

1-22-2015

## The Observer

Central Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu\\_student\\_newspaper](https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper)

---

### Recommended Citation

Central Washington University, "The Observer" (2015). *CWU Student Newspaper*. 2529.  
[https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu\\_student\\_newspaper/2529](https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper/2529)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in CWU Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@cwu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@cwu.edu).

# The BSERVER

By the students and for the students of CWU

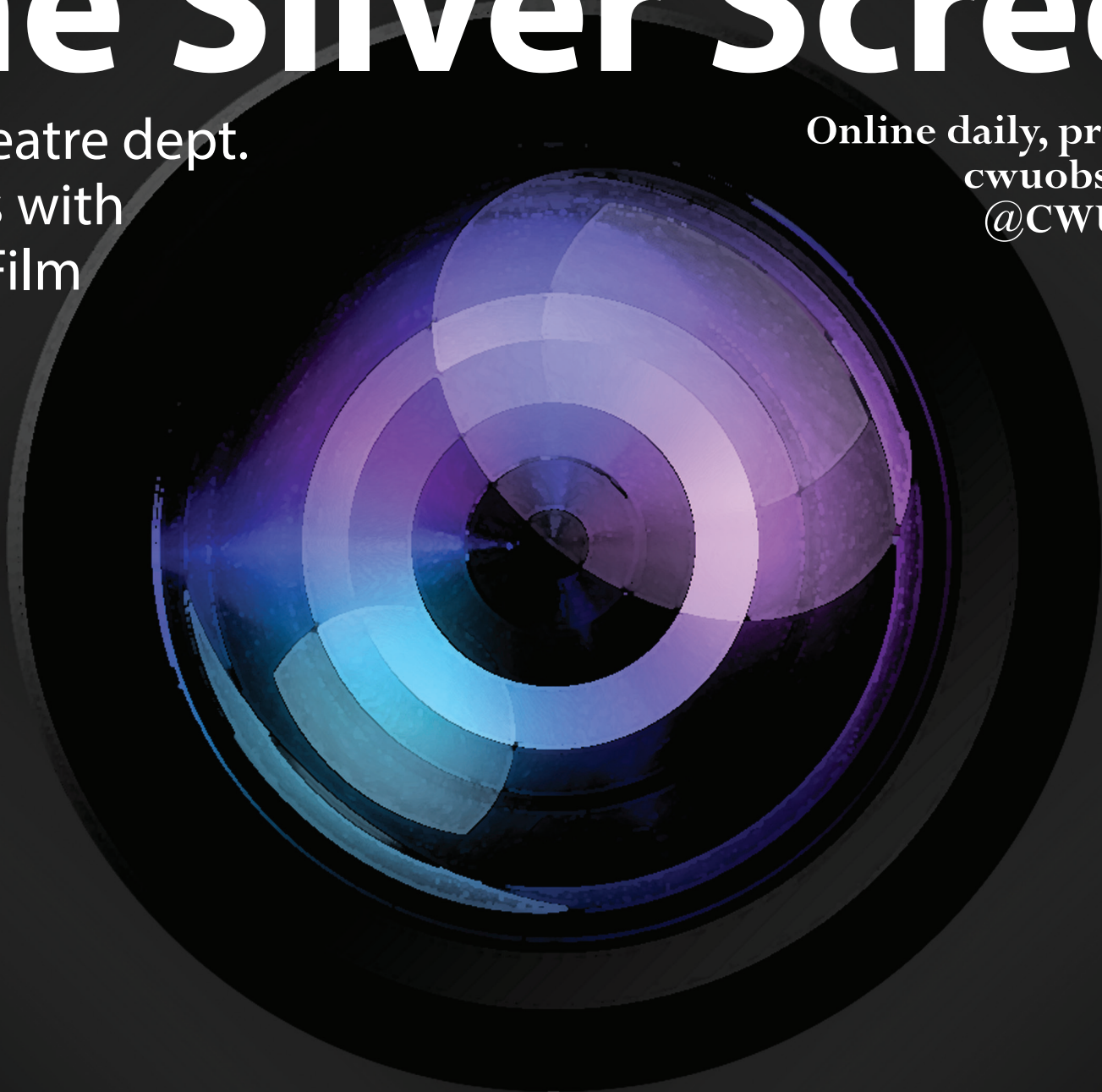
Vol. 99 No. 2, Jan. 22 - 28, 2015

## The Silver Screen

CWU theatre dept.  
partners with  
Seattle Film  
Institute

Page 10

Online daily, print weekly  
[cwuobserver.com](http://cwuobserver.com)  
[@CWUObserver](https://twitter.com/CWUObserver)



### PERMIT REQUIRED

Students pay for parking one  
way or another

Page 3

### GNAC ROAD SWING

Wildcats trek to Alaska to  
face conference foes

Page 12



# Harvesting proves difficult for producers in winter

BY KYLE FENTON  
Staff Reporter

The majority of marijuana farmers in Kittitas County grow their crop during the summer months, in greenhouses or under the sun. This leaves the winter months for processing and finding buyers to purchase their product.

Mike Graham, owner of Natural Mystic Farms, has noticed a fluctuation in the market for marijuana.

"We've had to slash prices, and work in a highly competitive market," Graham said.

Producers are having a much harder time placing their product in this competitive market, and many are choosing to hold inventory until their wholesale products improve.

The problem is that some businesses cannot afford to hold out for better prices, and need the income now.

"We're not throwing in the towel and giving it away, but a lot of people are," Graham said.

Some companies have been forced to sell their product below production cost. Graham says he thinks this issue stems from not having enough licensed retailers out there to move product.

The Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) currently counts 339 approved producer licenses and 83 approved retail licenses.

Because of the flooded market, consumers have recently seen a dramatic price drop; they're getting extremely close to medical and black market prices.

Rob Hendrix, owner of Cannabis Central, said in mid-November the cheapest gram for sale in his shop was \$20.

"Here we are, approaching

the middle of January, and we got flower for \$10 a gram," Hendrix said.

## Life Gardens puts Kittitas on the map

Life Gardens, a tier three producer and processor located near Badger Pocket Road, has produced 4.84% of the state's total production through Nov. 11, weighing in 1,225 pounds of bud and raw material.

This ranks them as a top-five producer in the state when considering the total percentage of pounds harvested through Nov. 11, according to WSLCB.

Being a tier three producer means that they can use more space for operations compared to tier two and tier one operations.

Greta Carter, Founder and CEO for Life Gardens, strives to grow the bulk of her company's cannabis in greenhouses during the summer months.

