent with what the planning commission recommended and wished that some of his concerns were addressed in more detail.

“There are a lot of concerns that many of us have around what impacts that this is going to have on our local communities, and there’s not a lot of help from the state in dealing with these concerns,” Jewell said. “There’s no funding [from the state]; that was something that was really disappointing to me.”

Jewell said that he wished there would have been more support from the state in dealing with marijuana applications and applying Initiative 502 to Kittitas County.

“There’s not any good tools that we have in place to deal with marijuana, especially when we talk about social issues like public health, youth access and potential concerns around crime.”

Jewell would have supported a ban on marijuana growing and processing in the county, but when he realized that the regulations would pass, he wished that the regulations were stricter.

“I would have preferred regulations that had required more of a robust review to each application that had come in,” Jewell said.

According to Kittitas County Commissioners’ Executive Director Jim O’Brien, who voted for the land-use regulations, these regulations were put in place with residents’ safety in mind.

“There is going to be an impact on the neighborhood because this is a product that often draws unwanted attention from illegal activity,” O’Brien asked. “We need to take into account what are the risks to surrounding people.”

Doc Hansen, a Kittitas County Planning official, said that there were a number of factors that needed to be addressed regarding the implementation of marijuana laws in the county, including when licensing needed to occur.

“One of my jobs is to provide the commissioners options under the ranks that they can do,” Hansen said.

The primary focus of Hansen’s job was to help the commissioners figure out where marijuana could be grown in the county and under what regulations.

“The commissioners really didn’t have a decision on whether it was good or bad or if it was going to take place,” Hansen said. “They said the decision has already been made by the voters in the state.”

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**Assistant News Editor**

**Contributing Writer**

**BY SULLIVAN CARTER**

The release of the marijuana retail lottery results came with good and bad news Saturday. The good news is the state is one step closer to selling marijuana in stores; the bad news is that step was really disappointing to me.”

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BY PATIENCE COLLIER
News Editor

BY JACOB WITTMAN
Staff Reporter

Central’s recycling program has benefiited the campus and community for years, but some believe the university could be doing better.

Jason Scribner says he has worked for Central for 10 years as a trash collector. He says that for three of those ten years, he has been picking up paper recycling for the university’s academic departments.

“We collect every day,” Scribner said. “Anywhere from 2,000 to 1,800 pounds every Tuesday and Thursday.”

Scribner collects shredded recycled paper from the academic side of the university early in the morning.

“Everything that we collect goes to Elmview,” Scribner says. “Elmview is a local business here in town that handles all of the recycling that we collect.”

OF CITIZENS, Meals on Wheels, we have the city cleanup,” Sessions said. “We do individual job coaching for people that have jobs in the community. So we do quite a bit.”

Today, students will vote on whether or not to fund the Learning Commons with a new fee.

Central’s Learning Commons has not been adequately funded since its conception, according to Prairie Brown, director of the Learning Commons. The funding has always been pieced together from different sources throughout Central, rather than all or most funding coming from any stable single source.

“What we’re looking for now is a sustainable source of funding so we don’t have to scramble year to year,” Brown said.

According to Bryan Elliott and Jacob Wittman, president and executive vice president of the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (BOD), part of the reason the BOD supports the initiative is as a more equitable approach to the funding.

“Currently, only 10-12 percent of the usage is going to developmental course students, but they’re footing the bill,” Wittman said.

Between the Math and Writing Centers, the Learning Commons tutors about 1,000 students per quarter, according to Brown.

“They are starting to get a lot of complaints from students in the Writing Center,” Sessions said. “Their wait times are getting higher and they’re needing help.”

On April 16, the Services and Activities Committee (S&A) denied funding to the Learning Commons.

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BY R. TROY PETERSON
Staff Reporter

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Over the past three years, demand for their services has increased by 100 percent, Brown said.

“We had a little bit of a rainy day fund that we’ve used this year to increase tutoring,” Brown said. “As demand has increased, we’ve added more tutors.”

Currently, Brown said, that fund has been running out, and the Learning Commons will only be able to continue functioning for one more year before having to cut back on services.

“I am optimistic by saying we can make it through next year,” Brown said. “That’s if we stretch it.”

Wittman agreed that the cuts to student services could be a problem after a year. Anna Jacobs, Math Center coordinator, said the most striking impact would be longer wait times for students, which has already been a concern with the staff now.

“There are some hours when it would be really nice to have an additional math tutor working, so students don’t have to wait as long when they want to talk to an actual tutor,” Jacobs said.

Brown said the center has been stretched even with its current funding, to the point where there is often more demand than the staff can keep up with.

According to Brown, the Learning Commons is a huge department at Central. Most of the jobs are in tutoring, the Math and Writing Centers and helping students who have already been admitted to Central but need extra tutoring before they start classes.

“We have about 30 students employed in the Math and Writing Center, as well as about 30 other students tutoring in supplemental instruction and subject specific,” Brown said.

The vote will be an initiative offered along with the BOD elections on May 8.
BY KELSIE MILLER
Staff Reporter

The Washington Student Association (WSA) held its first 2014 General Assembly meeting at Central last Saturday, where their legislative agenda for the 2015 session was voted on and approved. College affordability and voter access were identified as priority items.

College affordability is an essential campaign that can mean a lot of different things to students, but the general concept is something students should care about, said WSA Organizing Director JulieAnne Behar. Even if students do not have the time to volunteer for all of the campaigns that WSA will be working on, they should focus on activities in the fall, Behar said. “Students at Central can look for a WSA CWU chapter on campus this year doing letter writing, call days to legislatures and other kinds of advocacy that ultimately students will feel when they’re paying their tuition and when they’re looking at textbook prices,” Behar said. “It’s really important to hear from students this fall because college affordability is going to be one of the primary campaigns.”

Carly Roberts, student body president at Western Washington University and the newly elected WSA president, also expressed excitement about the coming year. “I’m most excited about the opportunity to advocate for increased affordability and accessibility of higher education,” Roberts said. “Since this is a budget year, this will be a really key year for all of our financial items, such as college affordability.”

