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By the students and for the students of CWU

The OBSERVER

cwuobserver.com

Vol. 97 No. 8, May 29-June 4, 2014



DRINKS, DRUGS & DANGEROUS DOSES

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WILDCAT RAIDS OAKLAND

Nelson tries out for
pro football team.

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A NIGHT OF SINGH

Central choirs host night
of prof's music.

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Concerned residents vie for repeal of pot land-use code

BY COLT SWEETLAND
Assistant News Editor

Concerned Ellensburg residents rallied at the Kittitas County commissioners' public hearing and asked for the repeal of a recently passed ordinance, spurred by two new marijuana facilities to be constructed in the agricultural-20 zone.

The residents, who attended the commissioners' public hearing on May 20, were part of a group called Save Our Agricultural and Rural Space (SOARS). Many of them wore bright orange stickers that said "REPEAL."

The residents submitted a petition with 130 signatures to the county commissioners to repeal the land-use ordinance.

The proposed marijuana facilities will be constructed near the residents' homes. Many who spoke at the public hearing are concerned the facilities will bring unwanted attention to their neighborhood.

"We think very much that the ordinance is a mistake, and we'd like that to be reconsidered," said John Ufkes, a resident who lives across from Carroll road.

Commissioner responds

Obie O'Brien, Kittitas County commissioner, said he would like to make changes to the current land-use ordinance, which involve requiring all marijuana growing and processing operations

to obtain a land-use permit.

"Currently, the code says lots of 10-19.99 acres have to go through [the administrative conditional use permit] (ACUP) but for 20 acres and above, it's just out-right permitted," O'Brien said. "I want to change that to say no you need to go through the permit process. That will allow us to double check about the water issues and allow people to be notified in the neighborhood."

O'Brien said he wants to see these changes come into effect immediately. The process to make the necessary changes to the ordinance would take about five to six weeks.

Safety concerns

Hillary Ivarson, who lives on Boston Road, said she did not see how the facilities match the requirements as part of the ordinance for the agricultural zoned land.

"I see in no way shape or form that this kind of facility falls under the specified land uses in the ordinance," Ivarson said. "A facility such as this, only belongs in an industrial, commercial zone."

According to Ivarson, there is worry about increased crime if the facilities were to be constructed.

She also said that she worries about how long it would take law enforcement to respond to the a call if something went wrong regarding the facilities. She told the commissioners she would like the ordinance repealed.

Timothy hay issues

Brian Cortese, who represented Kittitas County timothy hay growers and sup-



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

RISKY BUSINESS Karen Kratz addresses the commissioners on her concerns with the marijuana land-use ordinance.

pliers, said that he was concerned about the potential impacts that marijuana facilities could have on the hay crop.

He also said that there would be a risk of contamination to hay because of the marijuana facilities.

"While growing marijuana could yield some additional tax funding for the county, it could also severely damage the largest industry in the county," Cortese said. "Weeds can negatively impact sale of hay to foreign buyers, and more critically, if buyers found any marijuana plants grown in a timothy field, all buyers could ban buying timothy hay for years to come."

Reuse potential of the facilities

Steve Verhey, who is running against commissioner Obie O'Brien in the upcoming election, said if there were objections to the proposed location of the

marijuana facilities by local authorities, they could be relocated without refileing an application.

"It seems to me that the place for an operation like that would be in land that is already zoned light-industrial," Verhey said. "For a variety of reasons, if and when the [marijuana] operation ends, the building, if constructed on light-industrial land, will remain and become a county asset and can be used by other businesses."

Slow down

Ralph Kratz, who lives near Carroll road, said that he has concerns about the location, the property value impact and safety regarding the marijuana facilities.

He also said the commissioners should repeal the ordinance and place a moratorium on the production to allow time to study the issue in greater depth.

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Concert-goers face high-risk situations

BY **MARISSA TOUSSAINT**
 Staff Reporter

Many students at Central are unaware of the risks involved in heavily attended music festivals.

Matt Christiansen, a Central law and justice and communication graduate, who also is Crowd Management Systems (CMS) head of marketing & client relations, talks about the dangers involved with substance abuse at the Gorge.

“Sasquatch is usually one of our biggest events because of the variety of substance abuse we see, with 27,000 attendees,” Christiansen said. “In most cases, though, it is ‘responsible use’ at this show, if there ever were such a thing.”

There are over 250 currently enrolled students employed by CMS, most of them Central athletes. They have to be mentally and physically strong, which according to Christiansen is why they hire so many athletes.

Brooks Abel, senior public relations major, works for CMS as Sr. Supervisor; he oversees all staff members and events within the venue. Last year at Paradiso, Abel saw a young woman come close to losing her life.

Not only is Sasquatch an issue for CMS and the attendees, but Paradiso has also become a huge event. With a massive amount of molly and ecstasy consumed during the weekend of Paradiso, many CMS employees have to be quick in times of dire need.

“We had a group of people come up and say their friend hadn’t moved for a while,” Abel said. “I went over to her, checked on her and she had no vital signs at all. I couldn’t feel her breath, no rise and fall of her chest, no heart beat, no really anything—she was just limp. I picked her up and ran her across the Gorge and took her to the medical tent.”

One serious danger in taking these substances, Christiansen said, is that users generally have no way of knowing exactly what they are taking.

“The EDM crowd has a stigma for taking hallucinogens, ecstasy or the crowd favorite here, molly,” Christiansen said. “Unfortunately, and I may catch some

heat for saying this, the majority of the crowd is younger, inexperienced, and immature with how to attend this show. Last year alone we had over 100 drug overdoses, and as sad as it is to say, a death as well.”

Wayne Harris, Chelan County coroner said in an article by the Spokesman Review, the death of a 21-year-old at Paradiso last year was due to dehydration, heat exhaustion and methamphetamine intoxication.

The dangers of overdosing on unknown substances can be compounded by other factors at summer festivals, such as heat and lack of hydration, Christiansen said. This is what he believes made the disaster at Paradiso last June.

The Wellness Center hopes to start working on more of an educational program for Central on issues about attending festivals at the Gorge.

“Don’t get [drugs] from people at the venue that you don’t know, because that’s generally when people have complications,” Abel said.

Doug Fulp, health educator with the Wellness Center, would like to start connecting more with students and CMS staff to better control the drug and alcohol issues while attending concerts.

“We are always looking at different avenues to do preventative programs,” Fulp said. “We haven’t targeted concerts in the past, but that’s definitely an area I can look into.”

Fulp is a new health educator at the Wellness Center, hired this past October. He is happy to hear new ideas about preventative substance abuse and which areas should be targeted, such as summer concerts. Fulp talked about possibly coordinating with CMS, given how many students are currently employed at the Gorge.

“As a Central student, first and foremost, I believe that the university needs to remind students that there is the Wellness Center, and the services they provide,” Christiansen said. “Something as simple as a Facebook post or mass email can reach so many and be the difference in educating those that don’t know the preventative measures to protect themselves.”



ADAM WILSON/OBSERVER

ON THE EDGE Paramedics treat a patient on Sunday at Sasquatch 2014 (above). Brooks Abel catches Matthew Schultz, Cage the Elephant (below).



COURTESY OF MATTHEW LAMB BROOKS

Central students prepare gender workshop for future educators

BY **KELSIE MILLER**
 Staff Reporter

Two Central students will teach an education workshop on being an ally to transgender students this Monday.

