ROAD TEST
Wildcats look for first win away from home

NOW SHOWING?
Grand Meridian in Ellensburg one of few to screen “The Interview”

FORGING FORWARD
FISH Food Bank recovering after fall fire
Taxation causes steep costs for cannabis industry

By Evan Thompson Contributing Writer

Section 280E of the U.S. tax code is only one sentence long. But the 35-year-old law, intended to punish drug traffickers, threatens to drown Washington marijuana businesses, according to Taylor Choyce, a marijuana retail consultant and brother of Best Budz retail liaison and business owner Brittany Carone.

Basically, any business engaged in selling drugs that are illegal under federal law, such as marijuana, can’t take normal business deductions or credits that reduce their federal tax bills. One of those deductions is the 25 percent excise tax that Washington levies on every marijuana sales transaction.

But Senate Bill 5005, recently introduced in the Washington State Legislature, would try to help marijuana businesses by changing the legal status of the excise tax. As a result, according to Bellevue lawyer James Hunt, from the Canna Law Blog, marijuana producers will be “the clear winners” because SB 5005 gives them a way to escape the excise tax. “When the people wrote this bill to get it passed, they were unaware of IRS Section 280E, which is the federal drug trafficking income tax,” Choyce said. “They thought they would only be charging business owners a 25 percent excise tax. They didn’t realize that the federal government would be taking so much.”

As an example of how steep the tax rates can be, Cannabis Central owner Rob Hendrix said he accumulated $45,000 in taxes in September and October alone. “I am yet to take any salary,” Hendrix said. “The business has probably shown a net profit of less than $2,500. It’s almost $25,000 total [tax costs] for September, all for a 250-square-foot business.”

Choyce believes that I-502 was “poorly written,” by people who know little about marijuana. The result is a seemingly impossible market to make a profit. Tony Aronica, a member of the Ellensburg City Council, said that I-502 was “unorganized.” “This was crafted language that came before the public for a popular vote. It was not language that went through the committee structure and review process of the state legislature,” Aronica said. “When initiatives are passed in Washington, they’re carved in stone for two years. This means the current legislative session, which opened Monday, will be the first time that Olympia gets a crack at making any changes in the law. According to Choyce, there are two factors that must change in order for a profit to be attainable: 1) The Drug Enforcement Agency reschedules marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule III drug (Section 280E is enforced on both Schedule I and II drugs), 2) Owners are permitted to deduct their expenses before calculating the excise tax.

Choyce said he will in help Carone get Best Budz up and running in Ellensburg. The two won the lottery and will soon be licensed by the WSCLB. But unlike Cannabis Central, which opened in July, Best Bud is yet to open its doors. The siblings decided to hold off on opening their store for several reasons. “We don’t have to sell over-priced, low quality products to the public and lose money while we’re doing it,” Choyce said. Choyce knew that his business wasn’t going to be profitable when he went in to the business. “We thought maybe...let’s do something happening and that we can actually make our money back someday.”
Gone but not forgotten

FISH food bank back on its feet after fire

BY CHACE DAVY

News Editor

Carla Tacher watched in shock as the place she called her second home burned to the ground last Thanksgiving weekend. The contents and the building itself, according to Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, were a 100 percent loss.

Tacher has been the kitchen manager at the FISH food bank for the last three years. In the span of a few hours, the thousands of pounds of food donated to the bank were destroyed.

“I sort of lost who I was, because I no longer had a place that I showed up for, and a space,” Tacher said.

Tacher had trouble getting back on her feet after the fire. “I was the first one on the scene,” Tacher said. “It was super traumatic.”

She and her daughter were grabbing a cup of cocoa when she saw smoke billowing from her beloved food bank.

When she arrived at the scene, she rushed in and unlocked the building for the firefighters, who didn’t have the key. The building had been rekeyed a week prior.

“But by that time, I had started to breathe a lot of smoke...I wasn’t thinking,” [a firefighter] grabbed me and threw me out of the building...I sat in [an ambulance] for an hour and a half,” Tacher said.

Recovery

Two days after the fire, FISH relocated to a building behind the Mercer Creek Church and was working its way toward being fully operational again.

“In a month, we’ve really been able to, thankfully, get some sort of regularity, and still be able to serve the people,” Tacher said.

According to Tacher, donations came pouring in from everywhere, in an attempt to replace the thousands of pounds of food that were lost in the fire.

“The community has rallied in so many ways,” Tacher said. “I really love Ellensburg.”

Tacher believes the food bank is a part of her identity.

Once a beneficiary of the services that FISH provides, Tacher knows that what FISH does makes a world of difference to everybody who stops by.

That is why it was so important to Tacher to get FISH up and running again as soon as possible.

Every Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, FISH serves lunch. Dinner is served on Saturdays. Around 1,600 individuals each month take advantage of the services FISH provides, according to Tacher, including Jessicah Sugira and her family.

The food bank means everything to Sugira.

“It’s like the cornerstone of the community as it is,” Sugira said. “Everybody that comes in, they know each other...The staff, they know us all by first name, they know all of our problems.”

Sugira has been dealing with brain cancer for the past six years, and the food bank serves not only as a place to get a healthy meal, but also as a support network for her and her family.

Connecting with Central

On top of the generous donations by the Ellensburg community, the Central nutrition program and Nutrition Club have helped support the bank after the fire.

SUSAN Hawk, professor of nutritional science and dietetics program director, teaches a class that gets students involved with the food bank.

The class gets students to help Tacher in the kitchen cooking healthy meals for the people who stop by.