College affordability is a topic that E. B. Vodde, a student at Eastern Washington University and the outgoing WSA president, is passionate about as well. Vodde said that he hopes the legislature will see the talented students in Washington State and realize that they represent the future of Washington’s economy. “I don’t think you will find a single person in Washington who believes that college is currently affordable to students,” Vodde said. “The legislature has kept that in mind the last two years, I know that they’ll keep that in mind in upcoming years and I’m glad that all stakeholders are on the same page—that something needs to be done about the cost of higher education.”

Along with the priority items, the ancillary items voted onto the legislative agenda include gender-neutral bathrooms on college campuses, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) use on college campuses, increased resources for advising, and whistle-blower protection for student government elected officials.

With such a successful 2014 legislative session this year, students in Washington state should be confident in the WSA for upcoming years, Behar said. “A lot of legislatures and other organizations considered this a do-nothing year in Olympia, but I think students were really the exception,” Behar said. “[Students] were able to secure a tuition freeze for the second year in a row. We were able to pass the Washington State DREAM/Real Hope Act, we were able to waive the one year waiting period for student veterans to pay in state tuition and a number of other items that really ensured that it was a successful session for students.”

With the success of last year’s WSA in mind, Behar, Vodde and Roberts are hopeful for the years to come. Vodde said that the credible working relationships that the WSA formed with members of the legislature and the administrations at each of WSA’s campuses will only improve in the coming year. In order to keep things moving forward, Behar said that the WSA will be focusing on vote work in the fall to ensure that students have a lot of electoral power for the 2015 session. “I’m really looking forward to building off of our vote work from last year to ensure that students have a lot of electoral power going into the 2015 session,” Behar said.
Central’s recycling issues

Wittman has proposed a green initiative, which he said focuses primarily on recycling. Wittman said that recycling is a major environmental issue right now.

“I’m graduating here in June,” Wittman said. “So I’d like to just really tackle recycling.”

Wittman also said that the major goal of the recycling initiative is to raise campus awareness of recycling and get more students involved.

“At this time I’ve heard that dining may not be interested in [composting] because it’s costly and hard to implement,” Wittman said.

According to an e-mail received by Wittman from Steve Johnson, director of housing facilities, Central’s housing department reported 129,200 pounds of recycled materials. These recycled materials, according to the document, were composed of 42,940 pounds of cardboard and 86,260 pounds of mixed recyclable materials.

The report identifies the mixed materials as over 900 pounds of plastic, just under 400 pounds of aluminum, over 600 pounds of paper and over 200 pounds of glass from housing. Johnson also specifies that the numbers come from the trash bags collected from each building.

Wittman said that the average processing time for an initiative, from conception to approval, is about two months. He said that the clean air initiative, which he worked on with Scott Kazmi, vice president of student life and facilities, took three months to go pass.

Some of Central’s buildings, such as Dean Hall, are required to maintain full recycling capabilities in order to maintain their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). However, most buildings on campus are not required to meet the same standards.

Wittman said he attended a meeting with several people from facilities and waste management about improving the recycling options on campus, and about the possibility of on-campus compost sites.

Scribner said he had not heard of Wittman’s campus initiative, and that a large portion of unrecycled paper comes from the scheduling office.

“Tell [the scheduling office] to stop throwing their paper in the garbage and learn to recycle. That’d be a great start. They walk around and put this stuff up in every building and every building I go to, all this stuff ends up in the garbage,” Scribner said.

According to Elmview documents, they collected 393 tons of mixed recyclables and 24 tons of cardboard.

“We’ve got all I can handle right now,” Sessions said of the delivered recyclable materials. “But, you know, it’s always good. Always good. We can make it work.”
**Review: The Amazing Spider-Man 2**

BY CAMILLE BORODEY
Ornament Scene Editor

The best part about Andrew Garfield's portrayal of Peter Parker is that he makes the character his own, and I do not feel it necessary to compare his performance with Tobey Maguire's. Maguire was a lovable nerd in Sam Raimi's original film series, but Andrew Garfield is a better actor, who has a stronger ability to play emotional scenes, allowing the movie to go deeper into Peter's emotional struggles.

Max Webb's "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" includes a fun cast, but the film struggles. The main villain of the movie is Max Dillon (Jamie Foxx), an employee at Oscorp who is obsessed with Spider-Man. While tending to an electrical issue at work, Max gets into an electrical accident, and -- you guessed it -- he turns into an mutated electrical villain, Electro.

Max's attempt to defeat Spider-Man, Electro teams up with Harry Osborn (who later turns into Green Goblin). With his greasy hair and pale face, Dane DeHaan makes Harry Osborn a sleazy villain, but his transformation into Green Goblin feels rushed. Harry was only just introduced in this movie, and I was not invested in his relationship with Peter enough to care.

On that note, props to the makeup department for making Harry look absolutely menacing as Green Goblin. In the 2002 Spider-Man, Willem Dafoe's Green Goblin looks more like a slightly deformed power ranger.

Although Electro seems to be the main villain for most of the film, the final battle between he and Spider-Man felt anti-climactic, for it's the battle between Green Goblin and Spider-Man that changes Peter Parker's life forever.

It's the romance between Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) that carries the movie. In the movie, Peter feels conflicted on his relationship with Gwen because he knows he could put her in danger. Garfield and Stone interact in such a natural way that I wonder if they're improving their lines (they're a real life couple).

Stone's quirky, snappy attitude complements Garfield's Endearingly awkward personality. Webb makes Gwen Stacy feels like a better female love interest than Mary Jane Watson. Gwen is she's not just a damsel in distress, but she's a smart and intelligent character with her own ambitions.

While Peter faces relationship drama and villains, he also finds himself investigating what happened to his parents after he was dropped off at his Uncle Ben and Aunt May's as a child. Sally Fields offers a gentle presence as Aunt May.

Unlike Raimi's franchise, the film goes much deeper into Richard Parker's past at Oscorp and how Peter was able to transform into Spider-Man. I appreciate Garfield's dramatic acting abilities, but the movie has had one too many scenes of Peter sulking over his parents.