The workshop, which will be presented to students in Central’s education department, aims to give future educators the tools to help their students navigate transgender issues.

Jeffrey Coté, a senior film and video studies major, and Kasey Eickmeyer, a senior sociology major, have been researching, writing and creating this workshop. Both students have a minor in women’s and gender studies.

They have had guidance and direction from a committee of faculty, but the workshop has mainly been their project.

Cindy Coe, chair of the women’s and gender studies program, initiated the project and asked for student participation.

Other faculty that have been involved include Pam McMullin Messier from the sociology department, Kimberly McBride from the public health department, and Robyn Brammer from the psychology department.

Recently, the Ellensburg school district implemented a policy called Procedure 3211P, which deals with gender pronouns, locker-room and restroom accessibility, dress codes, harassment and more. Coe invited students to create a training based off of the new policy, and both Coté and Eickmeyer were interested.

“It was an opportunity to take everything I have been studying, talking about, yelling about and researching for two years, and put it into action to actually try to help young people,” Eickmeyer said. “We didn’t want to see the policy die. We wanted to elevate it, make it known, and do something with it.”

Coté and Eickmeyer had different experiences with gender and brought different experiences to the project. Coté said that he comes from a queer perspective, but cannot speak for transgender or gender queer perspectives. Eickmeyer identifies as an ally to the LGBT community.

“None of this is personal to me. I’m an ally to the community; I’m not part of the community myself,” said Eickmeyer. “For me, it’s all about listening, reading and taking what they say is important and voicing that on behalf of them.”

Coté and Eickmeyer are both graduating this spring, but the workshop and knowledge will be passed on to other students to train future educators at Central, as well as teachers, staff and students in the Ellensburg school district.

“The whole aim of what we are doing is to hopefully give educators the tools needed to provide safe spaces for their students and help them navigate their life and feel comfortable, loved and accepted,” Eickmeyer said.

Coté said that this workshop is a step to try and combat some of these issues and make the education system more accepting. The workshop includes information regarding privilege, gender identity, gender expression, attraction, microaggressions and more interactive scenarios, as

well as question and answer time.

“With the way our society is structured, it’s going to be difficult no matter what. But if we can educate people to try and at least be aware of these issues, then instances of things like micro aggression might decrease,” Coté said. “At the very least, if a teacher witnesses something, if a student is or harassing or intimidating another student, they’ll be able to recognize it and put a stop to it.”

Coe said one fear educators face is that they might make mistakes in their attempts to reach out to transgender students.

She said that this is a misplaced fear, and making an attempt creates a safe space and that being an ally is about trying.

Coté said the training would help future teachers to support students going through difficult times or questioning their identity. This is especially important because of the higher rates of depression in transgender and gender queer people, as well as the higher likelihood of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

“A lot of people don’t know what it is when they’re seeing it. If we’re able to educate people and teach them these things and tell them about what gender identity is, about what this experience may look like, then it may make all the world of difference to these kids,” Coté said.

“It was an opportunity to take everything I have been studying, talking about, yelling about and researching for two years, and put it into action to actually try to help young people.”

-Kasey Eickmeyer
 Senior, sociology major

CWU invests in Student Success

BY RILEY ELLIOTT
Staff Reporter

Recently, the department of Student Success has been granted \$535,000 for upper division advising in academic colleges and \$265,000 to enhance year long orientation programs.

Despite budget cuts all around campus, the decision made from the president's office has left the three departments of Student Success pleasantly surprised. Sarah Swager, dean of Student Success, believes it just became evident in the last two years that their department could do a better job helping students succeed, if the university invested differently.

"It is an extraordinary commitment on the university's part; however, I was thrilled to hear the university was putting such importance in these two areas that I think are critical for Student Success," Swager said.

The \$535,000 will go directly toward hiring eight additional advisers and one administrative assistant to support the new upper-division advising programs.

"The advising piece will significantly improve upperclassmen's experiences and students will now have advisers that are specially trained in their field of interest," Swager said. "We are hoping to hire specialized professionals that can help put students on their ideal course, regardless of what circumstance they may find themselves in."

The university can expect to see the new advisers integrated into colleges by fall 2014. Jesse Nelson, associate dean of student achievement, recognizes that students need clear points of contact for each school to go to for their questions.

"Unfortunately, we have a lot of students who are going through the system and not getting the advising they need, and by their senior years they are getting informed that they won't graduate," Nelson said.

This new system is designed to help students avoid this and graduate on time, with more directly targeted advice.

"With this new system, we are hoping to hear that there is less confusion on general education requirements, degree requirements, and that students have access to more information to understand the kind of majors they might be interested in and the process of declaring it," Nelson said.

The department of Student Success understands the inconsistent advising issue and is looking towards meeting the needs

of students more seriously.

"As a transfer student, I didn't even know nursing school was a possibility up until my last winter quarter, and by that time I missed the deadline to apply," a Central student who wished to remain anonymous said. "It would've been really

nice to have had someone tell me I had the pre-recs for it and to inform me about my upper education options."

The project is looking to replicate the music, business, and education colleges at Central all around campus.

"With this high-touch advising system, we have seen dramatic changes in how students are able to access support and advising," Nelson said. "As we

work with academic departments, faculty and career services, we are really excited to create a team of support for students in every major."

The new system is predicted to free up some faculty members' time from having to do degree audits and fine print duties.

"We want faculty to do more mentoring and teaching because this is where the

great relationships are formed, and meanwhile allow the new advisers to work on direct student course work," Nelson said.

Richard DeShields, associate dean of student living, believes students who attend some kind of orientation program come out feeling more educated and confident about attending Central.

One of the primary ways which the University works with students to handle theft, DeShields said, is to work with them to raise awareness. He said this includes things such as teaching students to not leaving purses or wallets unattended. DeShields said. "In order to meet these needs, our department has to increase our accessibility to services and programs."

Not only are the funds filling a new orientation position, but the department is also looking to invest more money into a program called "MAP WORKS." The up and coming program allows students to take surveys throughout their first and second year at Central.

The survey will provide a diagnostic of jobs, financial information and services that may apply to the students' needs.

The department of Student Success has the ultimate goal of the retention of students and to help them get through graduation in a timely manner.

"We never want students to leave Central because they did not know about resources on campus, or someone did not reach out a hand to help them," DeShields said.

“ We are hoping to hire specialized professionals that can help put students on their ideal course, regardless of what circumstance they may find themselves in. ”

-Sarah Swager
Dean of Student Success


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Crimes of opportunity at Central

BY R. TROY PETERSON
Staff Reporter

The end of an academic year means theft occurrences may increase, according to university authorities.

Richard DeShields has held the office of associate dean of student living for three years. DeShields said in addition to being the chief housing officer, he is the university's chief conduct officer and oversees the office of student rights and responsibilities.

One of the primary responses to theft in residence halls has been to work more closely with students. DeShields also said while there have been no noticeable trends, theft incidents this quarter have not increased.

"This year, our numbers are down as far as any theft," DeShields said.

Most incidents of theft, DeShields says, are crimes of opportunity, which generally occur at the end of the quarter.

"We do have common trends that we deal with each year," DeShields said. "As it gets closer to finals week, we do get more reports."

Jason Berthon-Koch, a Central police captain with 15 years of experience on campus, agreed that most thefts on campus are crimes of opportunity.