This year, the students are going to go into the food bank and create, from the resources available, a grain-based side dish and a vegetable dish to serve the community.

“We’re not going in with pre-purchased fancy food items and adding a side dish,” Hawk said.

According to Hawk, it’s much like the show Iron Chef, where they have a set list of ingredients and come up with a meal from what they are given.

According to Hawk, poor food resource management is one of the leading causes of obesity and disease in the United States, especially in impoverished areas.

For instance, in some parts of Oakland, there is a high density of people who only have easy access to a corner market that may not contain the proper foods necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Community Engagement

The goal for Hawk is to not only teach the students how to be creative with food on a budget, but also to teach the community how they can make better choices when cooking or buying food.

“Ellensburg is like a family to the students,” Hawk said. “We all rally and support each other.”

When the Nutrition Club comes to help out at FISH, they fill the boxes they give to the families with healthy meals and provide the recipe of that meal.

“We realize nutrition very much affects the way we carry on in life,” Tacher said. “As a nation, it’s an epidemic of obesity and diabetes and other illnesses.”

Hawk encourages students to go out and volunteer with the food bank. FISH only employs five paid members, and therefore relies heavily on volunteers.

“A lot of people are just a paycheck away from being in the same position,” Hawk said.

The Future

According to Tacher, the plan is to stay at their current location for the next year before they look at moving out.

They will look at either moving to a completely different warehouse or rebuilding at the burn site of the old food bank.

Like with everything else Tacher does, she has a positive attitude about the future of FISH.

“She doesn’t look forward, what 2015 will bring,” Tacher said. “We’re all on this journey together.”

To help FISH:

Sign up to volunteer/donate at: kvfish.org

Donate food at the bus depot behind Mercer Creek Church at: 1407 N. B St.

Donate to the FISH scholarship program at: cwuobservernews@gmail.com

PHOTOS BY DERRICK CLAYT/ OBSERVER

BURNED Thousands of pounds of food, as well as equipment, were lost during the FISH food bank fire over Thanksgiving weekend.
Central’s Elvin Delgado, assistant professor with the department of geography, was recently awarded a grant for $10,000 to study the social and ecological impacts of fracking, the extraction of shale and natural gases within the earth, in Argentina.

Delgado said he plans to visit Argentina in two trips: the first being a pilot study, and the following trip to conduct his primary research goals.

“My research informs my teaching,” Delgado said. “My hope is that with the data I gather, I can help create policy and also bring all of that information to inform the different things that we cover in class.”

Delgado completed his undergraduate degree in geography and environmental science, and then proceeded to work on a paid internship for National Geographic.

Over the past 10 years, Delgado said he has primarily studied the social and ecological impacts of the extraction of oil and natural gas in Venezuela. Delgado was hired by Central in 2012 as an energy resource geographer, and eventually became director of the energy studies minor.

“When I started teaching, I realized there was a huge need for a structured program here at Central,” Delgado said.

Further, he discussed current issues with companies in the energy sector and asked what main problems they were facing. Most of them said a large percentage of their employees are retiring, so there is a demand for new employees in the sector.

“I received funding from the president’s innovation fund and the provost fund—a total of $500,000—to establish and develop the institute for integrated energy studies,” Delgado said.

He said there are two main components of the new institute. One is research for contract services and the other is a bachelor of science in integrated energy management.

A proposal for the new institute, which has been in motion for two and a half years, Delgado said, was submitted last Friday to the faculty senate.

“All students will come and take the core courses for the program and then they will choose one out of three specializations,” Delgado said. “They can focus on either integrated energy policy, integrated energy business or integrated power systems.”

Delgado said that the new program is the first in the Northwest that plans to address conventional and alternative energy issues with a special focus on energy management.

Additionally, selected students would be given the opportunity to complete their degree in a cooperative education program, similar to an apprenticeship. However, this would not be available to all students due to high qualification standards.

“The degree program is bringing 14 departments together from four colleges,” Delgado said. “We have courses from geography, environmental studies, economics, business, communication and physics. Students can do a combination of courses that will give them an expertise in particular areas.”

Delgado said he aims to integrate his research into the design of this new program.

“My personal goal is to be able to effect policy, and to be able to develop scientific results that will be published so that they can be used to inform policy,” Delgado said. “The second thing is to bring this knowledge to students.”

If the new degree program is approved, it will be available for students in fall 2015.
Important CWU salaries

Big Wig Names/Highest Salaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Lawrence Gaudino</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>$306,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine E. Bennet*</td>
<td>Head Coach</td>
<td>$269,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn A. Levine</td>
<td>Provost/Vp Acad &amp; Student Life</td>
<td>$203,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>George H Clark</td>
<td>Vp Business &amp; Financial Affairs</td>
<td>$200,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret M Badgley*</td>
<td>“Asst To Prov, University Cent”</td>
<td>$197,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy I Melbourne*</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>$195,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Martell</td>
<td>Dean College Of Business</td>
<td>$182,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin L Bouillion</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>$159,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James S Avey*</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>$156,287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highest and Lowest in Titles

Head Coach
- Greg S Sparling: Head Coach (Basketball) - $88,203
- Desi E Storey: Head Coach (Baseball) - $40,176

Assistant Coach
- John L Picha: Assistant Coach (Football) - $70,153
- Brittany Lynn Aanstad: Assistant Coach (Track & Field) - $1,716

Professor
- Timothy I Melbourne: Professor (Geology) - $195,626
- Mark P. Pritchard: Professor (Business/Marketing) - $116,188

Associate Professor
- James S Avey: Associate Professor (Management) - $156,287
- Mary E Lochrie*: Associate Professor (Education) - $1,499

* No longer with the university

Editors Note:
Here at The Observer, our slogan is “By the students, for the students.” As such, we feel it’s prudent for the students to be informed of important information that regards the campus. We feel like the students have the right to know how much their professors make. These salary numbers are public record and can be found at:
http://fiscal.wa.gov/salaries.aspx

ATTENTION Student Entrepreneurs!!