The film offers some awesome special effects, and director Marc Webb seems to be a fan of the slow motion shots.

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2" felt about 10 minutes too long, and isn't as much fun as 2004's Spider-Man 2. The scenes with Peter swinging through New York are visual fun, and the chemistry between Garfield and Stone hold the movie together. Webb's adaptation captures the loner superhero that is Peter Parker, but the movie find itself tangled in a web of plots.

BY COLLIN DYSA
Assistant Scene Editor

I survived high school by fantasizing about how different life would be in college. I wouldn't have to be home at a specific time, take P.E. at 8 a.m., and I could eat in class. I was especially thrilled that words such as tardy and unexcused absences would not be something my instructors would throw around threateningly. As fate would have it, my hopes were dashed.

A defining aspect of the college experience is that one chooses to attend. Every class I enroll in, every time I plop down in my seat, it is of my own free will and volition. After all, I am paying out of my own pocket; driving myself into the deep abyss of loan debt. So, why are my instructors, by and large, taking attendance?

Why is my collegiate future partially defined by merit of me as a warm body in a classroom? Over and over my parents drilled into me that the reality of college was different. I could slip in and out of class when I wanted. My teachers did not care if I was there. In fact, if I passed or failed was not really a concern. Whether I sank or swam was my own business.

Sadly, for the majority of my college classes this has not been the case. My class day usually is accompanied by a warning: if you miss x amount of days, your grade will drop like a stone. Come again?

I am not entirely sure how my butt being in a seat is entirely conducive to my academic success. Granted there are exceptions to this. For a P.E. class, lab or theatre class, you do need to be present, because you can't do those specific activities on your own time.

But, if I am in a literature or math class and I am confident I already understand a particular component, I see no reason for me to attend. I will be able to demonstrate my skill when it comes to time to put pen to paper or take an exam. I still support teachers grading for participation. What I do not support is earning my participation solely on a knee-jerk reaction to my name with an audible, "here." Participation entails a contribution to the class beyond showing up.

It means putting your iPhone away and engaging your instructor. It means making notes in class and asking questions. It means showing up.

I have noticed a pattern among my instructors who are remarkably fainted on attendance in their grading, and it is their ego. He or she is not satisfied unless there is a captive audience. I feel there is a deep-rooted insecurity within the instructor. He or she is afraid the students may be able to grasp the material on their own.

And what is wrong with that? We all have to be responsible for our learning in the end. Perhaps, a student learns in a different manner than the teacher's style. If the student goes the extra mile to put the time in, why should he or she be punished for this?

At the end of the day, forcing students to come to every class continues to hold them back from developing into fully formed independent adults. It reinforces the habit of succeeding by showing up. It takes more than converting oxygen to carbon dioxide in a desk if you are really going to gain something from the college experience. But, it shouldn't be defined by a tick in a box, next to a name, at the top of the hour.

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The Observer is looking for weekly columnists to contribute to our opinion section. If you are passionate and knowledgeable about your major, email cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com for more information.
For its spring musical, the Central Theatre Ensemble is performing “Les Misérables,” which is arguably one of the most difficult Broadway musicals to put to stage. In Les Mis, almost every single line of dialogue is sung instead of spoken.

“This show is right on the verge of opera in terms of the amount of singing,” Ben Sasnett, senior musical theatre major, who plays Jean Valjean, said.

Being the lead in a musical that’s close to three hours long, Sasnett found his role extremely demanding, and he believes it’s one of the most challenging roles on Broadway.

“It’s been really hard to try and combine acting and singing together,” Ben Sasnett said, “but it’s been so fun and such an honor.”

Ben Sasnett has seen six stage versions of “Les Misérables,” and when he was 14, he read the original text, written by Victor Hugo in 1862. Since “Les Misérables” is his favorite book, Ben Sasnett hopes that he can portray the character with honesty.

“My character may be my favorite literary character,” Ben Sasnett said, “so it’s daunting.”

Ben Sasnett is grateful for the theatre department and everyone who is involved in making “Les Misérables” possible.

“I feel so lucky because it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity to play a role like this,” Ben Sasnett said.

Ben Sasnett’s brother, Joseph, is playing Javert, the antagonist to Jean Valjean. Joseph Sasnett recalls that he and his brother used to pretend they were the characters in the show.

“I can’t believe how many costumes they had to make for the show,” Joseph Sasnett said.

Joseph Sasnett thinks Javert is very different from any character he has played before.

“He looks down on people as worthless scum,” Joseph Sasnett said. “It’s hard to identify with him.”

Junior musical theatre major Tara Nix plays Fantine, a woman who is forced to work as a prostitute in order to support her daughter, Cosette.

“Not having a child,” Nix said, “I had to figure out what in my life was so special to me that I would sacrifice my own life.”

Although Fantine is only in the first act of “Les Misérables,” the book goes into a lot more detail about Fantine’s life and struggles. Nix says that she did a lot of research for her part, and she even carries around a notebook with pictures and quotes from Fantine.

“This role is very human,” Nix said.

“There’s nothing over the top about it like in other musicals,” Nix said.

Nix’s big number in the musical is “I Dreamed a Dream.” Nix admits she’s nervous for the number since she will be on stage alone.

“I just want it to focus on Fantine and what she’s going through,” Nix said. “I don’t want it to be a diva moment.”

Freshman musical theatre major Shelby Horton plays the part of Cosette, Fantine’s daughter, who is adopted by Jean Valjean. Horton has experience in Les Mis; she played Eponine in a high school production of the play.

Many of the girls in the production have to wear corsets, which can be very uncomfortable.

“They can be painful at times,” Horton said. “You gotta make sure you get a good breath before you sing.”

Horton’s favorite number to perform in “Les Misérables” is “A Heart Full of Love.”

“The music is so beautiful,” Horton said, “and I love working with Brandon and Nikki.”

Senior musical theatre major Brandon Peterson plays Marius, a student and revolutionary who is involved in The Paris Uprising of 1832, and falls in love with Cosette.