"We believe it is environmentally responsible to use the sun, and try to do everything we can to not leave our nasty carbon footprint," Carter said.

Life Gardens harvested their last crop at the end of October and they don't plan to turn

another crop until spring time when the weather improves. This leaves about six to eight months before they fill their greenhouses again.

## Staying busy during the off-season

Some retail marijuana businesses are licensed to process their own product in addition to their producer license.

If these businesses both produce and sell product, then they are exempt from the 25% excise tax that is required at each transaction process.

Mathieu Begni, Central alumnus with a bachelor's degree in business administration, was hired by Life Gardens three weeks after graduating from Central last June.

The majority of Life Gardens employees are Central graduates, and Carter takes pride in that.

Begni helps Life Gardens with social media and product

label design, as well as managing inventory.

On a typical winter work day, Begni and his team weigh out grams to package, label and get them ready for delivery.

On a day without orders, they will take their marijuana that has already been machine trimmed, inspected for micro-bials, and been tested for potency and give

the flower its final trim. They will then preserve the flower in special storage containers until more orders come in.

According to Begni, in the future Life Gardens will be growing marijuana year round. Currently, the only live plants on site are mother plants, which are plants that are kept from flowering in order to keep their strains alive and ready for future crops.

"At the moment we have our mothers, and we will be getting clones ready for spring," Begni said.

"Here we are, approaching the middle of January, and we got flower for \$10 a gram."  
-Rob Hendrix  
Cannabis Central, Owner

"We've had to slash prices, and work in a highly competitive market."  
-Mike Graham  
Natural Mystic Farms, Owner

## STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Adam Wilson

**News**  
Chace Davy (Editor)  
Colt Sweetland (Assistant Editor)  
Zena Acholonu  
Martha Cardenas  
Simone Corbett  
Kyle Fenton  
Felicia Kopperdahl  
Aaron Kunkler  
Bradley Smith  
Tera Stenhouse

**Scene**  
Maria Harr (Editor)  
Jonathan Glover (Assistant Editor)  
Brittany Allen  
Deanna Bangs  
Shanai Bemis  
Morgan Green  
Nick Oliver  
Mikaila Wilkerson

**Sports**  
Chance Weeks-Williams (Editor)  
Spenser Hansen (Assistant Editor)  
Jeffrey MacMillan  
Maxwell Monson  
Alexa Olague  
Kyler Roberts  
Shaima Shamdeen

**Copy Desk**  
Haley Curl (Copy Desk Chief)  
Bridget Bartlett  
Meredith Carlsen  
Zach Harris  
Jessi Hammond  
Anna Kessner

**Photographers**  
Derrick Clarit (Editor)  
Kaylee Bialozor  
Tyler Buchanan  
Dakota Johnson  
Alexandra Proctor  
Tayler Shaindlin  
John Whittlesey

**Graphic Designer**  
Jordan Brown

**Faculty Adviser**  
Cynthia Mitchell  
mitchelc@cwu.edu

**Business & Ad Manager**  
Kristin Gaskill  
509-963-1026

**Student Ad Manager**  
Taylor Simental  
**Ad Designer**  
Jordan Brown

**Ad Sales**  
Riley Elliott  
Danny Golden  
Daniel Soltero

## DEADLINES

Weekend sports information:  
Sunday 5 p.m.  
Letters to the editor:  
Sunday 5 p.m.  
Entertainment, meetings,  
calendar events, display ads,  
classified ads:  
Friday 5 p.m.

## SECTION E-MAILS

**Editor-in-Chief**  
cwuobserver@gmail.com  
**News**  
cwuobservernews@gmail.com  
**Scene**  
cwuobserverscene@gmail.com  
**Sports**  
cwuobserversports@gmail.com  
**Opinion**  
cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com  
**Photo**  
cwuobserverphoto@gmail.com

## CONTACT US

The Observer  
Central Washington University  
400 East University Way  
Bouillon Hall 222  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
509-963-1073

## ADVERTISING

Kristin Gaskill  
Central Washington University  
400 East University Way  
Bouillon Hall 232B  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

509-963-1026

gaskillk@cwu.edu

## 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.

# The yellow slip



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TYLER BUCHANAN/OBSERVER

## Parking tickets provide income source for Central

BY MAX BAYERN  
 Contributing Writer

It's difficult to miss a yellow envelope protruding from your windshield wiper. At first, it's hard to believe that they got you, but in the 2013-14 school year, 7,535 parking citations were handed out, which is down from 8,808 citations given in the 2012-13 school year.

Altogether, the combination of citations and parking permits accumulated \$981,766.48 in the 2013-14 school year.

"I hate getting parking tickets," Sean Fogo, 24, said. "It's kind of like 'what the hell, man? I've been here for just an hour.'"

Fogo, like many other Central students, has fallen under the net that is parking tickets. Parking Services uses three rotating parking permit officers to enforce parking code throughout the 25 parking lots offered at Central.

"I think parking tickets are fair. It's their property and [Central] should be able to do what they want," student Jessica Datz, 22, said.

There are three ways to pay for a parking ticket.

Students can pay in person for their tickets at the cashier's office, on the bottom floor of Barge Hall, or at the Parking Services offices. Students can also mail in their payments.



"I hate walking in there and paying for a ticket," Fogo said. "I know the \$15 isn't a lot, but at the same time I could be buying beer with it."

### Helping the Student Body

Out of the estimated 10,000 students attending Central, 3,275 of them bought parking passes. Citations alone brought in \$268,675.37. All the money goes toward paying day-to-day costs, salaries, upkeep and advancements in parking services.

Parking Services has added

some new elements to help with parking. Some of the biggest concerns are the congested roadways during peak class hours, crowded lots and convenience.

Money collected from parking tickets and parking passes goes toward alleviating these pains. In 2013-14 permits brought in \$713,091.11.

"Everyone wants to park right in front of their class everyday," Jason Berthon-Koch, captain of University Police said. "Students want to just drive up and not walk very far."

There have been complaints that there is not enough parking on campus, according to Berthon-Koch.

"Believe me, there is enough parking," Berthon-Koch said chuckling. "There just isn't a lot of convenient parking. I'm talking about those spots right in front of your hall."

Berthon-Koch said that Central is looking to become a walking campus.

Parking lots are in strategic places for students to park and walk to classes.

"If they park and walk to class, it will limit the amount of traffic that occurs when a student gets out of class, and instead of taking a ten minute walk to his or her next class, they drive across campus," Berthon-Koch said. "Now imagine if 100 people did that, or 500."

Parking Services has also added daily parking permit machines to the entrances of popular lots. The station allows drivers to purchase daily passes for precise amounts of time.

