Marijuana tax revenue, prices, likely to vary

BY AARON KUNKLER
Staff Reporter

With around half of Washington under a state of moratorium or having outright banned the growth, processing or sale of recreational marijuana, it’s not clear how much tax revenue the state will take in.

Colorado pulled in $3.5 million in taxes for retail and medical sales in its first month of the legal recreational market. Estimates say that the state will see $98 million by the end of the next fiscal year.

In February, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council projected $51 million in marijuana revenue for the 2015-2017 biennium, jumping to $138.5 million for the two years ending June 30 of 2019.

But Democratic Rep. Ross Hunter, who’s part of the council and the House’s top budget writer, said he expects the forecast to change.

“We just don’t know,” he told the Associated Press. “The expansion is slow, the stores aren’t open. Something’s going to happen, we don’t know exactly what it is. We’re using the best data we have.”

In Washington, I-502 includes a 25 percent tax levied at transactions between each individual step of the process, known as excise taxes. This tax can also be altered, depending on how the market shakes out.

According to Mikael Carpenter of the Washington Liquor Control Board, the LCB will collect the excise taxes, with the state Department of Revenue collecting regular sales taxes, as well as business and occupancy taxes.

I-502 calls for marijuana revenue to be placed daily into a fund approved by the state treasurer, and dispersed every three months by the Liquor Control Board. Services that will receive money each quarter include $125,000 to the Department of Social and Health Services to design and implement a “Washington state healthy youth survey,” which will be conducted every two years. The survey will seek to measure areas such as drug use, antisocial behavior and academic records in Washington youth.

An amount not to exceed $1.25 million will be granted each quarter to the Liquor Control Board to implement and administer I-502.

Ten percent will go to the Department of Health to create and implement marijuana and public health programs, including a public health hotline. Multiple other areas are designated for funding as well.

Alison Holcomb of the ACLU of Washington, who was involved with the writing of I-502, said that the total projected tax burden for the consumer will most likely be between 27 to 40 percent.

“The 25 percent was selected and spread out that way to achieve a tax burden in between cigarettes and alcohol,” Holcomb said.

Holcomb said that the tax burden was dispersed between every wholesale level – growing, processing and retail – to avoid tax ‘choke points’ where one level would be the sole bearer of taxes. It also discourages tax fraud or evasion by spreading taxes out, she said.

There is an exception to this, Holcomb said. Retailers are not allowed to grow or process marijuana, but a grower can also hold a production license, and vice versa.

If production and growth are owned by the same entity, and utilized in tandem, the grower/producer only pays one 25 percent tax. If they are separated at all, or if the grower ships the product to an outside entity for processing, they are both subject to a 25 percent tax.

Laid out in I-502 is the provision that the Liquor Control Board and the Department of Revenue must regularly consult with the state legislature to review taxation levels.

According to Holcomb, these levels can be altered by the legislature depending on how the market develops. Holcomb says that she would like to see a more responsive system for adjusting tax levels.

“Moving forward, it would be ideal if the tax levels could be set at a nimble level,” Holcomb said.

Holcomb also says that taxation will most likely not be a key factor in determining the final retail price of marijuana, that some of it relies on other costs and prices that growers, producers and retailers have and choose to charge. These can include, for example, rent, other business licenses, growing materials, land taxation costs and profitable markup. Additionally, as with any market, supply and demand will dramatically affect the overall costs of the product.

“I think the biggest impact on pricing will be supply,” Holcomb said. “We’ll probably see pretty high prices in the beginning.”

Holcomb cited a price plummet in 2009 in the medical marijuana industry when the market was flooded with an increase in supply. Once recreational marijuana growers and producers find their footing and determine the proper levels of product output, she said recreational tax prices will likely fall as well.

Washington Observer
Art: the end of an era

BY KELSI MILLER Staff Reporter

The Bachelors of Arts in visual arts teaching will be on reserve beginning fall 2015 due to a retiring professor, decreased teaching responsibilities and lack of state support for visual art education.

Students currently in the program will be allowed to finish their degrees, but no new students can enroll in the program, said art department chair Greg Schlanger.

Shari Stoddard, professor of art, is retiring at the end of this year. When she was hired, Stoddard said that she taught two sections of elementary education students every quarter, including summer quarter; ART 340, a course that taught students how to include art in their curriculum, in addition to her art education courses.

The visual art education program on average has graduated seven to 10 art teachers from Central a year, said Schlanger. Typically only juniors and seniors are allowed into the program, said Stoddard, but to allow more students to complete the program, freshmen were allowed in this year.

However, three years ago, Washington State changed their guidelines to need to also teach fine arts. Schlanger was hesitant to hire another art teacher, but he was interested in teaching fine arts and art education because of her background, said Stoddard, so Schlanger was able to get the program jump-started with the support of faculty, such as Richard DeShields, the Dean of Student Affairs.

Gender-neutral bathrooms debut at Central

BY MARISSA TOUSSAINT Staff Reporter

Central’s Center for Diversity and Social Justice (CDSJ) took part in Pride Week by changing two restrooms in the SURC, as well as the restrooms in the library on the first floor, to gender-neutral restrooms.