The 2015 CWU Student Business Plan Competition is Coming in January

- What does it mean to be an entrepreneur? Innovation and Entrepreneurship Speaker Series: “The Entrepreneur’s Journey” (Guest Speakers) • Wednesday, Jan. 21 • 2:00-3:10 p.m. • Shaw-Smyser 115
- How do you take your product design, service or app idea and turn it into a business venture? SCORE Workshop: “Business Plan for a Startup Business” • Tuesday, Jan. 27 • 1:00-3:00 p.m. • Shaw-Smyser 112

Learn about ENTREPRENEURSHIP through the 2015 CWU Student Business Plan Competition—a competition with cash awards!

Information about the Business Plan Competition is posted on the I4IE and SOURCE websites.
Freedom of speech isn’t so free

Editor’s note:
We feel, as an organization, that our readers have the right to information and content that are at the center of controversy in local and global issues. This “Charia Hebdo” cover was one of several published by the magazine that depicted Muhammad over the years.

The speech bubble reads “100 lashes if you don’t die from laughter!”

DEAR READERS:
The Observer welcomes brief letters of 300 words or less from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. To be printed in the following week’s issue, use the “Submit a Letter” link on cwuobserver.com by 5 p.m. Sunday. The Observer reserves the right to reject or edit for style and length. All letters become property of The Observer. Anonymous letters will not be considered.
Local theater screens “The Interview” despite national threats of terrorism

BY JOHN SHAND
Assistant Scene Editor

In a recent turn of events, the end of 2014 happened to be one of the weirdest times to be a moviegoer in the United States “The Interview,” the buddy comedy collaboration between Seth Rogen and James Franco about the fictional assassination of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un, was pulled by Sony in response to a threat of terrorism made by the hacker group Lizard Squad. Preceding Sony pulling the movie from circulation, national theater chains AMC, Regal and Cinemark all pulled the movie from screens in response to a separate threat from a different hacker group.

According to a Newsday article, “After hackers, calling themselves the “Guardians of Peace,” referenced the terrorism attacks of Sept. 11 in an ominous warning of violence for “Interview” moviegoers, Sony offered theaters the option of bowing out,” Newsday reported.

Weirdly still, Sony decided to reverse its previous decision, and on Dec. 23 – two days before the film was originally set to release – they released the movie to a small number of theaters throughout the United States. Sony also made the movie available on video-on-demand services such as YouTube Movies, Google Play and Microsoft’s Xbox Video.

“Benefiting from unprecedented publicity, “The Interview” took in an eye-catching $15 million in its first four days of online sales and rentals, more than five times its box-office tally over the holiday weekend,” according to an article published in the Los Angeles Times.

Having only released to such a small number of theaters, “The Interview” benefited greatly from its online presence. As of Sunday, “The Interview” sits at no. 15 overall on YouTube’s most popular videos, having occupied the no. 1 spot just three days after release.

A video-on-demand release of this scale had not yet been attempted, and it’s unclear whether or not the movie’s success hinges on the publicity afforded to the movie, or the general positive reception. “The Interview” currently boasts a 32 fresh rating on review aggregate site Rotten Tomatoes, and a 7.2 on IMDB. However, the higher score of 7.2 is most likely a result of users rating it a perfect 10 after it was yanked from circulation.

According to the New York Times, Sony was also able to patch together a release to over 200 smaller theater chains through the United States. Larger chains were uninterested in the film, especially considering the threats they faced.

One such theater that is screening “The Interview” is the Grand Meridian Cinema in Ellensburg. Owner Keith Rix lingered to keep the film in distribution as a means of showing support for his First Amendment right to free speech.

“There’s two aspects of [us] taking this film,” Rixinger said. “Number one, there’s the hack and the North Korean issue. That’s the avenue we wanted to take, is the freedom of speech, the opportunities we have in America. The other side is the downside to taking this film. We were told we were one of five [theaters] in the state to take this film.”

Rixinger said “The Interview” opened fourth in total box office sales for its opening day. He attributes the low numbers to the film’s simultaneous release online.

“As a theater owner, we’re totally opposed to that,” Rixinger said. “We’re very much opposed to opening anything that’s going to release direct-to-video or online. And, quite frankly, the film itself has a very distinct audience. It would have done better if the college [students] were here.”

According to Variety Magazine, “The Interview” went on to be pirated over 900,000 times just 24 hours after digital release.

N. KORIA AND PUPPIES From left: Diana Bang, Seth Rogen and James Franco in “The Interview.”

Review: The Interview

“They hate us ‘cuz they ain’t us”

BY ADAM WILSON
Editor-In-Chief

I don’t think I have to tell you that “The Interview” doesn’t live up to the hype, but there’s really no way it could have. Confusion over the recent Sony information leak, in addition to a few threats, lead to the company pulling the film from its opening weekend. How could it possibly get any more controversial than that?

“The Interview” follows talk show host Dave Skylark [James Franco] and his producer Aaron Rapaport [Seth Rogen], who managed to land an exclusive interview with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The FBI, upon hearing about the interview, enlists the duo to assassinate the supreme leader, which [as expected] leads to wacky situations in North Korea as Skylark and Rapaport clumsily try to implement the FBI’s plan.