The machines, which cost \$14,000 apiece, are well on their way toward paying for themselves. In the 2013-14 school year, the permit dispensers brought in \$77,220.22.

"I don't live in Ellensburg and only need to be on campus twice a week," Dustin Hoytt, 19, said. "I didn't want to spend the one-hundred-plus dollars for a quarterly parking pass, this [permit machine] saves me a lot of money."

Berthon-Koch applauds the changes that have been made but he is constantly looking to make

the experience easier for all.

"We have started to move toward a more online department," Berthon-Koch said. "We believe that having the ability to pay for a permit or obtain guest permits online will assist the user in not getting parking citations."

Zone changes in the SURC have now restricted dorm residents from parking overnight in one of the most popular lots on campus.

"We have improved the disabled parking in and around the Bassetties, as well as added L.E.D lights to the turnarounds in front of Davies and Hitchcock Halls to improve student safety," Berthon-Koch said. "The CWU police officers have increased patrolling the parking lots more frequently, especially at night, to deter vehicle prowl and thefts."

Tickets must be paid within a 28-day window or the original \$15 charge doubles and a \$5 administration fee is added to the total.

If the fine isn't paid within an appropriate time frame, the charge will be sent to student accounts to await payment. If no action is taken, a collection letter will be sent to the student.

"Our goal is that everyone purchases the correct pass," Berthon-Koch said. "Then we don't have to issue citations."

**“Everyone wants to park right in front of their class every day. Students want to just drive up and not walk very far.”**  
 -Sean Fogo  
 Central Student

# Winter not-so-wonderland

## As snow starts to fall, safety on roadways becomes a concern

BY SIMONE CORBETT  
Staff Reporter

With the majority of Central students being from the west side of Washington, concerns about traveling over Snoqualmie Pass is a hot discussion topic among students this time of year. As it should be, since such a scenic drive through the mountains can become an icy disaster within the blink of an eye.

"I learned all about winter safety over the course of two hours," Jessie Hanna, psychology and military science major, said of her stressful drive back to Ellensburg after winter break. "I definitely was not prepared."

Though traveling in the winter doesn't have to be a nightmare, planning ahead can make all the difference.

University Police officer Todd Ames advises checking the weather conditions two days prior, so that you will have an idea of what the weather could be like on the day of your travel.

"Check the weather the morning before you leave, and about an hour before," Ames said. "Don't wait until you get to Cle Elum."

If you expect to be traveling frequently through poor weather,

it is incredibly important to obtain either chains or some form of weather permitting tires if your vehicle does not have four-wheel drive.

After the unexpected mishaps Hanna recently endured with her chains, she said she will be investing in studded tires next winter.

"If you can afford it, invest in studded tires," Ames said. "If not, I recommend cable link chains as opposed to the regular ones. The metal on the regular cable chains is so sharp it cut my hand while I was putting them on."

While you should practice installing your chains before hitting the road, Hanna said that there are normally plenty of people pulled over at the chain-up and chain-off stations along the pass who are willing to help a driver in need.

Ames said that if drivers happen to find themselves in unfortunate situations while traveling, it is important to stay in the vehicle.

"We are more likely to find your vehicle than you alone," Ames said.

However, it's not uncommon for chains to fall off if put on incorrectly.

"If they do fall off, then keep driving if possible," Hanna said. "If not, then pull over and call for assistance."

Ames said, to help avoid this problem, it is important to remember not to exceed 25 miles per hour when using chains.

The overall safest option when traveling in poor weather is to simply stay off the roads until they are completely clear. However, that is not always an option for college students and faculty who are running on a tight schedule. Fortunately, Ellensburg provides a shuttle service that runs through North Bend and two locations in Seattle.

Airporter Shuttle runs five trips a day, arriving and departing from the Starbucks near campus.

Airporter Shuttle commutes around 600-800 students a week throughout the winter months. During inclement weather, the amount of students that make use of the shuttle increases by one-third because it proves to be the safest method of travel according to Adrienne Booth, director of sales and marketing for the Airporter.

"Our drivers are experienced. They're used to chaining up and it's overall remarkably safer than driving yourself," Booth said. "It's relaxing, stress free and economical."

While planning ahead when

### Essentials to keep in your car

1. Gallon of water in case your car overheats
2. A flashlight
3. A warm jacket and blanket
4. A phone charger and portable car charger
5. A small bottle of windshield wiper fluid (Windex)

SOURCE: TODD AMES

commuting by vehicle is exceptionally important, remember not to overlook the significance of planning ahead when walking to class or throughout Ellensburg during icy conditions. It's always best to give extra time to get places. This helps to avoid injuries (or embarrassment) in the long run.

**"Check the weather the morning before you leave, and about an hour before. Don't wait until you get to Cle Elum."**

**-Todd Ames**  
Officer, Central Police

"Most issues students encounter come from not allowing themselves enough time," Ames said. "Time is your friend, plan ahead."

# Budget cuts cost jobs

BY AARON KUNKLER  
Staff Reporter

Budget restrictions are forcing Central to look for ways to cut costs and increase revenue.

One way in which the administration hopes to do this is by cutting 56 positions across campus. According to Linda Schactler, chief of staff, 40 of these positions are currently vacant. In total, the university is looking at a three percent net reduction in budgeted positions by June 30 of this year.

"Now we're in the process of closing a 6.5 million dollar budget gap," Schactler said.

Funding from the state and allowances on raising tuition are set by the state legislature every four years. In 2011, the legislature allowed Central to raise tuition, but froze the decision last spring.

Consequently, Central has to make up for the aforementioned \$6.5 million budget gap without raising tuition.

Proposed position cuts would come from four different areas on campus: Academic and Student Life could lose 21 vacant or retiring positions, as well as 12 other staff; operations would lose 15 positions; the president's division would cut three vacant positions and one filled position, and the Business and Financial Affairs department would cut four vacant, temporary and retirement positions.

Coupled with these are some projected revenue increases from higher efficiency and competition for students and funding between different colleges.

Hiring would also be done in accordance with a "soft budget freeze," which is when Central only hires necessary positions. Other areas of improvement may involve decreasing technology costs.

Schactler said the reduction of 90 internet servers in favor of cloud-based computing helps keep expenditures down.

The university has until June to figure out how to reconcile the budget deficit.

Schactler said there are a few parties currently negotiating, including the faculty senate, Washington State Federation of State Employees and the public school employees unions.

While these may be steps towards making the college financially sustainable, it is a means to an end for the university.

"[We're] in the midst of finding a permanent closure to that budget gap," Schactler said, referring to the 6.5 million dollar budget shortfall.