Peterson found challenge in his role because he is used to singing baritone, but Marius is more in the tenor range. Joseph Sasnett gave Peterson voice lessons to help him with his singing.

“I’ve learned the most from working on this role than any other role I’ve worked on,” Peterson said.

Senior musical theatre major Nikki Delmarter also sings in “A Heart Full of Love.” She plays the part of Eponine. In the original text, Eponine is quite different from the stage version. Delmarter wanted to merge both versions of her character in her role.

“The book Eponine is so much colder and so much more manipulative,” Delmarter said. “The musical makes her more of a victim.”

Delmarter says that Eponine is very different from the other roles she has played, as she is used to playing characters like Cosette.

“I usually play a lot of princess-type roles,” Delmarter said. “They’re all very girly-girl, golden age type of characters.

The role of Eponine’s father, Thénardier is played by freshman Nicholas J. Main. Main found the play difficult because of how much singing is involved.

“When I get a musical script, I take the text first,” Main said. “It’s a challenge to find when a line is at its peak.”

“Les Misérables” can be very sad at times, and Main enjoys that his character is comic relief. For his part, Main gets to wear crazy, clashing, patterned outfits, a fat suit and had to dye his hair.

“Teatime for me is just playing on stage,” Main said, “and that’s what we get to do every night.”

“Les Misérables” opens May 9 and closes May 18.

“Come see it. It is worth it,” Peterson said. “We’ve poured our heart into this production, and I think it could be life changing for anyone in the audience.”
Local Farmers Market opens for summer

From May to October, families walk the streets of downtown Ellensburg on Saturday morning for the Kittitas County Farmer’s Market.

Some are on a mission, many are just wandering around taking in the warm weather, colors and scents. People have the opportunity to spend time together and see some of the things local farmers in the community came to sell.

There is something for everyone as local vendors sell everything from soaps and hand lotions to jewelry and candles.

Jenn Land, owner of Picket and Oak Herbal Apothecary, makes lotions and oils. She has been participating in the Farmers Market for three years.

“I really enjoy coming to this market for the community,” Land said.

Land started out by making organic skin care items for herself and her family. She decided to expand and went into business in 2011.

“I love making, creating and sharing,” Land said. “It’s really a great opportunity to get to know my neighbors and talk to people.”

The Trellis Center has also been selling organic and locally grown peppers, starter plants and relishes for the past three years. The group sends produce off to a manufacturing company that packages them and sends them back so they are ready to sell.

“Trellis Center uses the money they make to help raise the quality of life for adults living with autism,” Daniel Ortega, Trellis Center intern, said.

The variety of flavors, which range from sweet to spicy, can satisfy many different palates.

Individuals looking for candles can stop their search when they get to Erinn Boitano’s Farmer’s Daughter stand. Boitano makes beeswax candles, soaps and lotions.

Boitano started selling candles when she decided to take her love for candle making and share it with the community. Her business started small and it has grown.

“My favorite part about the market is the customers,” Boitano said. “We sell things online, but it’s so much more personal to get to interact with them.”

Boitano’s advice for anyone looking to start a business is to just get started and do it; nothing can turn into something even if it doesn’t seem likely.

Though there were many returning vendors, there were also some new comers to the market this year, such as Lojo’s Jewelry.

Lojo’s Jewelry is made from recycled silver plated silverware that Lloyd Moore bends to create jewelry including, but not limited to, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings and watches.

Lloyd started the company with his wife, Joanne, five years ago. His daughter had some old silverware that she asked to be made into jewelry, and then had individuals who requested more after seeing the ones that she had.

Since they opened, the couple from Ronald, Wash. has been selling mostly out of Roslyn, Wash.

The designs they use in their pieces are their own ideas. They consist of fork prongs made to look like elephants, knives cut to make a bell necklace or simply faces of spoons textured and made into earrings.

“It really is fun to make, and seeing peoples faces when they find something that really appeals to them is why we keep doing this,” Lloyd said.

Many vendors are just excited to have the ability to go out and talk to people while getting their products out there for people to see.

It is also a great opportunity for the community to come together to support the local farmers and businesses in Kittitas County.
Comedy pair kicks off family weekend

BY MARIA HARR
Staff Reporter

Stand-up comedian Susan Rice will be bringing her wit and familial humor to this year’s Family Weekend on Friday, May 9. “They had me as the main guy on a family show,” Eric E (Eric Engerbretson) said. “I’m just going to try to give you the best show ever.”

“My first piece of advice for aspiring stand-up comedians is ‘don’t!’ Then on a serious note, she said someone thinking of doing stand-up should ask themselves why they want to do it.”

Many people see comedy as a hobby, or think because they’re capable of making friends and family laugh that they should pursue comedy. Rice recommends to these people to find out if they can project that capability to an audience.

“If you hear laughter,” Rice said, “you might have something.”

Both Rice and her opening act, comedian Geoff Lott, have performed at Central before but not together. “I’m looking forward to getting done with my set so I can watch her,” Lott said of their upcoming performance.

Lott has been doing stand-up for 11 years. He started his own college career at Central, but later switched to University of Washington where he earned a degree in history.

Lott hopes for a big turnout at the show in the hopes that they will get to perform for some people who have never seen stand-up before.

“In the past, the live entertainment for Family Weekend has included acts such as that of comedian Susan Anderson in 2012, “Extraordinissimo” Craig Karges, a one-man magic performance in 2011 and magician/comedian Derek Hughes in 2010. At her show, Rice promises “just basically stand-up comedy, no wrestling.”

“Don’t be afraid of the gray hair,” Rice said. “I’m just going to try to give you the best show ever.”

Eric E to close out family weekend

BY HOUSTON CARR
Staff Reporter

This isn’t Eric E’s (Eric Engerbretson) first time performing at Central. He has done many events on college campuses. He has had a 25-year long working relationship with Scott Drummond, director of campus activities. Drummond hired Eric for his first event at Central when he opened for Jay Leno at a homecoming show.