Honestly, I wish more time was spent with those wacky situations and less time setting up the plot. The beginning of the movie, despite its hilarious celebrity cameos with Eminem and Rob Lowe, is an unfortunate mess of forced character development and stage setting until Rapaport lands the interview with Kim.

For example, Rogen’s character has a conversation early on with a former colleague, where Rogen is basically attacked for his career choice, except the entire thing happens at a party celebrating one of Rogen’s character’s career milestones. It doesn’t make sense for his colleague to be there, and feels like the conversation only happened because Rapaport needed motivation for his future actions.

However, from the moment the duo knows they will be interviewing Un, the plot picks up and so does the humor. Sure, it’s a standard non sequitur that even Rogen and Franco did not have. I certainly wish they had more time together. (If you can’t stand James Franco, then you will want to pass.)

“The Interview” unfolded after the plot got going. Underneath many of its seemingly superficial jokes is a fair amount of foreshadowing that, once the viewer realizes what’s going on, results in much richer comedy than we’ve seen in other Rogen films. It’s really odd to see something as serious as manipulation (as the movie calls it, “honey-potting”) as a recurring theme in an otherwise mindless comedy, but “The Interview” makes it work.

I was actually surprised by the way “The Interview” unfolded after the plot got going. Underneath many of its seemingly superficial jokes is a fair amount of foreshadowing that, once the viewer realizes what’s going on, results in much richer comedy than we’ve seen in other Rogen films. It’s really odd to see something as serious as manipulation (as the movie calls it, “honey-potting”) as a recurring theme in an otherwise mindless comedy, but “The Interview” makes it work.

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According to a Newsday article, “After hackers, calling themse...
New year, new resolutions!

“My New Year’s resolution would be to get back on track with my family and to buy a Jeep.”
Danielle Jandry
Sophomore elementary education

“My New Year’s resolution is definitely to lose some weight; I have taken more physical education classes than usual just to keep active.”
Milagro Castilleja
Sophomore film and video studies

“My New Year’s resolution is to get better, faster, and stronger.”
Megan Pinson
Sophomore psychology

“One of my New Year’s resolutions is to read the entire bible.”
Tina Shuford
Freshman music education

“My New Year’s resolution is to become more social and do things outside of my comfort zone and just to take more trips that my father would have.”
Jessica Griffin
Freshman public relations

“I don’t have a set resolution but the one life change that I have made recently is to experience life instead of plan it out. It is more along the line of a frame of mind.”
Genna Birch
Freshman BFA design and production

“My New Year’s resolution is just to study more and get more involved in school. I probably am going to the library this weekend.”
Brian Powers
Junior business administration

“My New Year’s resolution is not to be lazy and sit around play video games all day long. Workout, but workout outside. Three days a week I go running outside.”
Zackery Benson
Freshman mathematics

“To be more focused on my academics. I have pushed off the distractions and set aside the party time.”
Autumn Robinson
Freshman psychology

“My New Year’s Resolution is to plan ahead and not end up doing things at the last minute.”
David Schmidt
Freshman aviation

“Years ago I made a resolution to not make resolutions anymore.”
Tori Cox
Senior communication studies

“My general goal for the year is to learn a new skill and learn it to a level where you are actually good at. I am thinking of learning coding, because we are so dependent on technology, but none of us know how to do anything.”
Courtney Wood
Freshman undeclared

“My New Year’s resolution is to lose some weight; I have taken more physical education classes than usual just to keep active.”
Milagro Castilleja
Sophomore film and video studies

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Senior communication studies
Heroin and homelessness

BY MARIA HARR
Scene Editor

Twelve years spent among homeless heroin and crack users on the streets of California culminated in the exhibit “Righteous Dopefiend,” which is now open in the Museum of Culture and Environment.

The exhibit is meant to allow visitors to take visitors to the backstreets of San Francisco where anthropologist Philippe Bourgois and photographer-ethnographer Jeff Schonberg did their 12-year long research project on intravenous drug users.

One of the first quotes that can be seen in the exhibit comes from a woman, both homeless and addicted to heroin, recognized only as “Tina.”

“Tina” said, “I’ll let ya’ll know why I’m like this. Let me tell my story.”

Mark Auslander, associate professor and museum director, thinks the exhibit humanizes the homeless.

“It’s a vast social problem we don’t talk about in the U.S.,” Auslander said. “We look back at slavery and think, ‘how could we let that happen?’ I think we’ll look back and think the same thing.”

Starting in 1994, Schonberg and Bourgois began befriending over two dozen camps of homeless heroin injectors and crack smokers. Their daily visits, and occasional overnight stays, continued for twelve years, ending in 2006. Then, in 2009, the pair published their book “Righteous Dopefiend,” a chronicle of all they had learned.

The exhibit has several sections, each focusing on a specific aspect of the lives of the San Francisco “dopefiends.”

As a whole, “Righteous Dopefiend” is meant to take viewers on an intimate trip out onto the streets and through the life of homeless drug users.

As a whole, “Righteous Dopefiend” is meant to take viewers on an intimate trip out onto the streets and through the life of homeless drug users.

“I am struck by the power of the exhibition […]” Nan Doolittle, owner of Tash Canyon Counseling, said. “The poignancy, the grief and the possibility.”

Doolittle was brought in by Auslander to run an art workshop as part of nine free events happening in conjunction with the “Righteous Dopefiend.”

“The workshop involved creating a ‘homeplace’ with crafts. Set in San Francisco, the exhibit may seem far away for students at Central, but the supplemental exhibit created by students on homelessness and heroin abuse in Ellensburg and Kittitas county brings it back home.”