These reports include theft of books and backpacks while left unattended, according to DeShields. He also said that toward the end of the year, the campus is

likely to experience more vehicle prowls than it would otherwise.

One of the primary ways the university works with students to handle theft is to work with them to raise awareness.

"We don't know if it's students," DeShields said. "At the end of an academic quarter, when students are leaving, it could become prime time for any type of theft."

Berthon-Koch said that theft on campus can be simplified into the victimization triangle.

"We have the assailant, and we have the victim, and we have the opportunity," Berthon-Koch said. "The only thing that we can get across to students, to not become a victim, is to remove that foundation of opportunity."

According to Berthon-Koch, thefts on campus not only include thefts from residence halls, such as laptops and books, but also bikes and thefts out of vehicles.

In the majority of cases, the reason theft occurred because deterrent devices such as locks weren't used. Berthon-Koch said when items such as books are left alone at the end of the quarter, it presents an opportunity to individuals.

"What happens? Somebody sees that book there," Berthon-Koch said, "they go and they grab the book, and off they go. And they go off to someplace where they can sell it back, and get the money back for a book that they didn't buy."

DeShields said they advise students to continue to remember that, even though they know people in their residence halls to lock their doors.

Another important way to prevent theft is to make sure students don't let people trail into locked buildings behind them.

"We would definitely encourage any student to file a police report," DeShields said. "If they don't know how to do that, and they live on campus, for example, we would definitely refer them to their RA."

Berthon-Koch stressed the need for individual possessions to be identifiable as belonging to a specific student.

"On bicycles, or any valuables that the students have, they need to make sure that they either mark it with some sort of identifying numbers," Berthon-Koch said.

He also recommended that students take pictures of their personal belongings,

as well as pictures of the item's serial number and identifying marks. He said that such records should be kept in a safe place, separate from the valuables themselves.

Such records give the police a place to start in an investigation or trace. For example, he said that in instances of bike theft, Central police can enter the bike's serial number into a national database.

DeShields said students could also visit the Dean of Students' office or use the MyCWU website to report theft. If a student feels that a theft or damage to personal property was the result of university negligence, they could contact the office of business contracts and risk management.

DeShields also said break-ins aren't commonly reported on campus, and that the university also receives police reports from the Ellensburg Police, as well as Central Police.

According to the department of housing's records, there were 48 reports of theft and damages for last quarter and 70 such reports for the fall quarter.

Central police have recorded 384 theft reports in the past year. Berthon-Koch said that reports of theft on campus remain relatively constant, with no major spikes or depressions in the rate of reports.

Berthon-Koch said that Central police urge students to be cautious when they see somebody stealing property.

"We don't want the student to confront that person," Berthon-Koch said, "we want them to call us. And that would be 911."

“On bicycles, or any valuables that the students have, they need to make sure that they ... mark it with some sort of identifying numbers.”
-Jason Berthon-Koch
Captain, Central police

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Masculism, misogyny & murders

BY PATIENCE COLLIER
News Editor

Mass killings are not committed merely by isolated individuals, they are committed, by and large, by men with agendas. This clearly shows a larger trend in our society: the entitlement complex of white men.



Most recently, a man with an anti-woman agenda took out his anger at being denied sex by attacking random public figures before killing himself.

The killer at Santa Barbara had never been diagnosed with a mental illness, but he had spent time on Men's Rights Activist (MRA) forums, communities dedicated to attacking women and feminism.

Although the killer's main focus was hatred of women, fueled by communities that validated his hatred and perpetuated the idea that he was, as a nice guy, entitled to sex from the women around him, race also played a part in this shooting.

The killer described in great detail his obsession with white women, feeling invalidated as a man because they did not approach him.

This is an ongoing problem. Our society sees women as commodities, and men as actors, entitled to women's bodies and affection.

It's obvious in 'edgy' comedian routines and cartoons, in t-shirts, in memes, in the common trope of rating women's bodies on a 1-10 scale.

Throughout American history, the objectification of women and the entitlement of men have always been tied to racism.

From the early settlement period, in which white men were seen as civilizing – and dominating – the American continent and the people who inhabited it, to the popular boys' stories of the 1850s, which asserted white men as heroes, and minorities and women as targets of violence and objects of sexualization.

The theme of men as the rightful inhabitants of land, jobs, the public sphere, and women as the property of their men, improper interlopers in the public sphere at best, has grown into a strong undercurrent in the past ten years.

Likewise, despite the trend of talking about America as a "post-racial" society, violent rhetoric towards minorities, and the justification of police violence against minorities, has continued to be a widespread problem.

But let's be honest: if we're going to profile mass-killers, it's not introverts or mentally ill people, not Muslims, not minorities, who would emerge. The most frequent mass murderers are young white men, specifically young white men with a grudge against society.

That's not what goes into the media coverage, though; no matter how many young white men form communities online to say women who says no to a man should be shot, they remain "disturbed loners."

Women bloggers are used to death threats and rape threats from these angry "activist" men; some sites and subreddits have made a habit of digging up and

publishing the identities and addresses of feminist writers for the express purpose of enabling harassment against them.

These men will often deny up and down that they are misogynists... they just think women are inherently inferior, and need men to protect and keep them in line. Similarly, they deny being racists, but continually post tirades about women who date black or Hispanic men.

We only talk about mental illness when a white man picks up a gun and goes to a public place. We don't talk about minority killers as disturbed individuals, but terrorists or thugs.

When this is pointed out, the backlash is immediate and angry. Many men feel personally accused, and feel the need to point out that they, personally, have never shot up a public place.

Even men who don't get violently angry are very reluctant to admit that there could be any correlation between demographics – their demographics – and mass murders, clinging to "not all men" rhetoric, frequently claiming anti-white or anti-male rhetoric.

The wide availability of guns without background checks is certainly a problem, and it is certainly true that America's mental health network allows many individuals to fall through the cracks.

But the problem of mass shootings is another issue, as well. This is the problem of angry, entitled white men who have been told their whole lives they deserve women's bodies, and a modern crisis of masculinity, as the entitlement complex lashes out against minorities and women who have dared to speak out for equality.

Bird vs. Bron

BY JARYD CLINE
Sports Editor

Monday night after Miami's 102-90 win over Indiana, superstar LeBron James finally surpassed NBA legend Michael Jordan in something James moved ahead of Jordan and everyone else by recording game No. 74 with at least 25 points, five boards and five assists in the playoffs.



After waking up Tuesday morning and checking the world of sports, the talk was all about LeBron, as usual. Although this time the comparisons were between James and Larry Legend, the two best small forwards ever.

Why the comparison to Larry Bird all of the sudden? During ESPN's Game 4 broadcast, former NBA head coach Mark Jackson said just about what every NBA fan was thinking that has never seen Bird play, "He's the greatest small forward to ever play this game."

LeBron will eventually be the best, but to give LeBron the honor right now without any question, discussion or debate involving Bird? Asinine.

Skip Bayless, one of the most outspoken personalities in sports, went to Twitter Tuesday morning to share his always bold thoughts.

"Larry Bird remains better than LeBron at small forward. Much better shooter. Better rebounder, Equal passer. Underrated D (31st steals)."

Wait, Larry Bird a better shooter, rebounder and passer than LeBron James, the best player ever? Wasn't Bird a white boy who couldn't run or jump and could only shoot three-pointers?