“He’s a really nice guy. Great to work with. He’s extremely talented and fits so well into many different kinds of events,” Drummond said.

Alyssa Herandy and Chelsea Millar, student programmers for campus activities, hired him for this event because he has such a unique music style and past positive experiences of working with him at previous events.

“We wanted someone who was more mellow and not extreme for the brunch,” Herandy said.

Eric has been performing since 1985 and has performed in almost every state and 18 countries around the world. Out of all those years of performing, the one gig he will never be able to forget is when he played at a music festival in Finland.

“They had me as the main guy on a Saturday night with 10,000 people in the biggest venue in Finland,” Engerbretson said.

He can play the guitar, the harmonica and likes to also switch up the sound of his voice depending on what type of song he is singing. According to Engerbretson, when he started playing the guitar, he used to practice nine hours a day.

“I primarily taught myself but I did three years of music in college, but it was mostly theory and singing,” Engerbretson said. “I think I have only taken six guitar lessons in my life. The theory classes really helped me be more efficient in teaching myself.”

His music is a mix of folk-rock, blues and jazz. His most popular original song is “Ian Alec and James,” which happens to be his favorite song at the moment. He is currently producing two albums that should be released sometime next year. “Ian Alec and James” and will be featured on one of the albums.

“That one really comes from my heart when I sing it. I mention my whole family. That’s why it relates to anyone. Anyone who has kids can totally relate to it, and anyone who doesn’t, they can really tell how important my kids are to me,” Engerbretson said.

His love for his family and faith for God are his biggest inspirations when it comes to song writing. Engerbretson has been an avid book reader since he was a child, and he really believes that has helped him a lot when it comes to song writing too.

“I love to read. I am always stoking the fire of my imagination, and reading helps me have a broader palate of words. If you don’t read enough you don’t know a lot of words and a way of putting things, I have a pretty vivid imagination I guess,” Engerbretson said.

Engerbretson’s family has always been supportive of him. Now that he has built such a successful career, he can balance home and his music, easier.

“If I try to make it work, I am home more than I am traveling. Travel is part of the deal unless you live in a city where all the gigs are,” Engerbretson said.

Eric has been performing for 29 years and has played every type of venue all over the world. According to Engerbretson, the most important thing for new musicians to do is play as many gigs as possible.

“Do any performance you can get your hands on. A lot of people want to go on tour, but it doesn’t do much for you if you don’t have a big fan base,” Engerbretson said. “My advice is to take over a town, play every venue in that town. Just take over the whole town so people really get to know you.”
Music at central

GENERAL AUDIENCES

ARTISTRY

Gallery One was one of many locations that presented art during the Art Walk.

BY annika lYnCH
Staff Reporter

Last Friday, downtown Ellensburg had its monthly First Friday Art Walk. The First Friday Art Walk is hosted by the Art Board Committee. It was free for the community to look at artwork featured in museums and businesses of downtown Ellensburg from 5-7 p.m.

The venues that displayed art at the event were primarily locally-owned businesses and museums. Artists that came to the event talked at these locations about their artwork. D&M Coffee and Cornerstone Pie each had their own artwork to showcase.

At Cornerstone, artist and D&M co-owner Donna Malek’s artwork “Encaustic on Paper, which is a kind of wax process,” was on display. D&M Coffee had a new art exhibit by artist Julie Khyler called “Escapes,” which is made out of acrylics.

The owners of D&M Coffee, Malek and her husband Mark Holloway, are involved in the artwork for this event, which changes every month. Holloway and Malek have been involved with this event from the beginning because their fondness for the arts. Holloway and his wife graduated from Central with art degrees and have continued their passion through their business.

“We just see being creative, both for our business and in our lives, as just a nice addition to our community,” Holloway said.

The Clymer museum also has a new art exhibit that was featured at the event called “A Sporting Life” by Zach Babat. The exhibit focused on hunting and sporting themes, from fishing in North America to African games, tools and weapons. They also had wine from Wine Works, live entertainment by Mt. Stau Elementary, origami with Asian University Students and demonstrations by Trout Water Fly Shop.

Gallery One opened their entire building to the community to show all the artwork. The first floor featured three female artists (Sandi Bransford, Thorly James and Carolyn Nelson) as part of the exhibit titled, “Feminine Voices in Clay.”

The second floor had two art events: the Eleventh Green Gallery by Community School of the Arts annual show and the Picasso Gallery by Community School of the Arts Fundraiser Auction.

The event was hosted by Gallery One Executive Director Monica Miller. The gallery had live entertainment, food and a performance by Ellensburg Piano teacher Carol Cross. Yellow Church Café catered the showing at the gallery.

“I definitely love to encourage students to come down here if they are interested in participating in downtown and learning about art. First Friday is a really easy way to come and be part of the Ellensburg community without spending money or having any knowledge of art,” Miller said.

Edward Jones Investments also had a local artist come in to show her artwork for a second time. Watercolor artist Gwen Rock and her art exhibit attracted a crowd. Rock has been watercolor painting with friends for 15 years and has shown this artwork two times in a row at the First Friday Art Walk.

Walk like an artist

First Friday Art Walk brings culture to E-burg

BY annika lYnCH
Staff Reporter

Rock has lived here since 1950 with her four children and husband. She graduated from Central in 1953 with an education and art degree. Her artwork has touched and inspired many of the Ellensburg community.

“My husband and I traveled by motor home and carried our water colored paper under the mattress,” Rock said. “It comes and goes the style, I necessarily didn’t stick with it.”

The First Friday Art Walk started in 1999 and has been going ever since. The event is a huge part of the community and was originally ran by Mary Frances, the previous director of Gallery One.
Let’s talk about sex, baby

CWU RHA hosts fourth annual Sexapalooza

BY MEGAN SCHMITT
Staff Reporter

Residence Hall Association (RHA) will be hosting the fourth annual Sexapalooza, May 13. Attendees will learn about sex education through activities such as sexy jeopardy and prize giveaways.