# Library debuts 'OneSearch' database

BY BRADLEY SMITH  
Staff Reporter

As of January 2015, the Brooks Library has updated its search database. According to the Central website, the new OneSearch database will allow students to get a wider variety of results from their academic searches.

Central has now become part of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, which includes 37 different school libraries throughout Washington, Oregon and Idaho. With the switch completed, students now have access to more than 25 million academic sources.

The previous search database was only used by Central, which limited students' search options.

"It is different from the traditional catalog, because now your search is more of an 'academic Google search,'" said Ping Fu, head of Library Technology Services.

According to Fu, OneSearch is a web-based cloud environment. This removes the necessity for a physical server with regular updates.

"Students will now be able



KAYLEE BIALOZOR/OBSERVER

**EFFICIENCY** The new search database will help students better collaborate with school projects.

to get more results from their searches," Fu said. "The old system only offered physical items. OneSearch now has physical, electronic and digital items for students to choose from."

OneSearch is also easier and

faster for students to access.

"There is now only one single sign-on whereas with the old system the student had to have a separate username and password that they had to remember," Fu said.

Other schools are beginning to make the switch as well.

"The update to OneSearch was definitely necessary," Fu said. "OneSearch is now becoming a global trend that libraries are now switching to."

# CWU club suffers from alley closure

BY JONATHAN GLOVER  
Assistant Scene Editor

For the past three quarters, the Central Bowling Club (CBC) has been stranded with no bowling alley to play in.

Following the closure of the Ellensburg bowling alley where the club met and practiced, the club decided to disband.

In October 2013, Rodeo Bowl closed its doors indefinitely. Originally stated as a temporary closure on the business' Facebook page, word of its permanent clo-

sure came following rumors of unpaid taxes.

According to a Daily Record story, Rodeo Bowl closed after tax warrants from the State Department of Revenue, totaling between \$7,611 and \$8,014, were levied against the owner, James Kirkham.

On a review posted to Yelp, user Chuck D. said a personal friend of his, who worked for Rodeo Bowl, was unable to cash their last paycheck.

He also cited the state of the bowling as being less than favorable overall.

Since Rodeo Bowl's closing, the bowling club has taken a lengthy hiatus. John Jordan, club president and junior finance major, said there were plans to play in Yakima, but those have all fallen through.

"I had something starting to set up with one of the owners over at Nob Hill," Jordan said. "When I was

talking to somebody in [Cory Sinclair]'s office, they said to not, because of liability reasons."

Steve Smith, manager of Nob Hill Bowling, has worked for the company for the past 23 years, 15 of those as the general manager.

He said, following Rodeo Bowl's closure, only a few leagues have moved from Ellensburg.

"We have some kids from Ellensburg that have come down for quite some time," Smith said. "The senior league has moved as well. We were having issues with our slots so we couldn't pick up too much for leagues."

Before Rodeo Bowl closed its doors, the bowling club enjoyed a large membership and bolstered a talented roster of professional quality bowlers.

The club's traveling team used to make long trips to compete in tournament play with other collegiate clubs.

"We would usually drive to Nevada, which was our closest games," Jordan said. "We drove down to Arizona one long weekend."

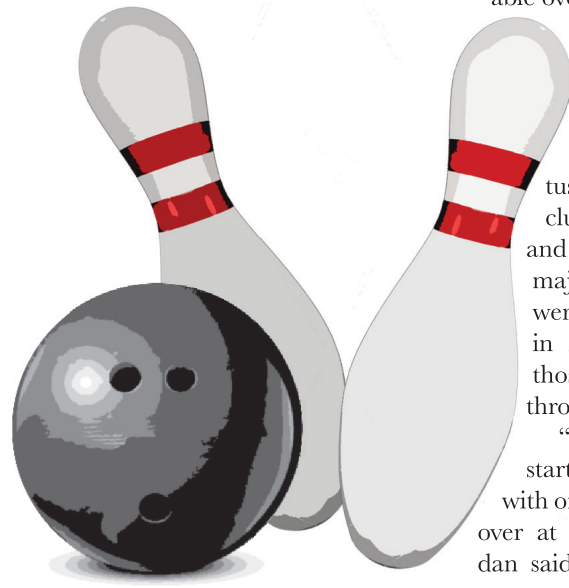
Included in the traveling team was Thomas Nute, club treasurer and junior finance major.

Nute and Jordan are accom-



TAYLER SHAINDLIN/OBSERVER

**STRIKE** Rodeo Bowl closed in October 2013, and the lot is for rent.



plished bowlers, both having recorded impressively high scores.

"We've both bowled perfect games before," Nute said. "Our favorite part of bowling club was the travelling team and being able to compete."

"It was fun to be competitive with friends," Jordan said. "When I took over last year, I was trying to get more people into it because it had died down the past few years. I guess it didn't really matter anyways."

Neither Nute nor Jordan have any plans to join other clubs at this time.

While the bowling club no longer meets or plays together, previous club members can enjoy playing in Yakima or back home when they get the time.

As for the state of the club, Jordan said there aren't any plans to continue club business, especially since they are unable to play at Nob Hill.

"Maybe next year I'll try to move the club play to Yakima to see if it works," Jordan said. "It really depends on when or if the bowling alley here opens. But, as of right now, there's nothing. I don't have anything planned."

**The OBSERVER**  
cwuobserver.com by the students & for the students of CWU

**YOUR AD  
HERE**

Be Seen,  
by the University

Call 963-1095  
to learn more!

**Pregnant?**

Free pregnancy tests.  
You have options.

**CARE♥NET**  
Pregnancy Center of Kittitas County

509-925-2273 \* [PregnancyHelpEllensburg.org](http://PregnancyHelpEllensburg.org)

**ATTENTION Student Entrepreneurs!!**

THE 2015 **CWU STUDENT BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION** IS COMING IN JANUARY

- What does it mean to be an entrepreneur?
- 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** website and the **SOURCE** website.

**Presented by the:** CWU Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
[cwu.edu/business/i4ie](http://cwu.edu/business/i4ie)

**CWU** Central Washington University  
CWU is an EEO/AA/Title IX Institution. For accommodation e-mail: [DS@cwu.edu](mailto:DS@cwu.edu)

**CWU College of Business**  
QUALITY • OPPORTUNITY • VALUE  
AACSB ACCREDITED  
The Best Business Schools in the World

# Free community college? Thanks, Obama



GAGE SKIDMORE/FLICKR

## An alternative to military spending



BY JONATHAN GLOVER/ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

If you're a high school student getting ready to ship off to college, then you may be in luck. If you're a non-traditional student trying to scrape by with what little money you have to finish up your associate's degree, then you may be in luck as well.