Barbara Hammersberg, senior history major and Museum Club secretary, has been working on the exhibit and finding out how students can help homeless and addicts in the community.

“I want people to think about how this can affect anyone,” Hammersberg said. “People think it’s a big city issue and not in a small town, but it is in our community.”

Heroin and homelessness

TENT CITY

The display is created to give viewers the impression of living in a homeless encampment.

“Righteous Dopefiend”

Where: 1200 North D St.
Hours: Wed. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sun. - Tue. Closed
Admission: Free

TENT CITY: The display is created to give viewers the impression of living in a homeless encampment.

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Teamwork makes the dream work

BY MARIA HARR
Scene Editor

Building and programing robots: it’s just one thing that fourth to eighth graders are learning at the FIRST LEGO League Eastern Washington Championships.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a competition for teams of elementary and middle school children, ages 9-14, that challenges them to solve real world problems using science.

They must also design and program robots using customizable kits of software and hardware called LEGO Mindstorms.

According to Dannica Price, the event coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education, Central got involved in hosting FLL championships to promote and recruit students for STEM programs, as well as give young students a feel for college campuses.

“Basically, we’re hoping they get a good image of Central while they’re here,” Price said. “The relationship Central and FIRST has is really important and we’re always trying to grow it.”

Central also offers scholarships to FLL participants planning on going into STEM majors.

At the championship, the teams of ten are judged on four different things: how their robot is designed, how it performs autonomously on the obstacle and challenge course, how they work together as a team and finally their presentation.

The presentation is based on research they’ve done on the current year’s STEM topic. In past years, the challenges have ranged from nanotechnology to quality of life for the handicapped population.

This year’s challenge is “World Class – Learning Unleashed.” Students have to find a new way for people to gather information and learn skills in the 21st century and teach adults how kids “need and want” to learn.

Charles Pringle, associate professor of mechanical engineering and a volunteer coordinator for FLL, said that both the FLL teams and Central volunteers are helping their future careers by participating.

The FLL teams are learning math, computer and engineering skills, critical thinking and the principles of science.

“It provides a venue for the students to tinker and learn about the physics of the world,” Pringle said.

He added that students learning to work well as a team will set them up for the professional world.

Central volunteers earn valuable experience, as well as volunteer time that will impress employers, even more so for students trying to get into a STEM related field or a teaching job.

“When they’re going to get a job, a lot of the employers are looking for a well rounded individual, not somebody that just did their engineering homework and got straight As,” Pringle said. “So being able to be a part of the community and support an even like that is important as far as when they get ready to graduate.”

Central students willing to volunteer are doing more than just helping themselves out, but are also offering themselves up as examples for the young elementary and middle school students to look up to.

“I think, just while they’re here in school, the importance of them doing it is that they can be examples and mentors to the students that are coming to participate in the event,” Pringle said.

The championship is open to the public, and, while the rules and objectives during the robotics portion of the championship might be confusing, Pringle has said that seeing the enthusiasm the student teams have and watching the robots is fun.

“They get to have a lot of experiences that other students don’t,” Price said.
Wrap it before you rep it

Fashion and protection will mix on the catwalk at the Wellness Center’s Condom Fashion Show. Fifteen different teams will work with up to 600 condoms to design outfits that, in their own way, represent sexual health. The event will run as part of Sexual Responsibility Week.

The Wellness Center is putting on the show in hopes of making sexual protection, such as condoms, a more approachable subject for students.

“People are more likely to not see [condoms] in a negative way then,” said Erin Reeh, a peer health educator at the Wellness Center and one of the main organizers of the event.

At the moment, 9,000 condoms, in tall stacks of precariously perched boxes, wait in the Wellness Center for design teams to pick up. Health Educator at the Wellness Center, Doug Fulp, who is organizing the event alongside Reeh, thinks the design teams will end up being distinctly different.

“I think we’re going to get a pretty wide array,” Fulp said. “Some of them to test their technical skills, others just to have fun.”

So far, several art students and fashion design students have already signed up. While this is the first time the Wellness Center has put on a condom fashion show, it’s not the first time Central has had protective rubbers on the catwalk.

Back in 2011 and 2012, the RHA had condom fashion shows as part of their Sexapalooza events. Similar to Sexual Responsibility Week, Sexapalooza is meant to spread information on and promote sexual health.

Chloe Hildeman, current RHA president and public relations major, said the RHA stopped hosting their condom fashion show because it began to get inappropriate and they lost sponsorship. But she is pleased that it has come back to Central.

“It’s a fun program and a way to raise awareness about contraceptive health,” Hildeman said.

For her part, Hildeman is considering entering the show with friends or getting the resident halls involved.

“Depending on what the interest is I might get my own team together and end up doing something just ridiculous,” said Hildeman.

Someone she’d spoken with about designing for the show had the idea of making a ninja suit, or blowing up a magnum condom to make a sword.

Reeh and Fulp have planned several ways to interact with the crowd, such as trivia and an audience-choice award voting.

“It’s all about keeping it light-hearted and fun,” Reeh said.

According to Fulp, the trend of condom fashion shows started about six years ago with University of Oregon and University of South Carolina.

Reeh was hired last fall and took the Condom Fashion Show on as her yearly project. She’s grateful for the knowledge Fulp has been able to offer on the project, as he has previous experience working on four condom fashion shows at Montana State University.

Fulp said Montana State University and Central come from similar communities, both of which have conflicting views on sexual health education. This made it a little easier to apply his experience to Central’s own condom show.