“Sexapalooza is a new and intriguing way to get sexual health to students,” Alice Bowman, Wellness Center health educator, said.

The event focuses on educating students about different types of contraceptives, consent, sexually transmitted diseases and sex education from different viewpoints. Even though the point of Sexapalooza is to stress the educational aspect, they want students to walk away knowing they had a good time.

RHA will be hosting “Sexapardy,” which will be a form of jeopardy with sex related questions.

“We have some very interesting prizes for winning,” Tyler Van Sickle, RHA President, said.

In addition, students can look forward to participating in cookie decorating. The Wellness Center will also be providing free colored condoms for all who attend.

“Our main purpose is to raise awareness about a variety of subjects, including contraception, consent, gender identity and others” said Van Sickle.

A variety of clubs and organizations will be featured at this event and giving their opinions on sex and sexual wellness. These organizations include the Feminist Club, EQAI and others. This helps to create a diverse presentation about sexuality in a modern age.

It will also be the first year the Law and Justice club and Private Awareness Network will be getting involved. The Law and Justice Club will have a booth about making sex decisions while intoxicated. On top of that, they will have real police and drug impairment goggles for students to experience. This will allow students to have some fun while gaining knowledge about doing the right thing when under the influence.

The Wellness Center is getting more involved than ever this year and will have a table as well that will be discussing consent and promoting the “no more” campaign. Bowman explained that the Wellness Center has helped out with Sexapalooza in the past in some capacity, but this year they will be fully engaged. Another booth featured by EQAI, will relate to gender identities. Every year more clubs and organizations are getting involved and helping expand Sexapalooza to become a tradition.

This will be Sexapalooza’s fourth annual event at Central which started back in spring of 2011. Van Sickle explained the program was initially brought back from a national conference in 2010 by a previous RHA president and has continued at Central every spring. The event is getting more popular every year and is expected to grow even more, in years to come.

Students who attend will get free condoms and cookies, have a chance to win prizes, and gain life knowledge. This program wants students to feel comfortable and at ease while learning about sex health in an enjoyable atmosphere.

“The goal is for people to tell their friends about what a good time they had here so the hype builds up and we can continue to expand next year,” said Van Sickle.
BY SPENCER HANSEN

The Central baseball team will head to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament this coming weekend at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Ore.

Since Western Oregon won the regular season GNAC title, they will host the tournament.

Central finished the regular season second in the GNAC standings and will take the No. 2 seed. They finished with a 28-18 overall record, and a 17-14 GNAC record, but limp into the postseason after Saint Martin’s took three games from the Wildcats this weekend. The final game was cancelled due to inclement weather in Lacey, Wash.

Three teams earn berths to the GNAC tournament (Western Oregon, Central Washington University and Saint Martin’s) as Saint Martin’s won the conference tournament. The Saints have clinched the GNAC title and will head to Monmouth, Ore. to host the GNAC championship.

The Wildcats will open up tournament play at 1 p.m. today against Saint Martin’s, and according to Storey, junior pitcher Brandon Williams has been stellar on the mound for Western, with six wins and 70 innings pitched.

The Wildcats will likely start the first game against Saint Martin’s, and according to Storey, junior pitcher Brandon Williams will get the ball in game two. Williams led the Wildcats with eight wins and 70 innings pitched.

The returners, they have that bitter taste in their mouth, losing two in the final day, so they’re pretty well-driven.” Storey said.

This group of seniors has been an integral part of getting the program back on track. It started last year with Central having its first winning season in several years and following that up with a 28-win season this year.

“Hopefully we can come out on top,” senior pitcher Skye Adams said.

Senior pitcher Stuart Fewel will most likely start the first game against Saint Martin’s, and according to Storey, junior pitcher Brandou Williams will get the ball in game two. Williams led the Wildcats with eight wins and 70 innings pitched.

The returners, they have that bitter taste in their mouth, losing two in the final day, so they’re pretty well-driven.” Storey said.

2014 GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Western Oregon University
29-19 overall 22-10 GNAC

Central Washington University
28-18 overall 17-14 GNAC

Saint Martin’s University
18-28 overall 14-17 GNAC
FISHING

BY DILLON SAND
Staff Reporter

Spring has finally arrived in Ellensburg, bringing great weather for everyone to enjoy, especially those with a love of the outdoors.

After the cold winter months are finally over, college students normally turn to floating the river, tossing a Frisbee or simply laying in the sun when they could be taking advantage of another great Ellensburg sport, fishing.

Ellensburg is surrounded by a lot of water, whether it be a small irrigation ditch or Carey Lake (better known as People’s Pond), making fishing easily accessible.

There’s something for every fisher, no matter the skill set or experience, making it extremely easy to grab a pole and hit the lake with friends.

Before fishing, everyone must make sure that they have all the required permits and licenses that allow people legally to fish and keep what you catch.

The license can be bought at many different places in Ellensburg, with one of the easiest places being at Fred Meyer. It is also important to know the regulations of the place you’re fishing. Some areas allow fisherman to catch and keep as many fish as they would like and some put a limit on the number they can catch.

Others, like the Yakima River, don’t allow anyone to keep what they catch at all. Around Ellensburg, it is most common for there to be a five-fish limit. If anyone fishes without the proper license or without knowing the regulations, they are endangering themselves and could also receive a hefty ticket from the Fish and Wildlife Department.

Once the required license and equipment is gathered, it’s time to fish.

Of all the places to fish in Ellensburg, Carey Lake may be the most well known. Located on Umtanum Road near the Yakima River, Carey Lake has been a popular swim hole for college students for years, but fishing is also allowed.

Carey Lake is home to all types of fish, including trout, bass and steelhead, all of which can be caught by fishing off the bank of the lake and.

Since Carey Lake is such a popular place for college students and Ellensburg residents, the best opportunity for fishing is early in the morning.

Another popular place to fish in Ellensburg is Florito Lake, just off the Number Six Road near the highway. Fishing here is simple because of how open and easy it is to get to.

Florito is the largest lake in Ellensburg at an estimated 54 acres. Once at Florito, expect to see a lot of rainbow trout and bass in the water, as they are most common.