Unlike programs that exist in Chicago or Tennessee, Obama's proposal would be available to anyone, regardless of age, only requiring they maintain a 2.5 GPA.

According to usnews.com, the plan would also not be limited to full-time students. As the article points out, many community college level students go to school part-time, and the average age of the students is 28.

This could be a game changer for the United States. According to a survey run by the College Board and reported on college-data.com, the average yearly cost of tuition and mandatory fees nationwide in 2014 was \$8,893. After four years of college, that's \$35,572 per student.

The United States is light-years behind some countries that have already figured out that education, not nuclear weapons, is what's most important today. According to bussinessinsider.com, citizens in countries such as France, Germany and Sweden pay anywhere from \$500 to \$900 a year on higher education. Let that sink in.

If college in America cost even \$900 a year, after four years that would only add up to \$3,600, less than half of what Americans pay for one year. Also according to bussinessinsider.com, the median income in Germany is \$22,020.

By the way, the median income for Americans is \$26,990.

Now, like anything good in life, there are opponents of the proposed free tuition bill. The biggest argument I've heard: Where is the money going to come from?

According to the Huffington Post, in 2011 the United States spent more on defense, with \$711 billion, than the next 13 nations combined. The article broke down the spending to over \$2,000 per person. The average for the rest of the world is one-tenth of that amount.

According to usgovernmentspending.com, the United States government spent \$20 billion on secondary education in 2014. That same year, \$605 billion went to military defense alone, with \$801 billion going to the overall defense budget.

According to a different article on usnews.com, there are 886,052 undergraduate and graduate students in the United States. Let's say, theoretically, the government decided it would pay everyone's tuition every year. If we multiply 886,052 by \$8,893, the average yearly tuition cost, we get roughly \$7.9 billion.

That's right, if we shaved off just \$7.9 billion from our military defense, we could pay everyone's tuition every year. Do you want to know the cost of making an aircraft carrier? About \$12 billion. Oh, and by the way, we have 10 of them. The country with the next highest number of cupcakes is India and they have two.

So that about kills the cost argument. Another opposing viewpoint I've heard is that poor college students, who this would ultimately benefit, already get most of their school paid for through grants and scholarships, while more affluent students' parents can afford the cost of community college.

This is essentially saying we shouldn't help people because

they already get help. Well, despite this argument, most students don't actually get help. According to Forbes, the national student loan debt is over the \$1 trillion mark.

Other arguments that exist focus on the idea that students straight out of high school don't deserve to have their college paid for and should have to work for it. Well, considering the average age of a community college student is 28, I would say they have worked for it and they never stopped.

If the median income in the United States is \$26,990 and the average cost of tuition is \$8,893, where does that leave room for other amenities? Tuition would be roughly 30 percent of someone's salary, and if you factor in cost of living, food and other random bills, school becomes impossible.

According to the Washington Post, the United States has fallen to 16th in the world in the share of adult's age 25 to 34 holding degrees.

That's right, our great country of freedom and capitalism can't even compete with Russia in education, but sure, we could always blow them away with our fleet of aircraft carriers.

If the argument is that students don't deserve to have free college, then I think we should make the argument that nobody deserves free anything. Oh you want to go to high school? Sorry, you didn't earn it. You should have been saving up in middle school. Good job thinking ahead.

It's sad when our country cannot even agree on the simple things. You would think education would be one of the easier things to propose spending money on. As it turns out, it isn't. What should we be spending our money on? More wars? It's a shame the Republican party just retook control of congress.

Good job, America.

Last week, the White House released a statement calling for free community college for all attending students. We offer two conflicting opinions on the matter.

## Fix what's broken, not what's working



BY MARIA HARR/SCENE EDITOR

Free community college for responsible students. It sounds all well and good; "free" is a word college students love.

Many of those on campus are likely just starting to feel their belts tighten and begin to dread yet another box of mac and cheese for dinner. So free community college is a good thing, right?

Not when half of that is being wasted paying for students to relearn basic skills.

With public schools in the shape they're in right now (read: awful), high school graduates are mostly unprepared for college.

In the "Fact Sheet" put out by the White House on the new program, it is said to be based on similar initiatives that have already started in Tennessee and the city of Chicago.

Yet according to illinoisreportcard.com, only 46 percent of high school graduates in Illinois are prepared for college. That's based on the percentage of students who scored at least 21 on the ACT exam.

Similarly, The Dallas Morning News reports that only one out of every four Texas high school graduates who took the ACT exam is prepared for college.

It's even worse for minority students, with 23 percent of Hispanic students and 15 percent of African American students meeting the "college readiness benchmarks in at least three of the four subjects."

While making college affordable for students is a worthy goal, why are we wasting money sending unprepared kids to college where they'll just have to relearn everything they were taught poorly in high school?

A sad number of students have to take remedial courses (which offer no credit) going into college, either because of misplacement due to unreliable placement tests or because they're just not ready for it.

So out of all the "responsible" students getting sent to the first two years of their community college for free, many of them will just be relearning—instead of learning anything new.

At Central this winter quarter, all of the remedial math classes, seven in total, are full. All three of the remedial English classes are as well. With multiple students on the wait lists.

While the English classes only have a \$400 additional class fee (only!), the math courses are \$500. If you find yourself having to take Math 100A-100B, Pre-Algebra, Introductory Algebra and Intermediate Algebra, that's \$1,500 in extra fees you're paying to Central because math wasn't taught properly in high school.

It's a waste of money. The waste isn't sending people to college, where they might earn a degree and be hired for better-paying jobs. That's wouldn't be a waste.

Sending people to college, where they'll take three remedial math courses because they didn't learn math in high school, and where they may earn a degree but are less likely to—that's the waste.

Students don't just need to attend college, they have to make it through to graduation. There are a plethora of studies that cite unpreparedness as a reason for low graduation rates. Students find themselves depressed, stressed and flustered when they're not ready for harder college courses.

College degrees are necessary for many jobs these days, but putting more money into making colleges affordable before we put money into making high schools achieve their primary goal is ridiculous.

In a perfect future, college degrees wouldn't be required to earn enough to put food on the table and a roof over your head, and we could focus money on basic education.

Since we're not in Utopia and people still need to eat, the program is likely to do a lot of good.

It will still waste thousands upon thousands of dollars on unprepared high school graduates who don't know how to think critically for at least their first year of college, but at least some of those students will pull

# Local brews shown at Brewfest

BY MORGAN GREEN  
 Staff Reporter

The 11th annual Ellensburg Winterhop Brewfest arrived to Ellensburg's downtown Saturday, Jan. 17.