The change took place to help spread awareness to students and faculty who are unaware of the obstacles gender non-conforming and transgender students face every day.

Karina Whitney, CDSJ officer, said using the restroom is something most people do every day without thinking about it.

"Often times when we’re privileged, we don’t really recognize the challenges or the issues that may be for some folks really, really impactful," Whitney said. "From both a standpoint of being harassed or verbally assaulted and, in some cases, physically assaulted." According to Whitney, the campus has been very supportive. University Housing and New Student Programs are looking at changing the signage within their own facilities inside the residence halls and have been an active participant this week.

Jourdyn Payne, student programmer and a junior at Central, is credited with coming up with the idea for the gender-neutral restrooms on campus. Payne said she was able to get the program jump-started with the support of faculty, such as Richard DeShields, the Dean of Student Success.

To get the restrooms changed to gender-neutral during Pride Week the CDSJ had to get approval through the Union Board, Bob Ford, Director of Campus Life and Dean of the Library, Patricia Curtright.

According to The Human Rights Campaign, 17 percent of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals were denied access to public restrooms. After using the gender-neutral bathrooms, individuals feel safer and more comfortable.
Gender-neutral bathrooms
CONTINUED FROM P.3
rooms, and student bathroom attendees were asked to take a survey after using the restroom.
People who chose not to use the gender-neutral restroom were also invited to write down their thoughts.

“Some of the things people were saying were that there would be sex going on in the bathrooms which could happen anyways, so I don’t know why that’s a problem,” Payne said. “I just feel like you just need to use the bathroom. I don’t know why people would go to the bathroom to do anything else.”

Students who visited the gender-neutral bathrooms in the SURC had similar reactions to the role bathrooms play in day-to-day lives. Nick Mamua, a freshman music major, expressed mixed feelings about the bathrooms.

“I would feel uncomfortable, but, at the same time, I wouldn’t be,” Mamua said. “I can understand.”

Mamua’s discomfort came from the initial shock of hearing that individuals said. “I can understand,” Mamua said. “I don’t think it really matters, it’s just a bathroom.”

There will be gender-neutral restrooms put into the new buildings on campus, such as the new science building.

According to Whitney, she has hopes that the signage will also change around campus from the binary male symbol and female symbol to a symbol of neutrality in the single stall restrooms.

This will allow non-conforming and transgender students to have access to the restrooms without thinking twice about an identity that does not conform to the binary, but is all inclusive.

Whitney believes that these kinds of programs are helpful in creating a campus community with a safe environment for all students.

For students choosing a college to attend, finding a school where they will be able to be themselves, be safe and be respected for who they are can be very important.

For the next three years, the visual art education program will sit in reserves. After the three years have passed, the department will reevaluate its ability to reopen or continue to close the program.

“In every other endorsement that’s offered on campus, you take the methods class. You learn how to teach it, not just how to do it for yourself,” said Zimmerman.

“There’s a difference between doing art and having to teach someone else how to do it.”

There are seven disciplines that are essential to teach art, said Stoddard. Stoddard said that the option to major in elementary education and minor in studio art won’t help students learn how to teach the disciplines.

“I had to teach them what those disciplines are and then the strategies for how to teach them. They aren’t going to get those if they just take education classes and art classes,” said Stoddard.

Schlanger said that he generally is disappointed in the lack of funding and support for art programs, particularly for youth.

“There’s so much evidence that art teachers kids how to think critically and to think for themselves,” said Schlanger.

Zimmerman said that learning how to draw and paint is important for students because it teaches them how to use the right side of their brain and think about the things they learn in a different way.

“Integrating art into every level and every grade’s curriculum will benefit the students, especially those who are visual learners because they can learn how to connect the knowledge that they’re receiving from their teachers visually by exercising that on a page,” said Zimmerman.

Stoddard said the changes that happened at Central came from the state and that no one in particular is to blame. She said that whether the program is continued or not in the future will depend on the decisions of the new deans of the college of arts and humanities and the college of education and professional studies.

“It’s going to depend on the new deans that come in, what their priorities are, and if I was still here I could fight for it with the new deans, but I don’t know. I don’t know who is going to fight for the case.”

Stoddard said that while the state currently is focusing on STEM education, down the road educators may start to notice that children aren’t as creative as the should be.

“In education, the pendulum swings really far one way, they find out it doesn’t work, and then it will swing way back the other way. I’d say in about four to five years they may figure it out, that they need the art. It’s going to have to come from the state, because it’s all been state mandated.”

All things aside, said Zimmerman, students are going to miss Stoddard’s teaching and experience. She attributes her interest in art education to when she first met Stoddard and was introduced to the art department.

Art Education to end
CONTINUED FROM P.3

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Dean of Arts and Humanities retires after nine years

BY RILEY ELLIOTT

Marji Morgan, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, has worked for nine years to nurture and support a culture of excellence. She says she has consistently attracted and hired exceptional faculty, boosted scholarships and tuition waiver support to attract and retain students, and enhanced the visibility of the college.