True and False. Bird couldn't run or jump as well as the majority of the league, but he made up for it with his leadership, amazingly high basketball IQ and competitive nature.

Magic Johnson, arguably the greatest point guard to play, once said "Of all the people I play against, the only one I truly fear is Larry Bird."

Magic did play in one of the most competitive decades in the history of the league and did match up with Michael Jordan quite a bit.

Looking at the stats, it's easy to assume LeBron is the best small forward to play, averaging roughly three more points-per-game than Bird, with similar assist numbers. Where Bird separates himself from Bron is his work on the low block and in the post. Bird grabbed 10 boards-a-game during his career and was super efficient on the low block, hitting fadeaway jumpers and throwing no-look dimes on the regular.

Don't get me wrong, LeBron is the best right now, but he shouldn't be crowned the best small forward until he at least passes Bird in championships.

Lastly, Michael Cooper, who won the 1987 Defensive Player of the Year award and was on eight-straight All-Defensive teams, battled Bird many times back in the day.

"People said he was overrated ... f---, no," said Cooper. "If anything, he was underrated. What made him so good was you didn't just have to worry about his scoring. You had to worry about this guy's defense, his passing, his ability to save balls from going out of bounds, his ability to set picks and get people open ... Most players are one- or two-dimensional. Larry was ten-dimensional."

The mass shooting psychosis

BY R. TROY PETERSON
Staff Reporter

In the aftermath of yet another mind-numbing tragedy, we find ourselves once more in the midst of debate over how this could have prevented.

'We need to restrict access to guns,' one group says. 'No, we need to improve our mental healthcare system,' retorts another. And this time, there is a third argument: 'we need to put an end to our misogynistic culture.'

I contend that it would appear that misogyny's main role in the killings was only a minor character in the larger cast of delusion, psychosis, and misanthropy. This argument seems to stem from the manifesto of the shooter.

In it, he blames women for their lack of interest in him, saying that he will punish them and deliver justice on what he termed the "Day of Retribution." In a darkly detailed yet mediocre epic, the shooter obsesses over his lack of sexual relations with women.

He also blames sexuality for almost all of humanity's – and the earth's – problems. He wrote, "I didn't want things to turn out this way, but humanity forced



my hand."

These don't read like the words of a misogynist; some of his passages read like something from a self-deluded, self-appointed holy man.

WebMD describes paranoid delusions, simply called delusional disorder, "a type of serious mental illness involving psychosis. Psychosis is the inability to tell what is real from what is imagined."

The delusions are unshakable, yet ultimately untrue and/or exaggerated, beliefs – in this case, that no women would ever date the shooter, and that sexuality was the cause of all of mankind's problems.

In an issue of *Skeptic Magazine*, Michael Shermer highlights the three most common traits of mass murderers: (1) psychopathy/mental illness; (2) a sense of victimization/an ideological cause; (3) a desire for fame or glory. At least two of these are very present in the shooter's self-aggrandizing ramblings.

In April, the killer's mother tried to intervene by contacting his counselors after seeing some disturbing videos on YouTube.

His counselors contacted the police, and the police investigated, but saw only a well-mannered young man. They had no knowledge of the material with which the mother and counselors were concerned about.

The killer writes: "I had been rejected,

insulted, humiliated, cast out, bullied, starved, tortured, and ridiculed for far too long." He called women's rejection of him an act of war, and saying "if it's war they want, then war they shall have." The deranged author says it will be a war that would result in their utter annihilation. Not only that, but he claimed he would "be a god, punishing women and all of humanity for their depravity." The author called his vision the "ultimate and perfect ideology" for what he called "my perfect world."

Much like other mass killers before him, his actions were not predatory or malignant, they were reactionary. He claims he didn't cause this; we did, by not dating him or by dating the women who wouldn't date him.

The killer's worldview is clearly paranoid, and had forced himself into a false dilemma – either die violently and exact revenge, or become a young multimillionaire and have women fall in love with him.

But I can understand the need to blame something, anything – from video games to misogyny to easy gun access to mental health. After all, as Shermer points out, such events are random, what he describes as "high profile, improbable, rare and unpredictable."

In short, misogyny was merely a minor variable, lost within the swirling madness of misanthropic delusion.



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

MAJOR SCALE Singh dedicates much of class time to helping singers grow artistically. Singh conducts University Chorale, which consists of over 100 singers every quarter.

“Songs of Singh” pays tribute to Central music professor

BY ADAM WILSON
 Scene Editor

AND HOUSTON CARR
 Staff Reporter

Central music professor Vijay Singh didn't begin singing until his senior year of high school, and never received composition training at all. This Friday, Central will be dedicating an entire night to the choral compositions that he has written in the last 26 years.

Central will be bringing together all of its classically trained choirs, as well as two Washington state high school choirs, for the 90-minute concert, which will range from sacred to humorous pieces.

“There's gonna be a lot of variety,” Singh said. “I hope people appreciate that.”

The 26-song lineup will be entirely made up of songs composed by Singh - a concept he wasn't initially fond of.

“I wouldn't feed [my students] one composer unless it was for a specific event,” Singh said. “They have to experience a whole bunch of things.”

The event was pitched to Singh by Gary Weidenaar, director of choral studies. Weidenaar hopes to bolster the popularity of Singh's music with the concert.

“When I [began teaching] here I realized that his music is sort of well known but only by some people,” Weidenaar said. “So I decided to create an event to help him out.”

The setlist includes works Singh has written over the last 26 years. The oldest

piece, “From Dust to Dawn,” was written when he was 22 years old.

“I look at [the setlist] and feel old,” Singh said.

The concert will have 256 singers, six choirs and eight conductors. Walla Walla High School and Union High School will be joining Central's choirs for several of the songs.

“There are times where, I must admit, that part of me would love to do more composition and less teaching ... Teaching is a hard gig. It takes a lot of my time.”

-Vijay Singh
 Professor of Voice

According to Weidenaar, the large number of singers will keep the audience on their toes, with the variety of songs being played and with the constant switching of singers. For the final song, all of the singers will come out and perform Singh's “Carpenters of God.”

“It's going to raise the roof,” Weidenaar said.

Weidenaar isn't the only one who is happy to support Singh's future career. Kramer Rapp, senior choral music education major and chamber choir member, has been in Singh's classes since Rapp came to Central. According to Rapp, this is the first concert during his four years that he has taken part in that the music was solely by one composer, which makes it really unique in his eyes.

“He's a really passionate guy. His passion is contagious,” Rapp said. “I look up to him.”

Sarah Hemenway, senior vocal performance major and chamber choir member, also finds Singh inspiring.

“I like his intensity and his passion that he shows in all of his music,” Hemenway said. “Even if it's not his own music that he's written, any kind of piece that he's conducting or a part of, he has this intensity and this drive to make the piece better.”

Hemenway enjoys personally knowing the composer who wrote the music she is performing. Hemenway spent her first year at Central in University Chorale.

“It's different when you actually work with [Singh] and he's there to give you his views on stuff,” Hemenway said. “It makes the music easier to sing and more personal to you.”

Hemenway immediately fell in love with Singh's piece “From Deep Depths of War,” when she first heard it four years ago at one of Central's choir festivals. She describes the song as intense, and is grateful she has the opportunity to perform it on Friday.