Since Florito is much more calm than Carey Lake, fishers can arrive anytime throughout the day and expect to get a nibble.

The last well known place to fish around the Ellensburg area is at Mattoon Lake. Mattoon Lake, located just off Umtanum road, is loaded with eight to 14-inch rainbow trout as well as big mouth bass. Mattoon is much smaller than Florito, at 25 acres, but makes up for it with its great selection of fish. Mattoon is well stocked by the Fish and Wildlife Department so fisherman shouldn’t have to wait long for their first bite. Mattoon also offers great bank side fishing for those who don’t have a boat.

These fishing holes may be the best and most well known around Ellensburg, but there are still some spots local fisherman frequently visit.

One of the best places to fish in Ellensburg isn’t a lake or pond, but in irrigation ditches.

As first thought, fishing in an irrigation ditch doesn’t seem great, but you have to look a little deeper. The irrigation ditches contain clean water and can get to be quite large in some places. These ditches can be deeper than a lot of people may think and can contain a lot of vegetation, perfect for hiding fish.

Locals say that these irrigation ditches are the best places for fishing for anyone simply looking for a fun afternoon. Loaded with large mouth bass, these irrigation ditches provide a perfect place for college students to catch their dinner (or you can catch and release).

Ellensburg is surrounded by great places to fish, regardless of skill level or experience. So next time there’s nothing to do or need something fun to do on an afternoon off, or need a new way to procrastinate for that upcoming test or paper, go grab some friends, a comfy lawn chair and cast away.

Hook, line & sinker

CAST OFF
Junior administrative management major Steven Friesen throws a line in the water at Kerry Lake (People’s Pond) on a warm spring day.

MAY 9, 10 & 11, 2014

FAMILY WEEKEND

Comedy Night
Friday 6 PM - SURC Theatre
Featuring Susan Rice with Echo Lott

Friday 9 PM - SURC TREATRE
Les MISERABLES

Event Tickets: www.cwu.edu/tickets
Full Schedule & Info: www.cwu.edu/campus-life

Saturday 88.1 The Burg
Open House / Tours
11:15 AM & 2:15 PM
SURC Radio Station

Saturday Student Art Exhibit
1 - 4 PM
Sarah Spurgeon Gallery

CwU is an AA/EO/Title VI Institution. For accommodation, please contact Campus Life at 509-963-1511 or email DS@cwu.edu.
The Central Washington University softball team has been selected for the NCAA Division II West Regional tournament as the No. 7 seed. The Wildcats will take on Dixie State University this Friday in St. George, Utah at 3:30 p.m. Mountain time.

The Wildcats enter the tournament playing well, winning 11 of their last 15 games. The Wildcats finished their season with an impressive 30-18 record. Central looks to continue their strong play as they enter the Regional tournament.

Senior pitcher Maria Gau and senior second baseman Jill McDaniels led the charge for the Wildcats. Gau and McDaniels were both chosen for first-team All-Great Northwest Athletic Conference honors. Gau was also awarded the GNAC pitcher of the year, finishing the season with a 19-8 record with a 2.95 era and 135 strikeouts. She continues to stay as the workhorse for the Wildcats and looks forward to facing the difficult hitters in the upcoming games.

“My plan is to mix up my pitches to try and keep the hitters off balance,” Gau said. “I know my defense has my back.”

McDaniels plays second base and leads the Wildcats in about every offensive category. She has a .359 batting average, 11 home runs, and 43 RBIs on the season. As long as these seniors continue their good play, the Wildcats should have a great chance in advancing against Dixie State.

The Wildcats played in the GNAC Championship last weekend where they fell to Western Oregon. However, Central and Western Oregon both qualified for the Regional tournament. Western Oregon earned a spot as the eighth and final seed despite winning the GNAC championship. Western Oregon will play California Monterey Bay in the first round.

“It was a tough loss in the GNAC Championship but we have mentally refocused and are fired up for the tournament,” Gau said.

The Wildcats are determined to forget about the loss in the GNAC tournament championship and only focus on the regional tournament. The team knows that they can beat anyone when they are playing at full potential. The Wildcats are very excited about being chosen and plan on taking full advantage of the invitation.

Central has played Dixie State only two times and Dixie was victorious each time. The two teams last played in 2011.

Sophomore outfielder Michaela Hazlett has high hopes for the Wildcats.

“We worked really hard this year and deserve this invitation,” Hazlett said. “We have proved that we can always come back no matter the circumstances.”

The formation for the tournament is double elimination. Each team must lose two games to be eliminated. The winner of the Central and Dixie State game will play the winner of Humboldt State against the University of California San Diego.

The formation for the tournament is double elimination. Each team must lose two games to be eliminated. The winner of the Central and Dixie State game will play the winner of Humboldt State against the University of California San Diego.
Inside the Outfielder: Ethan Sterkel

BY CHANCE WEEKES-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Senior right fielder for Central Washington Ethan Sterkel is living the dream, playing for his hometown college team.

Sterkel is an Ellensburg native who attended Ellensburg high school where he was a two-sport all-star in football and baseball. He was a first team all-state defensive back, as well as receiving an all-state honorable mention at quarterback.

Coming out of high school, Sterkel had no idea where he wanted to go to college. Sterkel had the opportunity to play football at Eastern Washington University. He could have also possibly walked on at the University of Washington or University of Oregon for baseball.

Sterkel chose to come to Central Washington because it gave him the opportunity to play both football and baseball. In a way, he’s following in the footsteps of his favorite athlete Russell Wilson.

His freshman year he took on the challenge of playing two-sports. Sterkel then made the decision to focus more on school and play one sport. He decided to hang up the football cleats and pick up the baseball bat the very next year. In his sophomore year he immediately started in right field.

The tough Ellensburg wind doesn’t have a big effect on Sterkel, being from the Ellensburg has been an advantage for him during home games.

“I would rather play in the wind than in the rain,” Sterkel said.