“I am doing exactly what I’ve always wanted to do in my career,” Morgan said. “Now I’m going back to teaching before I retire,” Morgan said.

Morgan will become a history professor by spring 2015.

“She helped me find my first violin gig at Hal Homes,” Weddle said. “She really is an amazing lady to go to as a resource and is always willing to help students with internships, jobs, music gigs, grad school, letters or recommendation, and so on.”

Bransdorfer says, no matter how busy Morgan gets she always finds time to help people work towards their goals.

“Dean Morgan has very actively mentored me in this position as associate dean of the college and I think this is one of her greatest strengths, not just with me, but all the other faculty and chairs,” Bransdorfer said. “I definitely look up to her wealth of knowledge and experiences.”

Candidates to replace Morgan are expected at Central this fall and predicted to be hired by winter 2015.

“I want to emphasize that although these things have happened while I’ve been dean, they are the result of our college faculty, staff and students working together,” Morgan said. “My role has been to guide, prompt, facilitate and support, but others have made these things happen.”

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The Observer • June 5 - 25, 2014 5
A farewell from the blast in a glass

BY COLTON DYAR
Assistant Scene Editor

Wait, what? Has it really been four years of college? I should be so much older and wiser. Now, I’ve got to get ready to go home and gown pressed and ready to graduate. But I have my cap and gown on so I can’t wait any more than you talk and always ask, “why?”

I have learned in college, it is to expect the unpredictable. If there is only one piece of advice I could give you right now! There is no one else I feel I can be totally myself around and I let into your life, the richer story you can tell. Without further ado, here they are:

Max: I love you! I would not have survived the last four years of shenanigans and this chaotic madhouse? I've had such joy! Keep doing your wild and crazy thing.

Travis: You are an amazing boss and the luckiest to have your wisdom and patience.

Elliot: Thank you for saving my hide on a semi-daily basis.

Observer staff:

Why did I wait so long to get involved with this chaotic madhouse? I've had such a good time. Keep up the good work.

Camille: I NEED CHARDONNAY!

Lola: You are an incredible editor and you have been my constant! “Michelle, we need a number of talented students, both on the advertising and editorial side. I do not know how I would have survived the last two years without the comical and hilarious Voice of the community in the newsroom. Thank you for all the times, heated debates, creative sessions, entertaining support. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors. I must also express my monumental gratitude for my boss and mentor, Kritstin Gaskill. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make mistakes and most importantly, letting me express my ideas and opinions. I am so glad that I made the choice and look forward to carrying the experience with me as I start my professional career as a multi-media sales consultant.

To my advertising reps, Daniel and Nina, and my successor, Taylor, keep on truckin’. Push hard, be resilient and never let go! Don’t forget to listen more than you talk and always ask, “why?”

I wish the best for all of you and wish you dearly. Don’t worry, I’ll see you all for our annual fall weekend so we can drink wine, wear our footie pajamas, watch Disney movies and complain about our jobs and boyfriends. Wherever our lives take us, I know that my #prlove girls will always be there for me. I love you guys to the moon and back. We finally made it. P.S. #1:

I’d like to thank all of my friends and roommates. You all have been so supportive, especially when I just wanted to give up. We’ve had countless good times, long conversations, fights, inside jokes and memories.

To my roommate, Victoria, you are truly my rock. I don’t know how I’m going to survive without you. Remember, classy when it counts.

To all of the 2014 graduates, congratulations! Can you believe we are finally graduating? I still feel a bit of luck to all of you and welcome to the rest of your life. See you on the other side.

To all of the incoming Central students, enjoy every minute of your time here. In the blink of an eye, you’re a graduating senior with a job, a new apartment and student loans.

Don’t take anything for granted, always say yes when someone invites you to do something. Remember living in Ellensburg and don’t focus all of your time on your career. Yes, your career is important, but cherish the memories and the years. Once it’s over, you’ll never get that time back.

Leaving Ellensburg is bitter sweet but I am excited to start my new life. One day, I will move back to the place I call home. After all, you can take the girl out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of the girl.
Graduating seniors reflect on their time at Central

BY COLLIN Dysart
Assistant Scene Editor

AND HOUSTON CARR
Staff Reporter

Every 2014 graduate has something to share. From the moment they were dropped off for freshman orientation, to walking across the stage to accept their diploma, they have undergone a multitude of experiences in four years.

Many students arrive at Central with plenty of expectations. Yet navigating the college experience on one’s own is an entirely different matter.

“I remember moving into my dorm and thinking, ‘Well, what’s next?’” Julia Luna, senior musical theatre major, said. “It really hit me in that moment that I was on my own.”

When you’re fresh out of high school, living on your own is not going to be without speed bumps. Several Central seniors have advice for how to get through four plus years of collegiate life intact.

“Don’t have your major chosen the moment you arrive on campus. Your general education requirements will give you a solid year to figure out what you really want to do,” said Ryan Gregson, senior education major and program leader for the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement.