“We’re not trying to take what other schools do,” Fulp said. “We’re trying to make it fit our community.”

It’s important to Fulp to make the condom show a good fit to help promote condom usage at Central.

Fulp and Reeh would like to break down the barriers for students who feel too embarrassed to ask for help, or to go into the Wellness Center to get condoms.

“We want people to keep an open mind about it and come check it out,” Fulp said.

Condom Fashion Show
Time: Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
Where: SURC Ballroom

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IN THE LANE

Erica Locker drives towards the hoop against Simon Fraser. The Wildcats are winless on the road this season, and look to turn it around this week as they travel.

BY SPENCER HANSEN
Assistant Sports Editor

The Central women’s basketball team will open up a GNAC road-trip at Montana State-Billings and Seattle Pacific. Central will go into the weekend with an 8-6 overall record and 3-3 in GNAC play, but have yet to win a road game.

“We know what’s at stake, it’s always tough to win on the road and we are preparing for two very tough games in two very tough places to play,” Head women’s basketball coach, Jeff Harada said.

The lady Wildcats are paced by senior guard Courtney Johnson and freshman guard Jasmin Edwards.

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Off the bench, Hannah Shine provides a spark, delivering instant offense via the three-pointer and shooting nearly 50 percent from deep.

Central looks to get back on track in conference play after dropping three of their last four conference matchups.

This season’s turn around has been a testament to first-year head coach Jeff Harada’s discipline and his recruiting efforts.

“It’s going to be a big, physical test for us on Thursday with the post player that MSUB has, she’s really good,” Harada said. “We’ve been working on some things to take away their strengths.”

Last year, the Cats recorded two conference wins and have already exceeded that in the first half of conference play.

As a team, the Wildcats rank eighth in the GNAC in scoring, but rank second in scoring defense allowing just under 60 points per game. Despite losing to Western Washington at Nicholson Pavilion last week, 76-68, the Wildcats responded in a big way against the Simon Fraser Clan with a 66-54 win. The Wildcats outrebounded the Clan 53-23, crashing the boards all night and collecting 16 offensive rebounds.

Central held the Clan to 17 points in the second half as their defense continued to swarm, as it did all night.

The Wildcats only shot percent from three-point range but the offensive rebounding gave Central numerous opportunities on extra possessions.

First up on the road swing for the ‘Cats will be the MSU-Billings Yellowjackets. The Yellowjackets are paced by Kaylens Goggins who averages 19.6 points per game, well enough for second in the GNAC. Central will have to execute at high level on offense as Billings allows the third lowest field goal percentage in the conference at just over 38 percent.

Another Yellowjacket to keep an eye on is sophomore forward Alisha Breen who leads Billings in three-point shooting percentage at 44 percent.

“In our conference it’s hard to win on the road and anytime you can pick up a road win, it’s huge,” senior guard Courtney Johnson said. “We’re just going in focused and we’re focusing on our defense, we know we can control games with our defense.”

The Wildcats finish up their road-trip with a visit to the Seattle Pacific Falcons who look to be the class of the GNAC early in the conference schedule as they are off to a 12-1 start overall and 4-1 in GNAC play.

The Falcons are on a six game winning streak and allow the second lowest field goal percentage (45%) in the conference.

Central will also need to continue their stingy defensive play because the Falcons shoot 40 percent from three-point range.

“We’ve got the personnel to beat them and we just have to have the will and the drive and we’re pretty confident,” junior forward India Matheson said.

This two game road-trip will be a telling sign for the lady Wildcats to see if they can keep pace with Western Washington and Alaska Anchorage and get into the postseason for the first time in several years.

CWU looks to end road woes
Wildcats square off against GNAC rivals

BY SPENCER HANSEN
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CWU looks to end road woes
Wildcats square off against GNAC rivals
Bubble ball soccer makes its debut

BY CHANCE WEKS-WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Intramural sports at Central have added a few new activities to its 2015 winter selection. Bubble ball soccer will finally make its debut in a tournament format and will also include a scavenger hunt.

Bubble ball soccer, which was initially supposed to be an activity available in the fall, will have a tournament on Jan. 15.

According to Intramural Coordinator Stinglen there was a problem with ordering the Bubble Ball in full quarter.

“We had everybody registered and we weren’t able to go through them anymore,” Stinglen said.

The recreation center now has all of the equipment to get the tournament going.

Bubble ball soccer has the same rules as soccer, except the players are wearing bubble suits around the upper part of their body. Since Bubble ball soccer is new to Central, the intramural referees have had to learn a new sport, according to Stinglen.

“It’s typical soccer rules,” Stinglen said. “Except it’s almost like full contact. The only rule is you can hit people as hard as you want, as long as its from the correct angle.”

Along with popular activities such as basketball, dodgeball and badminton, the intramural staff has added a scavenger hunt that will go on throughout the quarter.

Students will be able to participate by following clues that lead to objectives on the intramural Twitter page and the Facebook page.

In the intramural area of the SURC there will be updates on the winners of each objective. The student who completes the most objectives of the scavenger hunt will be given a championship shirt.

“If you follow us on Facebook or Twitter, we’ll post things, like take a picture at a varsity basketball game,” Stinglen said. “It’s something that will go out weekly.”

According to Stinglen, the indoor soccer leagues are almost full. In response to this, Stinglen has added an extra day per week for students to play.

Also new this quarter is the change of the champion t-shirt color. The shirt colors will be either black or gray, according to Stinglen.

The deadline to register for intramurals is Jan. 16 at 3 p.m.