The event, which brings in over 2,000 visitors, is the biggest event the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce hosts.

The Winterhop Brewfest, known just as Brewfest, began in 2005 and has been so successful that the chamber has continued the tradition for 11 years.

"The reason it was started was one; a fundraiser for the chamber; but two, to bring something to downtown Ellensburg in the slowest time of the year," said Roylene Crawford, Director of Events for the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce.

Brewfest is different than most beer festivals because it's hosted in the winter, whereas beer tasting events are typically held in the summer months.

"It brings 2,000 people to Ellensburg in the middle of the winter," Crawford said. "It is an economic revenue driver."

Ellensburg's Brewfest is hosted at various locations downtown.

"We have 12 participating venues, a lot of them are retail, so it is an impact for the ones who are participating," Jessica Tate, event coordinator for the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, said.

According to Tate, business downtown slows after Christmas, so the participating venues really appreciate the huge influx of people.

"We have heard from some participating venues that it is their best sales day of the year," Tate said.

Even the businesses that are not venue locations at Brewfest are positively affected by the increase in foot traffic.

"Everyone does really [well],



TYLER BUCHANAN/OBSERVER

**CHEERS TO THE BREW** The 11th annual Ellensburg Winterhop Brewfest brought excited brew enthusiasts to downtown Ellensburg.

all of the restaurants, the venues, and also the hotels," Tate said.

Brewfest is unique in that all of the brewery venues at the event are local to the Pacific Northwest.

"They are from all over the state," Crawford said.

According to Crawford and Tate, the majority of attending breweries participate every year.

"We have a good core and then a small percentage that change every year," Tate said.

Tate mentioned that they try to keep the breweries local, and that for many of the breweries, Brewfest is a great way to network and speak one-on-one with their customers.

"Most the time it is the head brew master or the owner, so they can tell you some personal experiences," Tate said.

Those who attend the event appreciate the opportunity to

talk with the brewers as well.

"This is my second year," Ellensburg native Jordan Fallwell said. "It is just a fun environment to socialize and to see and meet new people."

Fallwell and many others come back year after year to see some of their favorite breweries and to maybe try some new brews.

"There was a beer last year at Shaw's that was stored in a whiskey barrel, so it had a really strong whiskey flavor," Fallwell said.

The Brewfest attendees are not the only ones enjoying the event. The volunteers themselves enjoy working Brewfest.

"I am actually getting practicum credit for my major by being

here," Jessica Birkner, senior recreation and tourism major, said.

According to Birkner, she and many of her classmates volunteer at Brewfest. It offers practice and insight into many of their future careers.

**"It brings 2,000 people to Ellensburg in the middle of winter. It is an economic revenue driver."**

**-Roylene Crawford**  
 Director of Events, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce

"Being at a public festival is something that I want to work on, like community events," Birkner said.

This year, Brewfest added two wineries,

which is a first for the event.

"We also want to partner with our local breweries and wineries," Tate said.

One of the wineries in attendance, Ellensburg Canyon Winery, is located just eight miles from downtown Ellensburg.

"We just try to get out to where the people, because so

many people don't know here we are at," Gary Cox, a representative from Ellensburg Canyon Winery, said.

Cox mentioned how excited Ellensburg Canyon Winery is to be at this event.

"Millennials drink beer, but we want to get them into the wine side," Cox said.

Another Brewfest first was a live concert to close out the entire event.

"This year, following the event, there is a concert at the Moose Lodge. All of the proceeds will go to the Fish Food Bank," Crawford said.

Tiller's Foley, a Pacific Northwest trio, performed what they describe as "acoustic roots music" at the concert.

"When it is all over people are telling me how much fun they had," Crawford said. "[There] is definitely the gratification of knowing that you did something that people enjoy doing."



TYLER BUCHANAN/OBSERVER

**JUST BREWED** Left: Gary Cox represents the Ellensburg Canyon Winery as one of two wineries that attended this year after Brewfest organizers decided to allow more than just breweries to the lineup.

Above: Owners of St. Brigid's Brewery, Whitney Wytko and her husband Tom Wytko, along with their friend and helper Cheryl Anne, brought brews to display at Brewfest from nearby Moses Lake.



# Student's band gets big win

BY NICHOLAS OLIVER  
Staff Reporter

Jacob Mendez, sophomore physics major, is the bass player of the band Pull for Fire, which recently won a Battle of the Bands in Portland.

Mendez comes from a very musical family; his three brothers and five sisters were all involved in band in high school.

Two of his brothers played the trumpet in school so naturally Mendez was drawn to the trumpet and began picking it up and playing at a young age.

When fifth grade rolled around and it was time to choose between taking band or choir classes, the choice was obvious; Mendez chose the trumpet.

"It was like I had a leg up on the other kids, since I had been messing around on [the trumpet] for a while," Mendez said.

In La Center, Wash., a town with a population a little over 3,000, Mendez played trumpet in both the jazz and symphonic bands at La Center High school.

While in his high school's jazz band, Mendez and some of the eventual members of Pull for Fire formed a jazz group.

While playing at a school jazz concert, the group improvised blues into the performance. They

weren't supposed to do this, but what they played sounded good so they didn't get in trouble.

"After the concert we were all kind of like, 'hmmm we sounded good, why don't we start playing other music together?'" Mendez said.

Mendez and a few of the other members of the jazz group eventually formed Pull for Fire and after a few instrument switches, the lineup was finalized.

Mendez ended up on bass, with Bret Johnston on drums, Walter Hansen III on keyboard, and Blake Johnston on guitar and vocals.

The best way to describe their music is as a hybrid of blues and alternative rock, with a classic rock feel to it.

"Our music is influenced by driving rock," Blake Johnston said. "And we like 70's rock bands like [Led]Zeppelin."

The win in Portland came after advancing through a qualifying round last September, where six bands played and only three bands went on to the next round.

There, two other concerts in which the top three bands also advanced to the final round.

Pull for Fire sold the most tickets to the final show and received the loudest cheers, which secured their win.

Contest organizers used a



COURTESY OF DD PHOTOGRAPHY

**ROCK IT** Pull for Fire won Battle of the Bands last year with their distinctive blues and rock sound

decibel monitor to determine the winner through crowd applause.

For winning the Battle of the Bands, Pull for Fire will play in Hollywood and San Francisco. They also won a mixing board to help with home recording.

"It's awesome to win, it means a lot and shows that maybe we could make a career out of playing music," Bret Johnston said.