He played well enough to earn an honorable mention in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

“Outfield, Sterkel is a family man. Sterkel has said he likes to spend most of his free time with his family. It was his dad that had inspired him to start playing baseball as a kid. Sterkel’s passion has always been in sports, especially baseball.

“I just remembered getting signed up for tee ball and just really liking it,” Sterkel said. “I don’t know if it was love at first sight, but I’ve always just enjoyed it since I was four until now, I never stopped enjoying it.”

Sterkel said he was never pushed towards any sports, but his dad helped him out every step of the way. His dad has been his coach ever since he was a kid.

“Always bothered him to take me to a baseball game,” Sterkel said. “And he always said yes.”

Sterkel has an eight-year-old brother who he spends most of his down time with.

“The cool thing [about living at home] is that I don’t miss a lot of events,” Sterkel said.

He even had the opportunity to play baseball with his cousin Kramer Ferrell his entire life, from little league to high school and finally at the collegiate level.

“Last year was just amazing,” Sterkel said. “He’s my best friend. We get up next to each other; we’re neighbors.”

The most memorable thing about Sterkel’s four years at Central Washington are the relationships that he has built with his teammates.

“The players on the field they change a lot year-to-year,” Sterkel said. “I’ve got to meet a ton of cool people and hang out with a bunch of people that I probably wouldn’t have got the pleasure to meet.”

Not only is he a jack-of-all-trades athletically, he listens to a wide selection of music, from rap, to country, to rock. He just enjoys music.

“Listen to everything, it’s hard to pin-point a favorite artist,” Sterkel said.

In his final season as a Wildcat, Sterkel has contributed in a major way. He has the best batting average in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference at .401, and is fifth in slugging percentage at .520. Sterkel is also second in on base percentage, runs scored, total hits and tenth in runs batted in.

This has boosted Central Washington’s team rankings in the GNAC. They rank first in batting average, slugging percentage, on base percentage, runs scored, runs batted in, home runs, walks and stolen bases.

“It’s just been fun,” Sterkel said. “We have a great group of guys and everyone is comfortable with each other, we’re playing some pretty good baseball right now.”

Sterkel has been leading the charge with his impressive senior season and looks to help lead the Central Washington Wildcats throughout the playoffs.

Central Washington has clinched a post season berth and will play in the GNAC championship today. In the opening round they face the Saint Martin’s University in Monmouth, Ore.

Senior right fielder Ethan Sterkel gets ready to take a cut in an early season game. Sterkel leads the GNAC with a .401 batting average.

BY DILON SAND
Staff Reporter

This weekend marks the most important track meet of the season, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships starting on May 9.

All qualifying athletes from the GNAC will have their last chance to either improve their personal and school best marks or try to make it to Nationals.

The meet is divided into the championships in one of its best positions in recent years. About 45 total athletes will make the trip to McArthur Stadium, which is on the campus of Western Oregon University, where the championships will be held.

Kevin Adkisson expects a strong showing from both the male and female athletes on the team this year but says his women this year have really stepped it up.

“Our men’s team is always very competitive, but this year our women have really stepped it up and are very good and looking to show that this weekend,” Adkisson said.

With the team improving throughout the season and the several standout athletes that Central already possesses, the outlook on the Championships have never been better. For anyone looking to join the Wildcats on their trip, tickets are still available online through the GNAC website.

“I’m very excited to see the improvement we made as a team this year,” Adkisson said. “From top to bottom, we’ve worked, really hard all season and it’s about to pay off.”

Central track looks to hit ground running
Rugby eyes improvement for next year

BY CHACE DAVY
Staff Reporter

Central Washington University men’s rugby coach Tony Pacheco doesn’t have an office yet, but that will change in a few weeks. That is because the Central men’s rugby team made the move this year from being a club sport, like tennis and ice hockey, to a varsity sport that is supported by the university.

The men’s rugby team is now part of the Northwest Collegiate Rugby Conference (NCRC), which contains nine schools, including the University of Washington, University of Oregon and Eastern Washington University.

“Being moved to varsity is exciting,” said junior inside center Tanner Barnes. “It’s come off a lot of hard work of the coaching staff and previous alumni.”

The change was made partly due to the overwhelming success the team was having on the pitch.

In their first season as a varsity sport for 15s, (15 players for each team on the field) the Wildcats outscored their opponents 978-152 en route to a 14-0 record, including seven shutouts, before being ousted in the semi-finals of the Varsity Cup by the University of California 14-58.

“Obviously the lopsided result was not what we were looking for,” Barnes said. “We can’t throw away the whole season after one loss. Now it’s all about looking back and seeing how we can improve moving forward.”

There are two types of rugby, determined by how many players are on the field. Seven’s is played during the fall, so there is almost always rugby going on during the school year.

Both sevens and 15s are hoping to compete for national titles in the coming years.

“We are on the verge of becoming a consistent contender in the coming years,” Barnes said.

The Central rugby team has had some success before they became a varsity sport. They were invited to compete in the Varsity Cup last year as well, where they lost in the semi-finals.

Next year, however, will be a little tougher for the team. Pacheco is trying to make a more difficult schedule for next year.

This year, Central played mostly NCRC opponents. They outscored the Idaho Vandals 19-10 in the two times they played this season.

“We’re going to try to find a way to play a little more daunting schedule next year, definitely,” Pacheco said. “It kinda hurt us that we’ve never been challenged too much prior to our postseason.”

A tough schedule may be the only thing holding the team back from being a top competitor next season, despite the fact that they are losing a lot of seniors before next season due to graduation.

“Their senior leadership and play on the field will leave holes to be filled,” Barnes said. “However, the expectations of our team is that someone will step up and fill the void.”

The future indeed looks bright for the rugby team. With the backing of the athletic department, the team will have more funding and have access to the athletic department’s gym on a regular basis.

The team treated practices like they were a varsity sport long before it was official. They worked out and practiced five days a week, which helped make the transition as smooth as possible.

“The team is eager to have the university and the department of athletics behind us. If anything, being moved to varsity had just opened more doors and opportunities,” Barnes said.