Melanie Phillips changed her major four times before she found her niche: elementary education.

“I was all over the place, I didn’t have a clue for so long,” Phillips said. “Even though I was super frustrated, I learned a lot about what I was passionate about. I also got to take a lot of fun, random classes.”

In addition to finding a desired major, students are inundated with the amount of extra curricular activities the school has to offer. Jamie Bowe, senior actuarial science major, found a sense of belonging when she joined the Central Math Club.

“If you are in a club you get to know other people in your major and you feel involved and important,” Bowe said.

Bowe became the secretary of her club and added that it has helped her make connections outside of the university. She also got to know other students in her major on a more intimate level.

“I think it helped because I have classes with these people, but we really became friends when I got to know them at club functions,” Bowe said.

Ryan Gregson also had this to offer for why it is crucial for students to get involved.

“I can’t tell you how many of my friends have nothing to put on their resume because they just parted their entire college career,” Gregson said. “Don’t get me wrong, college is great for figuring out who you are, but try to find yourself in different avenues than the typical college party. Trust me, your future self will thank you, and the process may even avoid getting you the oh-so-common M.L.P.”

College is a learning experience in and out of the classroom. For many this is the first taste of independence away from immediate family. They are given the chance to forge a new identity for themselves. Taylor Woyvodich, senior theatre major, said she often learned the hard way who her friends were.

“You are who you hang out with,” Woyvodich said. “There are the people who are just there to have a good time and eventually they drop out. The fun people are not your friends, all they care about is forget about you and it can really hurt.”

Woyvodich said freshmen should know that everyone do it,” Gregson said.

There are plenty of perks which Gregson got from putting himself out there in campus activities.

“I was never bored, I have a great resume to show future employers, and I’m graduating with no debt because I was able to get multiple scholarships due to my accolades,” Gregson said.

Monisha Watkins, senior public health major, said she is proud of her college experience.

“My biggest highlights were becoming a CWU cheerleader my sophomore year, getting on the Dean’s list and modeling on the fashion department fashion show,” Watkins said.

It is crucial for undergraduates to build a foundation which will make themselves competitive in the outside world. Gregson sees campus involvement as an excellent method to ensure future success.

“I’m in the minority of students who were overly involved, and I would recommend that everyone do it,” Gregson said.

“I remember moving into my dorm and thinking ‘Well, what next?’ … It really hit me in that moment that I was on my own.”

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“I was never bored, I have a great resume to show future employers, and I’m graduating with no debt because I was able to get multiple scholarships due to my accolades,” Gregson said.

Luna felt the key to a well-lived college experience is to hone in on what you are passionate about.

“I am so happy with how much I have grown and changed,” Luna said. “It’s been a ton of hard work, but at the end of the day I love what I do and my experience at Central has helped my grow in my skills and confidence.”
The year in review

Fall

88.1 the Burg made massive changes in administration.

Football Head Coach Blaine Benett fired for breaking the rules.

D&M Coffee owners open Cornerstone Pie.

Winter

MyCWU Launches, with major technical issues.

Basketball player Mark McLaughlin became the fastest player in GNAC history to score 1,000 points.

CWU Fitness Trainer Sharee Samuels graced the cover of People Magazine.
Central Theatre Ensemble performed Les Misérables.

Central Baseball wins first GNAC Championship in school history.

First businesses in Washington State earn licenses for pot sales.

Central Theatre Ensemble performed Les Misérables.

Central breaks ground on Science Phase II.

Rugby became a varsity sport after years of the team’s domination.

Two Central Alumni open up storefronts downtown.

A fire burned down the apartment of two Central students.

Central introduces Responsibility Centered Management, sparking reactions across all departments.

Central breaks ground on Science Phase II.
**Student couples go long distance**

BY MEGAN SCHMITT  
Staff Reporter

AND BALLY BONTRAGER  
Staff Reporter

Kailin Chase and Brady Rusch, who have been dating for five months, will soon have to deal with a major change in their relationship.

As the school year comes to an end, distance will become a major factor. Chase, who will be a sophomore next year, will be staying in Ellensburg this summer while Rusch will be graduating this spring with a marketing degree and going home to Kirkland in search of a job.

"Going into the relationship, we both knew I would be graduating at the end of the school year and knew it would be a challenge," Rusch said.

As for next year, they know they will have to be as far apart as this year, but "if we are willing to put in effort, it will work," Rusch said. 

They both said they have plans for the summer such as going to Seattle to explore Pike Place and attending Summer Jam at The Gorge.

I think the relationship will last because I know what kind of people we are, and we will do our best to make it work," Sarria said. 

Another couple, Makenna Robinson and Federico Sarria, will be in the same situation once the school year comes to a close.

Robinson and Sarria started as friends and started dating four months ago.

"Going into this summer, when they will only be an hour away from each other rather than two of us," Robinson said.

The two of them have been taking advantage of this year and spending as much time together as possible because they know their circumstances for next year will be different.