CWU intramural sports cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Cost per team</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubble Ball Soccer</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodgeball</td>
<td>$55 per team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Flag Football</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Soccer</td>
<td>$55 per team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickleball</td>
<td>$15 per team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ping Pong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>$55 per team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiffle Ball</td>
<td>$40 per team</td>
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</tbody>
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Back comes the Pack

BY SPENCER HANSEN
Associated Sports Editor

The Seahawks continued their winning against the Carolina Panthers on Saturday with a dominating 31-17 win.

Safety Kam Chancellor punctuated his outstanding defensive performance with an 89-yard touchdown on an interception of Cam Newton.

The Hawks got off to their traditional slow start offensively but were able to go from both sides, Russell Wilson delivered a pass to Jermaine Kearse for a sensational one-handed grab that he would score from 63 yards out. The Panthers lacked a 33-yard field goal, which halved the deficit at 14-10.

To start the second half, Steven Hauschka added a 53-yard drive with a 57-yard field goal to extend it to a touchdown lead. Then the Hawks started to pull away when Wilson hit tight end Luke Willson for a 25-yard touchdown pass, and Chancellor proceeded with a pick six on the following drive to cement the victory.

The Seahawks will finish the night with an unprecedented start-line on 3rd down going 8-3 and three touchdowns passing. The Packers return to Century Link Field this Sunday for the first time since the season-opening 30-16. Both of these teams are very different than they were earlier this season.

In the Packers’ case, they have been riding an offensive hot streak, led by running back Marshawn Lynch, Rodgers who managed to lead the Packers to a comeback victory. After a 1-2 start, Rodgers urged fans to R-E-L-X. After some key losses due to injuries and a lack of identity on defense. They are scoring 30 points per game, always doing a great job with a plethora of injuries themselves, losing Cassius Marsh, Brandon Mebane, Za’Chike Miller, for season, as well as some other smaller injuries to key players like Bobby Wagner and Max Unger, who managed to find their way back in the lineup.

After a tough loss at home to the Cowboys, and off field losses with disgruntled wideout Percy Harvin, the Hawks got into a funk mid-season before focusing on what had gotten them where they are today.

Marshawn Lynch was third in the league in rushing and finished with his fourth straight 1,000-yard season. Russell Wilson hasn’t put up crazy numbers but he has made some game-changing plays down the stretch to help the team to victory. Wilson plays so free and easy because that’s his personality, no moment is too big. Also, he isn’t relished upon to win games himself because the defense controls the game.

One matchup that is anticipated to seeing is the Hawks’ front-seven (LBs and DL) line-up against the Packers offensive line. The Packers are the 11th ranked rushing offense in the league which is spear-headed by second year man Eddie Lacy, who some say has a similar running style to that of Lynch.

On the flip side, the Seahawks are a great job stopping the run, coming in ranked second allowing under 100 yards per game on the ground. The Hawks’ front seven is loaded with speed and physicality. The X-factor here is the fact that Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor does such a great job in run defense and giving help to the other starters, it seems like he’s in on every play.

Chancellor on the other hand, has speed, but also looks to deliver the knockout blow to the ball carrier. Although he does get beat in coverage semi-frequently, he delivers savage hits to the opposition.

The Packers are a good running team but their bread and butter is the passing game from Aaron Rodgers and their receiving core. Jordy Nelson does present some problems for the Hawks’ lockdown secondary. Nelson can cut on a dime and has the speed to beat DBs on deep routes and slant routes, which Richard Sherman has been susceptible on slants and routes to the inside. Randall Cobb is also a speedster and has a knack for coming back to Rodgers when a play breaks down.

The key for the Hawks is the speed-filled linebacking core. Bobby Wagner, K.J. Wright and Bruce Irvin all have speed and are great cover linebackers. Irvin is a hybrid defensive end/ outside linebacker but he fits in. Irvin usually is in the game to rush the passer but showed improvement this season.

Although Aaron Rodgers led a valiant comeback against Dallas, his mobility was severely affected due to the calf injuries. Rodgers is deceptively quick and relies on being able to maneuver in the pocket to extend plays. The Seahawks are playing at full strength, although losing Paul Richardson (torn ACL) does hurt an already thin receiving core. Also, the Hawks end up making the Packers a one-dimensional team and will end up having to force throws down the field on the stingy secondary. The defensive line will hold Rodgers in and ball struggle to extend plays outside the pocket. Hawks get to Phoenix with a 27-23 win.
Top 10 Central athletes

1. Jon Kitna: Football

Jon Kitna is probably the most well-known CWU athlete and a native of Tacoma. Kitna was a standout QB for a Central football team that shared the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championship. Kitna wasn’t even a scholarship player coming into his time at Central. He went undrafted after the 1995 season and was signed to the Seahawks practice squad under then-head coach Dennis Erickson. Kitna spent five seasons with the Seahawks before playing stints with the Bengals, Lions and Cowboys and was named NFL Comeback Player of the Year in 2003. Kitna now resides in Tacoma and is the head football coach at Lincoln High School.

2. Mark McLaughlin: Basketball

Mark McLaughlin was a two-time first team All-GNAC selection in his two years at CWU after transferring from Tacoma Community College and nearly attending University of Washington. His first year at Central, he led the GNAC in scoring with 22.4 points per game and had 21 20-point performances. His senior season, he led all of Division II scoring 27.1 points per game. He was also named to the West region first team as well as a first team All-American and played in the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) All-Star game in Indiana. McLaughlin went undrafted, but signed a professional contract with the Erie BayHawks of the NBA D-league. His pro debut was January 10th, 2015 and he recorded 12 points, netting 10 of them in the fourth quarter.