“It was one of those pieces that you listen to and it's just like ‘I have to sing that. I have to be a part of that someday,’” Hemenway said.

Singh grew up in Portland, Ore., and first began his musical training taking piano lessons in the second grade. By the time he got to high school, he was playing “just about anything I could get my hands on.”

“For some reason, instruments always came easy to me,” Singh said.

His first experience with singing came in his senior year of high school. He combined his choir and band experience to earn the maximum money from a music scholarship, which he used to attend Willamette University in Salem, Ore., to get his bachelor's in music education. Throughout this time he began to truly appreciate singing over playing instruments.

“As much as I miss playing, the vocal thing for me became very pure,” Singh said. “It's the first true instrument.”

Although he never received formal composition training, he felt that he had

Songs of Singh

When: Friday, May 30 @ 7 p.m.

Where: Music Building Concert Hall

Admission is free

to compose choral pieces during his time teaching high school. He inherited a bad library of “antiquated, cheesy” music, and knew that his students wouldn't enjoy them.

“I found out I could maximize my students' best attributes because I could custom write for their strengths,” Singh said.

These compositions led him to success at regional choir festivals, and many directors began asking for copies of his work.

He eventually pitched his work to CPP Belwin, a now-defunct publishing company, which published all three of the works he pitched. By his

mid-20s he was already receiving royalty checks.

After he received his master's in vocal performance from Portland State University, he spent 11 years freelance composing and doing other musician jobs. This led him to have many different mentors for his composition work.

“It was trial and experiment all the way through,” Singh said. “It's been a really odd, weird blessing and ride. I didn't intend to do that but I'm pretty pleased with the direction it's gone.”

“As much as I miss playing, the vocal thing for me became very pure ... It's the first true instrument.”

-Vijay Singh
 Professor of Voice

CWU Gets Happy

BY MARIA HARR
Staff Reporter

As finals near, stress levels rise; that's why the Students in Pursuit of Happiness Club (SIPOH) chose this time of year to put on Happiness Day.

Students in the club have made it their mission to spread happiness. They have planned a whole day of free activities to boost student happiness in a positive environment.

"I think once happiness is spread to one person, it's much easier to spread to others," BriAnne Pauley, junior psychology major and club senator, said.

Alongside Danielle Brandli, club president and junior business administration major, Pauley took the Douglas Honors College course "What is Happiness?" taught by Natalie Lupton. The class helped Pauley and Brandli see their future and careers in a whole new way.

After taking the class, Pauley joined the Peace Corp., and Brandli switched her major and changed her focus from a future career to being more in the moment. Brandli said what she learned from the class changed her overall demeanor.

Pauley said being happy affects one's positive perception of the person's surroundings, which leads to more confidence.

As a class project, Brandli and Pauley helped plan the first Happiness Day at Central last year, at which Brandli esti-

Happiness Day

When: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on May 29

Where: SURC 137 A&B, SURC Pit and North Lawn

mates they reached about 1,000 people. With its success, the two decided to start a club in order to make Happiness Day an annual event and to continue spreading happiness. Brandli thinks this year they will double the previous year's attendance.

The club was founded fall quarter and has already won Club of the Year.

"It's a good feeling to know other people support what we do," Brandli said.

Clubs like the American Sign Language Club, with poetry and song performances, and the Swim Club, with a water balloon toss, have joined forces with SIPOH to add extra activities to the event.

Both on-campus and off-campus organizations are helping out as well. Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) will be offering slacklining and Student Life is offering caricatures by artist Steve Hartley. In addition, Mercer Creek Church donated \$200 in flowers. Local businesses have given items to the club for a free raffle.

Club member Ashley Harris, fresh-

man business administration major who took the "What is Happiness?" class, wasn't sure about joining the club at first. On the first day of Spring quarter, her grandmother passed away. She heard the club needed help with social media and decided joining a club about being happy could benefit her.

Harris said it makes her happy just to be a part of the club. Junior clinical psychology major Sydney Williams seconds that, saying the club events do make her happier. During Valentine's Day, Williams handed out Valentines and said the happy reactions people gave made her feel happy too. Williams said the club has pushed her to meet new people, help others and care more.

Brandli almost came to tears upon hearing the good impact the club has had on its members, and both she and Pauley are happier for it.

In the class, Brandli felt that some students participated in Happiness Day because they had to, not because they wanted to. Some students,

according to Brandli, only put in 10 percent of the work for the 10 percent of their grade it represented.

With the club, Brandli and Pauley are glad to have gathered students who do it because they enjoy bringing joy to others.

While at her bracelet-making booth at last year's Happiness Day, a woman sat down for an hour with Pauley and told her they had helped her feel happier.

The goal of the club and event are simple: to make people happy.

According to Brandli, getting people to think about what happiness is to them and being aware of what makes them happy is the first step to being happier.

"Shit happens," Brandli said, "but remember to stay positive about it."



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Central alumna cooks up cake shop

BY MEGAN SCHMITT
Staff Reporter

Last Friday, Central alumna Molly Allen opened a bakery in downtown Ellensburg. Cake FYI features cupcakes, cakes, cookies, bagels, coffee and Allen's favorite baked goods: pretzels.

"Cake FYI can also be a destination spot to hold events such as birthday parties and other gatherings where you can decorate your own cupcake," Allen said.

Allen said Cake FYI is a "made to order" bakery. Customers can order cupcakes and cakes however they like them. She said she likes to try out different things with her cakes. She usually starts with a base, and then pairs different flavors and toppings together. Allen doesn't name her cupcakes because she is constantly changing them.

Allen wants people to know that Cake FYI isn't just a cupcake shop. Everyday, fresh, soft pretzels are available in a variety of flavors. She has salted, cinnamon, garlic Parmesan and a pizza flavored kind. There will also be many different kind of bagels.

The shop opened May 23, at 7 a.m., followed by a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce, at 12:15 p.m. All customers who stopped by the shop that day received coupons to use on his or her next visit.

"I heard about Cake FYI on Facebook and wanted to come check it out. There were so many choices of baked goods to



COURTNEY LEWIS/OBSERVER

FOR YOUR ICING Molly Allen has a wide variety of pastries and desserts at her shop, located on 4th avenue.

choose from," Jen Geyer, a customer at Cake FYI, said.

May 24 was Cake FYI's grand opening. Attendees from around the community enjoyed live jazz music from 6:30-9 p.m. by the Moses Lake band Swingshift. Specials throughout the day featured half-off items each hour and a coloring contest for kids.

"It's a good spot for people in Ellensburg to come," Kevin Hansen, longtime friend of Allen, said. "There will also be

internet and board games for customers to enjoy."

Allen graduated from Central in December 2012, fell in love with the town and knew she wanted to stay. She graduated with a degree in English, a minor in linguistics, and a certificate in professional writing.

"I knew I wanted to bring a bakery to Ellensburg," Allen said.

During her time at Central, Allen said she knew there wasn't a sweet shop down-

town and always kept in mind that she should open one of her own.

Allen, originally from Tucson, Ariz., said if she hadn't moved to Ellensburg to go to school, she probably would have never had the opportunity to open her own shop.

"I started baking when I was about 10-years-old and grew up baking with my grandma," Allen said. "In high school, when my family would leave the house and I would be alone, I would try out different recipes and have something baked for when they got back home."