"We're hoping to take some time off this summer and go on a vacation, just the two of us," Robinson said.

Both Robinson and Sarria said they will visit each other as much as they can next year and know they will have to be understanding and communicate once distance becomes an issue.

"I just love him, and when you meet the right person, you will do whatever it takes," Chase said. "We're not nervous about the distance because we are both honest and communicate well with each other."

"We also aren't afraid to admit when we've screwed up," McDonald said. "We've made it this far, we must be doing something right."

Both couples intend to spend their weeks working during the summer and intend to see each other as much as possible.

While McDonald and Melick don't have any big plans, they are planning some weekend camping trips, other random dates and simply enjoying the small things that they have together.

Overall, I think this has strengthened our relationship," McDonald said. "It forces you to talk about things that normally wouldn't come up, while making me more sensitive to his needs while appreciating him more, while giving us both the opportunity to grow individually."

While the distance between the couple has been hard, they continue to live day by day and keep moving forward with their relationship.

"We also aren't afraid to admit when we've screwed up," McDonald said. "We've made it this far, we must be doing something right."

Both couples intend to spend their weeks working during the summer and intend to see each other as much as possible.

While McDonald and Melick don't have any big plans, they are planning some weekend camping trips, other random dates and simply enjoying the small things that they have together.

All these couples are dedicated to making their relationships work whether they will be together or apart for the summer and look forward to being together again soon and spending time with each other when they get the chance.

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477 N. Main Street
Seniors kick the bucket (list)

**BY MARJA HARR**
*Staff Reporter*

Seniors have many important events to accomplish these last few weeks, from securing jobs to completing their last finals. However, some students have more enjoyable necessities on their bucket list.

“I wanted to make sure that I enjoyed enough of the college experience that happened outside of academics, like parties,” Ernest Skousen, senior physics major, said.

Skousen has already secured himself a job after college, which was another important bucket list item for him.

Senior history major Frank Reding wants to have some fun before he moves. He plans on attending many parties in the week before he leaves Central.

Future graduates have already checked off their “Central Bucket Lists.” English major Megan Epperson suggests “enjoys visiting when master’s students come through with their thesis work.”

“You have to go to Wing Central and have the Hell Wing. It’s going to hurt but it’s worth doing at least once,” Epperson said. “You can’t leave here having not done that.”

According to Wing Central’s website, the Hell Wing is considered one of the hottest wings in the world. Those who wish to eat the wing are required to sign a waiver, as its spiciness rating is over six million scoville units. The waiver warns you that eating it “may not be the smartest thing you have done lately.”

Much taller on Epperson’s bucket list is visiting the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery in Randall Hall. The gallery is dedicated to Sarah Spurgeon and hosts some of her work.

Epperson especially enjoys visiting when master’s students come through with their thesis work. “You get to see some of the most cutting edge artwork,” Epperson said.

The local farmer’s market is another check on Epperson’s bucket list, and she strongly recommends going. “They have the most amazing food vendors, fruits and vegetables and weird furniture,” Epperson said. “It’s awesome.”

The Kittitas County Farmer’s Market is every Saturday from May to October. “They have the best pulled pork sandwiches I’ve ever had.” Kastner said. “They have one of the best pulled pork sandwiches I’ve ever had.”

With the red Pegasus of Mobilgas as their logo, it’s no surprise the 1950s styled diner has a prevalent car theme. Red Horse Diner hosts car and motorcycle shows, as well as live music to entertain while one peruses the long list of specialty sandwiches and burgers on the menu.

Theatre performance major Joanne Kirckof doesn’t have the time to check off one of her Central bucket list items: the challenge course. “I also always wanted to do the challenge course, but I don’t think I will,” Kirckof said.

The challenge course is a ropes course with both high and low elements to it. While students are able to book for personal programs, the minimum amount of people for the course is six people. According to their website, the Challenge Course “offers the opportunity to participate in team-building activities to accomplish individual and group goals.”

Psychology major Eric Reppas just wants to finish his research before he leaves school. “It’s my own research, gotta finish it,” Reppas said. “It’s epic.”

Skousen also had some research to finish before graduating. Out of the three research projects he was involved in, Skousen has completed one so far. Others don’t have a Central bucket list, like senior physics major Layne Holman. “I don’t really have any bucket list items, because when I want to do something, I just do it,” Holman said.

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### Central Bucket List Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wing Central Hell Wing</td>
<td>Spiciness rating over six million scoville units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Spurgeon Gallery</td>
<td>Dedicated to Sarah Spurgeon and hosts some of her work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer’s Market</td>
<td>Every Saturday from May to October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Horse Diner</td>
<td>Best pulled pork sandwiches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Course</td>
<td>Ropes course with both high and low elements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Graduation Dinner**

**Friday, June 13, 2014**

4:30-7:00 P.M.