The band has released one album and is planning a second one in a few months. Practicing together has been tough due to the distance between Mendez and the rest of the band.

"It's harder to write new

music because I'm at school, Mendez said. "Me and Bret usually just write the songs and then show the other guys whenever we see them," Blake Johnston said.

Mendez and Bret Johnston said they intend to stay together as long as they can, even though finding time to practice and perform will be difficult while Mendez attends Central.

"[Mendez] is a great person with a passion for music, and I enjoy playing with him," Bret Johnston said.

Mendez continues to go to school for physics while he clearly has a passion, love and knack

for music.

"I actually originally was going to go to school for music," Mendez said. "Then I realized that I don't need a degree to play music. With music you either got it or you don't. I decided to go to school for a degree in something else that is a challenge, and I can still play music."

Mendez explained that since high school if he wasn't playing music he was doing something with math. After a physics class in high school he became highly interested in the subject.

For now, Mendez is still studying physics and is working with the rest of the band as much as possible despite the distance.

## Review: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies



WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

BY SHANAI BEMIS  
Staff Reporter

In the third and final installment of The Hobbit film adaptations, "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" directed by Peter Jackson, the company of Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) battle orcs, elves, and their lust for all things gold that drives them to the brink of self destruction.

The opening scenes present an intense atmosphere for the rest of the film aided by another wonderful battle when Bard the Bowman (Luke Evans) finally falls Smaug the Magnificent (Benedict Cumberbatch) with the help of his young son, Bain (John Bell). The dragon by itself is terrifying as he breathes flame down upon the populace, but Cumberbatch's voice performance only adds to the beast.

The troubles for the people of Lake-town are far from over though, and we are shown the true scale of Smaug's devastation in one of the most poignant scenes of the franchise as survivors sift through the bodies of the fallen and drag the wounded to shore while what's left of the city smokes in the background.

The score, written by Howard Shore, who also wrote the scores for the rest of the Lord of the Rings franchise films, is another high point to the film. Fans will recognize old staples to the series, but Shore still managed to insert a distinct new flare for the final Hobbit film.

Unfortunately, viewers may soon find themselves paying more attention to the questionable CGI than to the hardships the characters face. In order to fully depict the grand scale of the interior of the dwarf kingdom,

the scenes were mostly shot in front of a green screen, and regrettably, it is obvious.

Other bits of poorly executed CGI dot the rest of the film as well, the biggest being a scene depicting a conversation between Bard, on a horse, and Thorin, who is standing high above on the ramparts. The perspective is slightly off, and the walls and ramparts lack any sort of physical depth.

The CGI for the rest of the film is less noticeable, but still far more present than fans of the last franchise would like to have seen. The love triangle between Kili (Aidan Turner), Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly), and Legolas (Orlando Bloom) was also a low point. There wasn't nearly enough time devoted to fleshing it out and it falls flat as a result.

However, despite its flaws, it was still an enjoyable film overall.

### MOVIE vs BOOK

#### MOVIE

- Tauriel exists.
- Legolas fights in the battle.
- Radagast is seen chanting a spell with Gandalf, and then later on the back of an Eagle during the battle.
- Kili falls in love with Tauriel while imprisoned. Legolas has feelings for Tauriel.
- Azog is killed by Thorin atop Ravenhill.
- Bolg is second in command to Azog and is killed by Legolas.
- The battle takes up a third of the film.
- Azog commands his armies from Ravenhill.
- Thorin and Fili are killed by Azog and Kili is killed by Bolg atop Ravenhill.
- Lake-town is taken largely by surprise and many of the citizens are killed.

#### BOOK

- Tauriel does not exist.
- Legolas does not appear.
- Radagast the Brown, while mentioned briefly by name in the book, does not make a physical appearance.
- The love triangle between Kili, Tauriel and Legolas does not exist.
- Azog is killed by Daín II before the events of the film.
- Bolg is the orc army commander and is killed by Beorn.
- The Battle takes up only five pages.
- The elves make a last stand on Ravenhill.
- Thorin is killed on the battlefield. Fili and Kili fall while protecting him.
- Lake-town was prepared for Smaug's assault and had been evacuated.

It provided excellent foreshadowing to certain events in "The Lord of the Rings," and the return of Legolas' crazy elfish stunts was especially entertaining. As is typical for the elf, he single-handedly took on trolls, giant bats and even gravity before the credits rolled.

The end of this film is undeniably bittersweet as "The Hobbit:

The Battle of the Five Armies" is the end of not only The Hobbit trilogy, but our time in Middle Earth. If you liked the previous Hobbit movies, then you'll definitely like this one as well. If you didn't, it might be worth checking anyway, as it's definitely the best of the three.

# From addict to academic

BY JONATHAN GLOVER  
Assistant Scene Editor

David Douglas, information technology and administrative management (ITAM) lecturer, drinks tea instead of coffee and keeps a sun lamp handy to stay positive in the drear of winter. He said he chose tea because even caffeine has the risk of becoming addictive.

Just 10 years ago, David Douglas would more likely be found smoking meth than preparing lesson plans.

As a recovering addict, David Douglas' past with substance abuse has affected every facet of his life. Following the tragic loss of his stepfather, Jonny Rivell, to cancer, David Douglas spiraled out of control at the age of 12. He started abusing drugs and alcohol regularly, eventually dropping out of high school at 16.

"I went from being a straight A student and, you know, focused in school, to just going in a completely different direction," David Douglas said. "By the end of my, I think, ninth year of school my grade point average was next to nothing and I dropped out."

David Douglas finished his GED in 1985 as a requirement to join the military, the same year he would have graduated high school. At age 17, he enlisted in the Marines, where he served three years of active duty in Germany and two years in the reserves stateside before being honorably discharged in 1990.

That year, he had a son named Tyler Douglas, whose trajectory with drug problems looked similar to his father's. As a teenager, Tyler Douglas struggled with addiction as his strained relationship with his parents caused him to descend towards a path of drug abuse.

"Growing up was good until my last year of middle school," Tyler Douglas said. "I started messing around with pot and

other drugs and it escalated pretty quickly."

Tyler Douglas said he knew at a young age that his father was an addict. He said he remembers vividly the day he realized the man he looked up to had a problem.

"I heard from my mom, actually. I remember her talking on the phone with him, cause he was drunk and he was trying to go to the west side," Tyler Douglas said. "He was drunk and he was driving. He ended up calling me and talking about it."

He said his relationship with his father was healthy when he was clean. If Tyler Douglas was using, his dad would give him space – to distance himself from temptation, perhaps, or to just show his son that the first step to getting clean was helping yourself.