Allen said her mom would critique her and give her tips on what she did well and what she could improve for next time.

In 2011, Allen won a National Recipe Development contest called "So you want to be a Cake Spy?" which was put on by a well-known baking blogger Jessie Oleson. Allen beat out 500 other submissions.

Oleson's blog inspired Allen to start her own blog, CakeFYI.com. Her blog was the catalyst to open her own bakery.

The blog was a major hit, and she was able to sell her goods through special requests before the store opened.

"My most popular baked good is my banana caramel cupcake. I could barely get pictures of them because they would get eaten so fast," Allen said.

She also worked as a managing editor for two online magazines, Boys Club and Best Friends for Frosting, and worked as a cake decorator in Safeway's bakery.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Review: X-Men: Days of Future Past

BY CAMILLE BORODEY
Orientation Editor

In the future, the mutant and human race is being exterminated by sentinels, a monster race created to destroy mutants. Once frenemies, Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Ian McKellan) are forced to team up with the remaining X-Men to find a way to save themselves before their entire race is wiped out.



With help from the powers of Kitty Pryde (Ellen Page), the X-Men send Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) back to 1973 to convince Charles Xavier to stop the shape-shifting Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) from being captured by Dr. Bolivar Trask (Peter Dinklage), for he uses her DNA to create the sentinels, which lead to the demise of the human and mutant race.

After being sent back to 1973, Wolverine finds Dr. X (James McAvoy) in a depressed state, and he is taking an anecdote created by Hank McCoy/Beast (Nicholas Hoult) that allows Dr. X to walk and blocks his brain from reading people's thoughts.. Wolverine has to convince Dr.

X to get his shit together and team up with his old friend, Erik Lehnsherr aka Magneto (Michael Fassbender), who is being kept in prison on the grounds that he assassinated JFK.

Although Professor X and Magneto (Ian McKellan) are friends in the future, past Magneto is still out for vengeance. Fassbender's Magneto is a villain of few words, and he usually has a very stony facial expression, but all of his hatred and anger rest in his eyes, which makes him realistically menacing.

With such a big cast, some of the actors do feel underused. Lawrence and Jackman are two of the biggest stars right now, so it is understandable why they would get so much screen time. I actually have seen a lot of complaints online regarding Lawrence being miscast as Mystique because she is not seductive enough. Lawrence plays a younger, more layered Mystique, who is not only a stealthy mutant, but she is also a heartbroken person.

Like the other "X-Men" movies, this film often feels like the Wolverine show. We get it, Jackman is awesome and is a gruff man's man, and has abs that you can bake cookies on, but the other X-Men are awesome too.

For example, Kitty Pryde spends the entire film bent over Wolverine making exhausted faces. Storm (Halle Berry) is only used for her powers and Rogue (Anna Paquin) is only seen for a moment, and she does not even get any lines. Even



X-MENMOVIES.COM

Stewart and McKellan do not offer more than words of wisdom and guidance. Can we have a buddy comedy featuring these two in the future?

The actions scenes are fun to watch, but the sentinels are not really all that scary. The best visual part in the movie is the slow motion scene where Quicksilver, who has super speed, (Evan Peters) messes with the guards in order to help bust Magneto out of jail. Not only does Peter's have a blast in his smart role, but the scene reminds viewers that director Bryan Singer does not take the "X-Men" movies too seriously.

"X-Men" is not without any plot holes. How did Charles Xavier come back to life? Wasn't he dead at the end of X3? Also, in X3, Kitty Pryde has the ability to walk through walls, but since when does she know how to time travel too? X3 was the one of five "X-Men" films that Singer did not direct, so maybe he just chose to ignore those plot points.

The overall final battle felt slightly anti-climatic, but Singer is obviously saving some action for a third installment, so I was left wanting more. Plot holes aside, "X-Men: Days of Future Past" is a visual treat, and the best "X-Men" yet.

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PolyFest brings culture to Central

BY EMILY BONTRAGER
Staff Reporter

Students were invited to enjoy an evening of Polynesian culture last Thursday at Central's ninth annual PolyFest.

The Center for Diversity and Social Justice (CDSJ) put together the event for students to get an opportunity to see traditional Polynesian dances. The dances were performed by Central students, as well as individuals from Sunshine from Polynesia, a dance studio from Seattle.

Attendees were treated to a variety of dances, from traditional Polynesian and Tahitian dances to the hula.

The crowd of students and families filled most of the seats in the ballroom. They were constantly entertained not only by the dances but also the beauty of the costumes, beat of the drums and simple trivia questions.

Students began choreographing the dances in the fall, then finalized the routines at the end of winter quarter. By April, the performers had started perfecting the moves.

The dances were created based on traditional Polynesian beliefs that dancing is about life, culture and family.

Though it was her first time coordinating this event, CDSJ officer James Johnson was at a loss for words when trying to recall the best part of the night.

"It was really exciting seeing the stage come together," Johnson said. "It was like letting everyone know that we were here."

There was something for everyone as the program went on. The audience enjoyed the risky fire dancing and went crazy for the team of Central students and Haka dancers as they came on stage.

Sunshine from Polynesia brought a group of drummers with them to create the music for some of the dances.

"We want Central to be considered welcoming to Polynesian students," Johnson said.

Many of the dancers really enjoyed sharing their talent with the audience. This was Central student Sharlyn Santiago's third year dancing in this event.

"I love being on stage and the costumes," Santiago said.

Though Santiago will be graduating after this quarter, she hopes to find another group to dance with wherever she ends up.

The energy of the performers transferred to the crowd as they continuously were shouting at and cheering on the dancers.

The crowd was excited from the beginning, cheering on the performers, as well as the friends some saw performing. When some students got the opportunity to come on stage and learn a little dance, with the girls in the group Sunshine from Polynesia, the energy got higher.

The students went up and were entranced as they learned how to move their hips to the beat of the drums and hula for the rest of the audience to see.

As the program ended, the performers had most of the audience wrapped around



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

HAKKA DANCE The event's featured dancers celebrated many different cultures.

their finger. When they began to perform with fire batons, the crowd watched in amazement and fear as the man threw the baton and touched the fire with his feet.

After the performance was over, the crowd could see the unity and family like support among the dancers not only from Central but from Seattle, as well as they all gathered and congratulated each other on their performance.

The performers were extremely pleased with the level of their performance and the involvement of the audience throughout the night.

"The best part about these performances is the audience," Juanita Quiban, the event's MC, said. "Polynesian culture is about sharing and bringing stories and joy so getting to share that with others is why we do it."

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FOOTBALL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN MYRICK, THE DAILY RECORD

LEAD BLOCKER Mike Nelson, regarded as one of the best offensive linemen to come through Central, was on the Great Northwest Athletic Conference All-Conference First Team for four straight years.

Nelson tries out, passes on pro football

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Most kids playing football at a young age dreamed of playing in the National Football League. However, Mike Nelson didn't always have that dream.

Coming in as a wide-eyed freshman, Nelson said he developed in a big way as a person and as a player. At Central, he liked that he was given the opportunity to have a summer break and time to get away from everything, including football.

"Football didn't run my life," Nelson said. "I definitely had a busy schedule and made a lot of sacrifices, but not at the level of a bigger program."

Nelson joins many other Wildcats that have had an opportunity to play football at the next level, like Jon Kitna and most recently Adam Bighill, who plays with the BC Lions in the Canadian Football League.