**SERC–Holmes Dining Room**

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- New York Cheesecake with Toppings
- Coffee, Hot Tea
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Students wow during dunk competition

BY SPENCER HANSEN
Biell Reporter

Central’s Student Life staff put on the first-ever dunk contest this past weekend on the SURC east patio. Although cut short due to bad weather, some of Central’s best hoopers displayed their leaping prowess.

There were two divisions, an eight foot hoop and a regulation 10 foot hoop. Players were allowed to compete in both divisions. Dunkers were allowed one minute to dunk or were given three chances to complete a dunk.

David Lund, also known as “Yo Momma’s Favorite Hooper” highlighted the eight foot group with a throwback 70s look featuring knee-high tube socks and a headband that kept his flowing locks in place. Lund spear-headed the eight foot dunkers with a high score of 49 out of 50.

Lund gave him a run for his money, at least according to the 10 foot hoop.

James Ward challenged Lund with a silky smooth 360 dunk, which earned him a score of 40, not quite enough to top Lund, but Ward turned some heads using his athleticism.

“The race really helps you build confidence in yourself. Conquering all of the obstacles and reaching the finish line is no small feat,” Scott said.

Kendall Downing, a competitor from the first heat, said the dash wasn’t what she exactly expected from a typical Central 4K, but she still had a good time.

“It was really fun. It was a lot tougher mentally than I thought it would be,” Downing said.

As more and more competitors crossed the finish line, it was obvious that the race was very physically and mentally challenging. Everyone was exhausted and caked in mud, but everyone had a smile.

Scott says the Wildcat Dash will be back again for a fourth consecutive year, which is great news for all the competitors who like King, a freshman, who plan on returning for a fourth consecutive year.

The Wildcat Dash has expanded in some way, whether that be adding new obstacles to the course or simply having more racers cross the finish line.

The first heat of competitors began the race at 10 a.m. clean and confident, most of them finished about an hour or so later very, very dirty, but still confident.

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Brittany King and her group of friends also finished the race covered in mud and dirt, but that was their choice.

“We were in the mud pit and just decided to have a mud fight, that was by far my favorite part,” King said as she laughed at the thought.

However, as all the competitors from the different heats began to cross the finish line, there was only one thing that seemed to be on everyone’s minds: free Winegars ice cream for everyone who competed.

“This was a great way to get our minds off school and everything for a while,” King said. “I’ll definitely be here the next three years.”
The central Washington region offers many golf experiences for all skill levels. From Yakima to Cle Elum, there are many opportunities to play golf.

There are expensive and luxury courses such as Suncadia, or more laid back experiences like The Ellensburg Country Club. With the weather getting warmer, it’s time to enjoy the beautiful courses Washington has to offer.

The closest course to campus is Ellensburg Country Club. Ellensburg Country Club is located on Thorp Highway which is about a 10-minute drive from campus.

The course welcomes all skill levels and only costs $10. There are only nine holes, but there are different sets of tees players can use if they want to golf 18 holes.

With the course located out by the highway, wind tends to be an issue for players. On days when the wind is minimal, Ellensburg Country Club is packed with students and residents. The Ellensburg Country Club also has a driving range if golfers are looking to start playing or need to practice. The Ellensburg Country Club offers a very relaxed and casual golf experience.

“With the course only being 10 minutes from CWU, the Ellensburg Country Club is a great local course with cheap green fees for us college students,” Danny Peterson, President of the Golf Club, said.

The next closest golfing destination near Central is Sun Country Golf Course located in Cle Elum. Sun Country is a par 71 and 5,715 yards from the men’s tees. The course can be a challenge for veteran golfers but can also be enjoyed by beginners. Sun Country offers a relaxed and affordable day of golf.

Sun Country promises golfers that they will have a memorable golf round and enjoy scenic views of the high mountain alpine course. The golf rates vary, but generally people can play 18 holes for about $30.

Suncadia Resort is home to three golf courses that are also located in Cle Elum. Suncadia Resort offers a luxury experience to golfers and visitors.

Prospector, which is the only completely public course at Suncadia, is an 18-hole course that’s 7,100 yards and was designed by the famous Arnold Palmer. This is one of the top golf courses to play in the Northwest and, in 2006, was named one of the “Best New Public Courses” by Golf Digest.

“Golfing at Prospector always presents a great challenge and an awesome experience,” senior Jordan Palmer said.

Golf rates run about $100 for 18-holes during the summer months. Roperider and Tumble Creek are the other two courses at Suncadia. Roperider is a semi-private course and Tumble Creek is completely private and requires a membership.

With the incredible views of the Wenatchee Washington National Forest, the beautiful Prospector Course gives golfers a round of a lifetime. Suncadia Resort offers lodging and many other outdoor activities.

Yakima also offers many golf opportunities. Yakima Elks, River Ridge, Yakima Country Club, Suntides, Fish Park, Westwood and Apple Tree are among the courses surrounding Yakima. Apple Tree has a unique golfing experience because of its famous 17th hole green that’s shaped like an apple and surrounded by water. Apple Tree is open to the public and one of many courses in the Yakima area.

There are many golf courses surrounding Ellensburg suitable for all skill levels. Go out and enjoy the beautiful weather while playing a round of golf.