3. Mallory Holtman-Fletcher: Softball

Mallory Holtman-Fletcher was a standout softball player and is best known for her heroic act helping a Western Oregon player who hit a homerun and tore her ACL running around the bases. She received an ESPY for Sportsmanship. In 2013, Holtman-Fletcher was named to NCAA Division 2 40th Anniversary Tribute Team. She also set numerous statistical records and highlighted her career by being honored as GNAC Player of the Year as a senior. She is one of only two players in conference history to earn first-team All-GNAC honors four times. On her way to cementing her name in Central softball history, she batted .365 with a school-record 35 homeruns, 128 RBIs and 206 hits during her career.

4. Adam Bighill: Football

Adam Bighill was an All-American linebacker on the football team in 2010 and was honored by wearing number 44, given to the most tenacious and tough and Wildcat defender who displays the most discipline. He was also named CWU’s 2010-2011 Co-Male Athlete of the year. One of his most memorable plays was a 66-yard interception for a touchdown against Eastern Washington. Bighill is going into his fifth year with the B.C. Lions of the CFL (Canadian Football League). In four seasons with the Lions he has recorded 280 tackles, 24 sacks, six interceptions and five fumble recoveries.

5. Meisha Tate: UFC

Meisha Tate isn’t your typical professional athlete, and she took the road less travelled. She wasn’t a varsity athlete at Central, but she did become a professional mixed martial arts fighter. She grew up in Tacoma and was on the boys wrestling team in high school. She won the women’s state championship in 2005. While attending Central she was persuaded by a friend to attend the mixed martial arts club, and soon after, she became a member of the club, which was run by her current boyfriend and trainer Bryan Caraway. She is a former Strikeforce Women’s Bantamweight Champion. In 2010, she was named Female Fighter of the Year and was part of the fight of the year in 2013, according to AwakeningFighters.com, versus Bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey. She is currently the second ranked fighter in Bantamweight only to Rousey. Her career record is 15-5.
Central hoop star defies odds

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Redshirt senior point guard, Dominique Williams, comes from a tough place to grow up in.

However, that did not dictate his path that eventually led him to play college basketball. "I grew up in a community where a lot of people don’t make it out," Williams said. "But I grew up in a community where I had a lot of support.”

Williams attended Curtis high school and during his career at Curtis he was elected to the 4A All-State basketball team.

Once Williams graduated he attended Tacoma Community College (TCC) for two years before transferring to Central.

He had other offers from GNAC schools and small Division I schools, but chose Central because some of his teammates from TCC had gone to Central.

Williams said that has helped team on the court because of the amount of chemistry that they already share. His first year at TCC, Williams made first team All-Northwest Athletic Conference. While at TCC, he averaged 10 points per game, Williams first started playing basketball at the age of four. He started to play at the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) level.

"He’s always been there," Williams said. "Just to give me advice on the little things on what point guards need.”

Sparling said that Williams has had growth both on and off the court especially in the classroom.

"Everything I got, is from me grinding," Williams said.

Men’s Head Basketball Coach, Greg Sparling said that Williams has had growth both on and off the court especially in the classroom.

"I think Dom’s really grown up in the past year," Sparling said. "The red-shirt year was huge for him. It’s allowing him to be able to graduate on time, which is a huge plus. I think if you would have asked Dom when he entered college if he would get a college degree, I’m not sure he would have thought he’d get one.”

Sparling said that Williams has made strides that will help him bring his game to the next level.

"On the offensive end he can shoot it from deep," Sparling said. "But he can also penetrate and score.”

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant is also one of Williams favorites players, whom he watches when he’s not in the gym working on his game.

Williams red-shirted his first year at Central. So far this season Williams has averaged 17.5 points per game.

To go along with that, Williams has already earned player of the week award with this season being his first with significant playing time.

Williams says that he is always looking to get better at basketball and is not satisfied.

Williams hopes to continue playing basketball after he graduates this year and become a professional basketball player. Another one of his goals is also to give back to the youth in his community.

"Where I come from not a lot of youth see people giving back," Williams said. "Sierra Raynor, Williams mother, has preached giving back to both him and his siblings. Raynor says that when Williams comes back from break he will go into his closet and pick out shoes that he doesn’t wear anymore and donate them to the Boys and Girls Club.

When he was younger, Williams and Raynor would travel across the United States for William’s Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) games.

Regardless of which team he was on the coaches always said the he had heart.

"He’s a small guy,” Raynor said. "But he just has so much heart. When he was younger the AAU coaches would always say he plays like he’s six foot three.”

Raynor adds that her son has always been independent, to which Williams himself agrees.

"Everything I got, is from me grinding," Williams said.

"I think Dom’s really grown up in the past year," Sparling said. "The red-shirt year was huge for him. It’s allowing him to be able to graduate on time, which is a huge plus. I think if you would have asked Dom when he entered college if he would get a college degree, I’m not sure he would have thought he’d get one.”

Sparling said that Williams has made strides that will help him bring his game to the next level.

"On the offensive end he can shoot it from deep," Sparling said. "But he can also penetrate and score.”
Top 10 CWU athletes continued

Here is a preview of next week’s five:

6. 7. 8. 9. 10.  

Check out our poll on Facebook and rank them for yourself at facebook.com/CWUObserver.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

6TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION & TRIBUTE

JANUARY 15TH

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
SURC Pit. 5:15pm - 6pm

MLK REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM
Presentation & Keynote Address in SURC Theatre. 6pm - 7pm