It had not occurred to Nelson that one day he could be among the ranks of the NFL, although he turned in an impressive

resume while at Central.

"I thought about it, but I wasn't banking on it or thinking about it all the time necessarily," Nelson said.

Nelson got a call from his agent on Sunday, May 11. He was told that the Raiders had offered him a tryout opportunity at their rookie camp.

"This is what I had been working for, for the past five months ever since the season was over," Nelson said. "I'm not working to play for Central football, I was working for an opportunity to step on the field and see what professional football was all about."

The process of getting a tryout was busy for Nelson, having to compete in two pro days within a week of each other. Nelson worked out at Eastern Washington University as well as Central, but did not run a 40-yard dash at the first one because he was nursing a pulled hamstring that he had suffered four weeks prior.

"I'm really glad to have worked my butt off," Nelson said.

Nelson was excited to get the oppor-

tunity to go down and try out. However, he came to the conclusion that the professional football lifestyle wasn't for him.

"My time down there kind of opened my eyes a little bit and provided some closure," Nelson said. "I wasn't into it as I thought I would be and I kind of think that I'm not in love with it enough or passionate about it enough to continue playing at that level."

Entering this past season, Nelson was considered one of the premier professional prospects at the Division II level. During his time as a Wildcat he played four consecutive seasons after redshirting in 2009. He started all 43 games during his tenure at right tackle where he was a force for the Wildcats.

Nelson was a part of two Central teams that won the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Nelson cherished that experience as some of his favorite moments at Central.

"I'm thankful for my time at Central," Nelson said. "In hindsight it's been such an awesome experience. It's done a lot for

me throughout all aspects of my life and bettered me for real life situations."

He also made the GNAC first-team every year he played. Before the 2013 season, Nelson was voted a preseason first team All-American by both D2football.com and the Collegiate Development Football League. Nelson is also among four players in GNAC history to be a first team all GNAC member for four consecutive years.

Growing up, Nelson played a variety of sports including basketball and soccer until the seventh grade, when he started playing football. Nelson credits his older sister's friends who took him under their wing and mentored him.

"They showed me what the weight room was like, showed me how to lift and take pride in what you do," Nelson said. "I was thankful to have those guys to show me what it was about."

Nelson graduated from Mount Si High School in 2009 and more recently earned his degree in Construction Management.

Athletic facilities open to public

BY DILLON PETERSON
Staff Reporter

If you are tired of the same facilities that the Student Union building has to offer on campus, go check out the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center (ERRC) off Vantage Highway.

This club has a lot to offer and is free to anyone with a Central I.D. card. There is plenty offered in the full indoor arena which includes a soccer field, two tennis courts, a batting cage, three racquet courts and a small gym.

The soccer field is a synthetic heated-turf field while the fitness room has both Nautilus and free weights. Hockey is another sport that can be played at the

ERRC.

After working out, members can freshen up since the facility has both men and women locker rooms are furnished with showers.

"Any girls can come out and play, and there's a guy's club team that guys can try out for," Samantha Zyskowski, President of women's soccer club said.

Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center is open to everyone and anyone with rental options too. With rates per hour, you can rent the entire building for \$90.00, tennis courts for \$23.00, racquetball courts for \$23.00 and soccer fields for \$45.00. Or, if you're short on cash, you can just come in and enjoy playing with new people.

If you are interested in reserving the court it is best to call in advance to make sure there's an opening. Summer hours begin June 1. The ERRC is open Monday thru Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The facility is closed Monday - Thursday noon - 1:30, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The ERRC is also closed on the holidays of Independence Day and Labor Day.

The reason most students have not heard of ERRC is because of advertising, and most don't want to make the drive unless it's for indoor intramural soccer game.

The Racket Club also hosts Ladies Night on Tuesday nights and Family Night every Friday through May.

Baseball players can come enjoy the

batting cages during the winter to stay on top of their game.

"It is a really pretty awesome and lot of students don't utilize it," Zyskowski said.

From batting cages to indoor soccer fields, the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center has all kinds of fun activities to participate in.

Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Club
6061 Vantage Highway
(509) 925 8636

TRACK AND FIELD

Three athletes make trip to nationals

BY DILLON SAND
Staff Reporter

Taylor Fettig, Connie Morgan and Dani Eggleston all represented Central in Allendale, Mich. at the NCAA Division II Track and Field National Championships over the weekend, held at Grand Valley State University.

Fettig went into nationals looking to become a two time All-American and succeeded when she placed sixth in the high jump. She cleared 1.65 meters (5 feet, 5 inches) in two attempts and then cleared 1.70 meters (5 feet, 7 inches) in one attempt to place her alone in sixth.

Fettig was unable to clear 1.73 meters on her next jump, something she has done multiple times during other meets.

"I think that Taylor is content overall with another All-American finish, but she is hungry for next year already and being ready to jump her best at the national meet," head coach Kevin Adkisson said.

Fettig, still only a junior, will look to become a three-time All-American and set a personal record next season at Nationals.

"The top two girls (who both jumped over 6 feet) are graduating, and it may really open up the door for Taylor to vie for a national title," Adkisson said.

Connie Morgan and Dani Eggleston competed in day one of Nationals but unfortunately both saw their seasons come to an end.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE TERWILLIGER, USTFCCCA

SETTING THE PACE Senior Connie Morgan and freshman Hannah Dowdell keep pace with two MSU-Billings runners in the 5,000-meter race in the GNAC championships.

Morgan, who was battling a stomach flu in the days leading up to nationals, placed ninth with a time of 4:43.72 in her opening heat of the 1,500-meter run, a race in which only the top four qualify.

"Connie was in the pack through 800 meters, but could not find the energy to go with the lead pack as it made a move with about 500-600m left in the race," Adkisson said.

After coming into the Championships ranked No. 19, Morgan, a senior, would have to have run a nearly perfect race to qualify for the final.

Eggleston also ran into a bit of trouble in the steeplechase prelims and finished in eighth place with a time of 11:11.88 (21 seconds slower than her previous time at the GNAC Championships).

It was Eggleston's first time at Nationals and first time running in a dense, crowded pack of athletes, which coach Adkisson said gave her a little trouble.

"She had only run three previous steeplechase races, and none of them were in a crowded, pack situation, so she was not really prepared for how that effects being able to see and adjust to the barriers," said Adkisson.

Although Eggleston ran into some trouble, she's only a sophomore and has the potential for a great career.

"It is great when you can get talented young athletes to nationals early in their career so they can experience what it is all about and get acclimated to the level of competition and sometimes intimidation that it can bring," Adkisson said on the potential for Eggleston.

With seniors like Morgan setting the standard, and young athletes like Fettig and Eggleston still with time in their career, the Wildcats will be a serious contender at Nationals in the coming years.



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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

UNIVERSITY RECREATION

Recently renovated courts finally open

BY CHANDLER ST. LOUIS
Staff Reporter

The recent remodeling of Central's tennis courts has players and community members ecstatic.

The tennis courts, located next to Wendell Hill Hall, underwent much needed renovations after years of wear and tear. The old surface was completely torn out and replaced with eight brand new courts.

Although the process took longer than expected, the wait was well worth it. Instead of having the 10 courts like before the renovation, eight courts allows for larger walkways and the possibility of bleachers. Lights were also installed for the courts, giving the opportunity for longer practicing and playing time. The courts also feature a red and maroon finish to represent Central's colors.