BY CHANDLER ST. LOUIS
Staff Reporter

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Fettig sets high bar for next season

BY CHANCE WREKS-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

For junior Tayler Fettig, sports have always been a big part of her life. Fettig started out at a young age playing sports and recently started working on her goal to become a physical education teacher as well as a personal trainer.

Fettig credits her engagement with sports to her parents who got her involved with sports at a young age. However, Fettig said she didn’t start competing in track until she was in high school after being introduced to it in middle school.

“It’s hard to separate Fettig and athletics,” Fettig said. “I work out a lot, everyone calls me a gym rat,” Fettig said “That’s my main hobby.”

Music is something Fettig enjoys as well. She was involved with a worship band at a local church in Ellensburg. “On the side you can find me in a piano room at the music building,” Fettig said.

Athletics are something Fettig hopes to be involved with in the future. “My dream is to actually open up my own gym,” Fettig said. “I would also like to be a track coach, start in high school, and work my way up to Division one.”

In Fettig’s first two years, she competed on both the track team and the basketball team. Fettig then realized that she wanted to only focus on track.

“It’s really hard to juggle two sports,” Fettig said. “I really do miss basketball a lot.”

A Washington native, Fettig hails from Olympia. In high school those were Fettig’s two main sports. She decided to choose Central Washington instead of accepting a scholarship for basketball at George Fox University.

In her third season at Central, Fettig made it all the way to Allendale, Michigan where she competed in the Division II National championships for high jump. Fettig placed sixth in the nation with a leap of 5’7”.

Coupled with her performance earlier in the year Fettig became a two-time All-American, for both indoor and outdoor track and field.

“In the indoor conference championships when I tied the GNAC record for high jump, I remember going over and hugging my coach Tony and just started to cry,” Fettig said. “He’s been my spiritual coach since the beginning.”

Fettig is a jack-of-all-trades. Not only does she compete in the high jump but she finished in the top 30 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference for five other events including, javelin, shot put, long jump, heptathlon and the 100 meter hurdles.

Fettig says that one of her main goals for next year is to make a serious run and improve in the heptathlon.

“Throughout my time at Central, I have been able to gain more confidence in myself,” Fettig said.

Head Coach Kevin Adkisson has known Fettig since recruiting her in her senior season in high school, and watched her grow into a good athlete. Adkisson says that her consistency as a high jumper and an athlete has increased tremendously since being in high school and even her first year at Central Washington.

“From when I met her she’s been technically a great high jumper,” Adkisson said.

Adkisson acknowledges that it was hard for Fettig to stop playing basketball and focus on track. He also says that her work ethic is outstanding.

“She has a really great drive, and she also really cares,” Adkisson said. “When she is going to put herself into a team, she really gives it everything, she doesn’t want to anything halfway.”

Fettig’s efforts this year have been noted and she looks to add on to her impressive record.

“Fettig accomplished everything we set out for her to accomplish this year,” Adkisson said.

Adkisson is confident in Fettig’s ability to accomplish one of her goals for next year, which is to high jump six feet.

“We really hope to put her in the position to jump that height a few times,” Adkisson said.

Fettig will be returning for her senior season to compete at an even higher level, and get another shot at a national title, which, according to Adkisson, is very reachable next year.
Hiking trails for everyone near E-Burg

BY DONNIE SANTOS
Staff Reporter

Pictures from beautiful scenery around the Ellensburg area is starting to pop up all over social media. The day hiking trails that are less than 45 minutes away from Central's campus can be found all over this area.

Even if you have a lot of experience or none at all, these trails surrounding Ellensburg are filled with cool wildlife, vivid colors from the flowers and are a good way to exercise while soaking in the sun.

The different trails are called the John Wayne, Umtanum Falls, Manashtash, Lower Umtanum Canyon, Lost Lake and Swauk Forest Discovery Trail. Each trail ranges from 2-8 miles, 0-1,700 feet total elevation gain and range from easy to moderate difficulty. This gives people on the trail lots of different options.

For those in good shape, they might decide to run or speed walk, whereas others might take the course nice and slow and soak in all the awesome views and wildlife. Perfect for a social media picture.

When preparing for a hike there are lots of different things to consider. First, you must plan ahead. Make a checklist of items needed to successfully complete the adventure for the day.

Supplies like water, food that is repacked to eliminate as much waste as possible, proper attire and shoes and even first aid supplies. The last thing someone hiking wants is to be at the top of Manashtash ridge and not have proper first aid supplies to make the decent down problem free.

For these hikes, one thing to remember when preparing for the trip is “light is right.” Don’t weigh yourself down with unnecessary items in your pack that are going to make it harder on yourself. Unless you are trying to add weight to challenge your body.

Along with bringing all the right materials to successfully complete the hike, checking the weather and making sure you are prepared if the sun goes away is essential for hiking preparation.

According to goodhiker.com, some benefits of hiking include improved cardio-respiratory fitness, improved muscular fitness, possible reduced risk of stress and depression, better sleep at night, and overall weight control.

Slow paced hiking on an easy level trail will burn around 300-400 calories per hour. Not bad, when you consider that any skill level can start hiking at any state of fitness. The more times you go, the faster they can complete each trail and the stronger your body will become.

The thing about the trails around this area is that they are very well maintained and kept in good shape so that everyone has a chance to enjoy it. While hiking it is expected that you package food so that there is minimal waste. Dispose of that waste properly, leave what you find the way it is, and be sure to respect wildlife and others using the trails.

The OPR office on campus has many hikes that they set up that can be done with a tour guide that will be good for all skill levels. You can schedule them through their office.

The views and wildlife for these hikes is Pacific Northwest beauty at its finest. For those who are going to experience it for themselves, please take care of the trails and understand that you share the trail with more than just the other people who hike it and definitely don’t forget to bring a camera. You never know what you might cross paths with.
Senior pitcher Maria Gau led the Wildcats to an appearance in the West Regional tournament as well as being named the conference’s best pitcher.

BY RACHEL CHARLTON Staff Reporter

When did you first start playing softball?
I first signed up for little league softball, along with every other possible-sport. My parents had me try pretty much everything imaginable and I played a variety of sports until about 13 when I realized softball was the sport I wanted to focus and invest my time in.

How did you make the decision to play for Central?
I made the decision to play for Central because I loved the town of Ellensburg, and I liked that it was only a couple hours away from home so that my parents could come watch me play. I also chose Central because my brother played baseball here. He was a senior when I was a freshman.

What aspect of softball do you enjoy the most?
What I love about softball is how competitive and challenging the game is. I like that each game is different and that any team can win on any given day. I love the friendships you form with your teammates and the life lessons that can be learned such as leadership, working together and that sometimes things won’t always go your way.

Describe a challenge that you had to overcome during your time here at Central.
The transition from my freshman to sophomore season was the most challenging thing about my career at Central. I went from having really great leadership and a great pitcher ahead of me my freshman year, to having more or less a rebuilding year for the program my sophomore year. My sophomore year really defined the type of career I was going to have at Central as we were trying to win our way to the conference tournament and the Regional tournament as well as being named the conference’s best pitcher.

What is the most challenging aspect of softball?
The most challenging aspect of softball is to mentally stay positive. Everyone will tell you that softball/baseball is a game of failures. Going 3/10 at the plate or not getting out the next game and pitch like that game never happened. It’s a tough skill to acquire, but once you can learn to stay positive both for yourself, and for your teammates, that is when you can really find success. This is also what I believe I have really improved on over the course of my career at Central.

Who is your motivator or idol?
My motivator is my teammates. Whether it be at practice, in a game or at 6 a.m. weights. My teammates are the ones that pushed me to be better and to keep working hard.

Looking back as a senior, what are some of your favorite softball memories playing for Central?
My favorite memories of my career at Central all have to do with the lifelong friendships I’ve made with teammates. Being a pitcher, we practiced differently than the rest of the team. I loved pulling pranks with my fellow senior pitcher, Taryn Smith, on our pitching coach, Mike Gavutte. There are a lot of fun memories just sitting in the locker room before a practice talking about random things with all of my teammates.

Maria’s Lasting Memory

Freshman: 8-5 record, 4.63 ERA, 48 strikeouts.
Sophomore: 11-17 record, 3.48 ERA, 121 strikeouts.
Junior: 9-13 record, 2.20 ERA, 104 strikeouts, three shutouts.
Senior: 20-10 record, 3.12 ERA, 141 strikeouts, three shutouts.

Maria finished her Central career as the all-time leader in wins, (52) complete games, (67) innings pitched (563) and sits at fourth with 422 strikeouts.

How has this year’s team compared to years past? What is something this year’s team has improved on as a whole?
This year’s team was a lot different than the past three seasons mainly with the amount of talent we had. It’s tough when some of the most talented players don’t see the field as much as they would like, but every single person who was in that position this year still gave 100 percent at practice, or cheering on our team in a game. Whatever their role was this year, they worked really hard. We had a few very selfless players this year who contributed to the success of this team more than I think they realize. I think we also learned something from each game, and carried it on to the next. We started off on a very high note, going 3-0 in our first games in Vegas, and had to figure out how to continue to get better from there. As challenging as that was, no other team besides this one would have been able to do that.

What will you miss the most about softball? Why?
What I will miss most about softball are the sounds, the smells, the feeling after a big win and the close bonds with teammates. I know there will never be another experience similar to playing college softball and it’s hard to realize that.

If you could give one piece of advice to an incoming player what would it be?
I would tell an incoming player to appreciate every moment and opportunity. Playing college softball is a huge commitment, but it’s worth every minute of it. Everyone will tell you that four years goes so fast, and it truly does. I still can’t believe that I will never play another game, and that I’m graduating in less than two weeks.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
In 10 years, I hope to be an Athletic Director at a high school, while also coaching softball. I have no idea where, but I am excited about the future.