While the courts were under renovation, the Central Tennis Club practiced at the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreational Center. This was a setback for the tennis club because the Recreational Center only has two courts for use and is about a 10 minute drive from campus, which made it even more inconvenient for the players. The courts at the Racket Club allowed for play during the winter but players struggled because they were inside. The players had trouble practicing and adapting to indoor conditions.

"The new courts allow us to play in realistic conditions," junior Austin Cook



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

GAME, SET, MATCH The recently renovated tennis courts located just outside Wendell Hill Hall gives Central students a way to get outside and active this spring season.

said.

The progress of the tennis court renovation was disrupted due to winter conditions. The remodel required a temperature of at least 50 degrees for two weeks so the final layer could be completed. The courts were set to be finished last fall but winter set in early.

Last week, the Tennis Club hosted a doubles tournament that consisted of 49 teams. The teams were made up of stu-

dents, community members and alumni. The doubles tournament was a great way for people to take advantage of the new courts.

Next week, the club travels down to Oregon for another tournament. For most tournaments, the club takes two teams that consist of about 12 people per team. This gives club members many opportunities to compete.

As of last fall, there were 20 members

on Central's Tennis Club. There are currently 30 members that range from a variety of skill levels.

"With the opening of the new courts, the club hopes to bring in new members," Tennis Club president Molly Mayer said. "We accept all skill levels and are always looking for more people to join."

Anybody interested in the program can check out the Central Tennis Club Facebook page.



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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

EHS baseball enjoying historic season

BY SPENCER HANSEN
Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg High School baseball team is playing its best baseball at the right time of the season and it has fueled a historic year.

Two weekends ago, EHS wrapped up a regional berth by taking down league-rival Selah in the district title game for their first district championship in over 40 years. Last weekend, the Bulldogs continued their winning ways by hitting their way right into the final four of the 2A state tournament.

It started two weekends ago when Ellensburg needed 11 innings to best Selah. In the eighth, Selah threatened by loading the bases with two outs. Selah couldn't push across a run as Tyrel Panter worked back from a 3-0 count to strikeout Noah Minnick on a neck-high fastball.

"Feels good, we lost it our sophomore year, [to] get a little bit of vengeance on these guys is nice," senior catcher Cameron Campbell said.

In the top of the 11th, senior Junior Ledgard stroked a two-RBI double to put the Bulldogs ahead for good. Ledgard also pitched four innings in relief of starter Garrett Hull to pick up the win.

"I told them Saturday, that's a legacy no one has been able to claim for a long

time," head coach Todd Gibson said.

EHS is led by two aces on the mound in left-hander Garrett Hull and right-hander Ledgard. Gibson offered high praise of the two senior standouts.

"Our strength is we have two dominant pitchers, a righty and a lefty, and some solid defense headed up by the middle infield," Gibson said.

The Bulldogs would face a familiar foe in Cheney high school, in the first round of regionals. Two years ago, Ellensburg's Michael Wyatt one-hit Cheney but would be knocked off in the first round of regionals 2-1.

Gibson has a level of familiarity with Cheney because he played with their coach and knows they return several players from their team two years ago.

Ellensburg scored six runs with two outs in the bottom of the fourth, capitalizing on walks and errors and punctuated the scoring with a base-clearing triple by Alonso Bibiano to defeat Cheney 7-0.

Selah's starting pitcher Sawyer Sims left the game in the fourth inning due to an elbow injury. Ledgard picked up the win for the Bulldogs in a dominating fashion striking out 12.

"Throwing pretty firm and mixing in a good slider is what I try to do," Ledgard said.

The Bulldogs brought the bats in the

second round of regionals and met Selah once again, but this time it was a different story. Ellensburg exploded for 11 runs in an 11-1 rout of Selah. Gibson mentioned these two teams are not fond of one another.

This time it was Hull's turn to show off his pitching prowess and he did his best to match Ledgard's effort tossing a three-hit, one run ballgame. In the fourth, EHS grabbed a 6-1 lead on back-to-back blasts from Ledgard and Bibiano on consecutive pitches.

Bibiano paced the Bulldogs going 3-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs and got some help from Ledgard as he went 3-for-4 with a homer and an RBI.

"We got a great group of guys here and I just want to keep playing with them," Campbell said.

The No. 6 ranked Bulldogs will ride their 10-game winning streak into the state semi-finals against No. 4 Anacortes at County Stadium in Yakima at 10 a.m. next Friday. If the Bulldogs win, they will play the winner of the Tumwater/Lake Washington game.

Three Bulldogs will continue their playing career at the next level including Ledgard (Lower Columbia College), Campbell (Lower Columbia College) and Tyrel Panter (Skagit Valley College).



NICK TERREL/OBSERVER

STAYING HOME Ethan Sterkel, right fielder on the Central baseball team, is one of two Ellensburg High School graduate to play for the Wildcats this season.

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UNIVERSITY RECREATION

Wildcat Dash challenges CWU students

BY DONNIE SANTOS
Staff Reporter

Summer is right around the corner and that means all that working out during the winter is going to pay off. Why not challenge yourself by getting muddy and wet with a 5K obstacle course?

The Wildcat Dash, to be held Saturday May 31, will involve 17 different obstacles around Central's campus.

Obstacles ranging from a mud pit, overhand climbs and even a 40-foot slip-and-slide at the finish line at the SURC will be included on the course.

"This is a chance for people to test themselves after an entire winter of working out in the Rec," Wildcat Dash coordinator Eric Scott said. "They will get to get dirty while doing it."

The Wildcat Dash is Central's own spin on the Warrior Dash. The only difference is the lack of fire obstacles in the Wildcat Dash.

The obstacles are designed to not only challenge you physically but also to test your comfort zone mentally.

The Warrior Dash is a series of 5K obstacle courses around the country. They are known for having a messy element to most of their obstacles, with nicknames like Deadman's Drop, Storming Normandy and Vicious Valleys. This is what makes the Warrior Dash style obstacle course such a popular group event.

Jumping through the mud and water with friends and peers is an opportunity



PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN VIDMORE

SPARTA HAS FALLEN A Central student slips trying to make his way through a mud pit at last year's Wildcat Dash. Mud pits are just one of many obstacles that competitors will face this Saturday.

that does not come around very often.

The mud pit is one of the obstacles due to offer a couple candid moments for everyone involved.

For people who have never competed in a 5K or done an intense obstacle course, this is nothing to be intimidated by.

The Wildcat Dash is not a race. Yes, participants are encouraged to finish as fast as they can, but getting through the obstacles is the main focus of this event.

The course can be completed by people of all fitness levels.

The weather is predicted to be in the mid-80's in Ellensburg on Saturday, according to weather.com. This is just another reason to be outside getting wet, muddy and sweaty.

Recommended attire for the Wildcat Dash is very simple; wear something that you don't care about ruining. In past years, groups wore similar face paint or match-

ing shirts with people they participated with. Expect to see many participants wearing the same type of outfits for the Wildcat Dash.

The cost is \$20 for Central students and \$40 for everyone else. A free t-shirt and 3.5 miles of messy fun and sweat is what can be expected from this course.

Students can register online, but sign up fast because Registration closes when the maximum capacity is reached.

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