"He definitely made it easy for me to know where to go to get clean," Tyler Douglas said. "I've tried getting clean several times. When I was using he wasn't there, he wasn't helping me with anything I was asking for. But as soon as I got clean he was right there helping me."

In 2005, when Tyler Douglas was 16, his dad relapsed and eventually, David Douglas and his son started using together. The two would often go out together, in search of the next high.

"So we both were kind of hanging out together, not necessarily as father and son but more as using buddies," Tyler Douglas said. "We used everything except for heroine – weed, coke, meth, crack, you name it. It kind of just escalated. Went from smoking pot to him picking me up from my mom's to go score somewhere. That lasted for about four or five months."

David Douglas said that in some demented way, he and his son using together brought them closer.

"Mine and his relationship

at the time was pretty strained," David Douglas said. "Primarily, you know, just normal teenager type of stuff. I was pretty hard lined and I wouldn't accept any of his behaviors. When I made the decision to drink a lot of those standards went out the window. When I look back at it now, obviously it was a very poor decision. In some sense it opened up our relationship as far as we started hanging out again."

Aside from being obviously wrong, he said the negative in using with his son was being more of a friend than a parent. When David Douglas went back into sobriety, his son didn't want to follow. After years of struggling with addiction since then, however, Tyler Douglas has started to make steps in the right direction to staying sober.

Today, Tyler Douglas is a student at Yakima Valley College, well on his way to completing his associate of art's degree with plans to transfer to Central. He now has a son, named Anthony Jayden Douglas. Jayden is his grandfather's middle name.

"My dad pressured me to go to back to school," Tyler Douglas said. "Every time I got clean I would half ass going back to school. I wouldn't try; instead I would go get loaded again. Last time around I got tired of living the life I was living. He got me the tools I needed to help me stay clean."

After becoming clean again in 2005, David Douglas has made major strides in turning his life around. As a Central alumnus, he received his undergraduate degree in family studies in 2011 and his master's in family studies in 2012. He has been a lecturer at Central ever since.

David Douglas said his favorite part of teaching is the basic one-on-one time he has with his students. Whether it's interacting with them in the classroom or teaching them online, Da-



PHOTO COUTESY OF DAVID DOUGLAS

**ADMINISTRATION** David Douglas has been teaching ITAM courses since 2012 when he received his master's degree.

vid Douglas' greatest high now comes from students growing and learning.

In 2012, David Douglas founded his own private business, Communication Pathways. He said the focus of Communication Pathways is helping individuals and families overcome communication barriers. This was an easy transition, as he has spent several years as a family and drug counselor.

"I give what I call 'communication education,'" David Douglas said. "Part of my master's program is I'm a certified family life educator. I give communication education to individuals, couples and families."

In a recent partnership with Doug Fulp, health educator at Central's Wellness Center, the pair have been working to bring the film "The Anonymous People" to screen at Central this March.

"Anonymous People" is about the idea of branching out and spreading awareness a little bit more," Fulp said. "This is why David is so closely connected to it because it is how he has treated his own story and his journey. It's not the idea of trying to eliminate

12 step programs or the anonymity piece, but it's the idea for the people who don't want to remain anonymous, who want to bring more awareness to the issue."

Fulp said their partnership formed after David Douglas had the idea of screening the movie for Central students. He said David Douglas told him it was significant for them to understand the importance of talking openly about addiction. After watching the trailer, he was immediately on board.

For David Douglas, the most important part of recovering from addiction is having the ability to hold open and honest conversations about recovery. He said his focus and energy are all spent on what's happening now and what's possible in the future. He also said he isn't embarrassed or scared to share his story with anyone, and usually shares his story at the end of each quarter in his classes.

"Certainly I like to reflect on my past, it's important, but I don't want to stay there," David Douglas said. "I quit saying 'I'm an addict or I'm an alcoholic.' What I say is, 'I'm a person in long-term recovery.'"

## Yikitty yak, don't talk back

### Students weigh in on anonymous comments on Yik Yak

BY MIKAILA WILKERSON  
Staff Reporter

Yik Yak, a social media site that allows users to post anonymously, was launched in 2013 and has become a popular social media forum.

There has been some speculation of how Yik Yak could be used for cyber-bullying of students or teachers.

Yik Yak users at Central have seen both positive and negative remarks posted.

Lindsey Justin, a psychology major from Tacoma, found out about Yik Yak on Twitter and downloaded the app during fall quarter.

"I love it. I think it's funny to



see everyone's perspective at the school. Everyone can relate more or less," Justin said.

Justin said that things are mostly positive on Yik Yak.

"It's fun just to scroll through and see what people are saying," Justin said.

Compared to other apps, Justin said Yik Yak could set a trend since the app fits a specific age group that can relate to one another.

Sidney Black, an English and language arts teaching major, doesn't use the app often but got the app during fall quarter and doesn't see any bad posts on it.

"It's kind of cool. [To] see what people are doing on campus," Black said.

Jen McCutchen, a junior public health major, downloaded the app for a short period of time and then decided to delete it when she saw too many mean posts.

"I just think it's stupid and pointless and causes unnecessary

drama," McCutchen said.

McCutchen said there were many negative posts directed towards people at the school and towards people who worked for the school.

McCutchen claimed to have seen people whom were mentioned in posts on Yik Yak get into trouble due to "nasty" comments.

An anonymous education senior downloaded the app at the start of the school year.

She does not use the app regularly, but when she does she sees a lot of hurtful posts on the app.

She said the majority of the negative comments she sees are guys posting bad things about girls.

"That makes the school look

really bad," the education senior said.

Bianca Everwein, a sophomore elementary education major, likes using Yik Yak.

Everwein has had the app for a few months and said she sometimes sees bad comments while using it.

"I think people who are overly sensitive can take it the wrong way," Everwein said.

But Everwein does not take it too seriously, as the app is anonymous.

Compared to other apps, Everwein sees Yik Yak as more exciting because the person doing the posting, do not know who will be reading the posts and how they will react to what they are reading.

# A partnership worth the price of admission

BY BRITTANY ALLEN  
Staff Reporter

Opinions vary about the Central theatre department's new partnership with the Seattle Film Institute (SFI).

According to Scott Robinson, chair of the theatre department at Central, SFI approached multiple different departments on campus about two years ago in hopes of creating partnerships that would allow their students easier access to bachelor's degrees. Among these departments were art, business, film and theatre.

At SFI, students leave after one year of film-intensive study with a certificate, not a degree. Michael Smith, theatre professor and head of performance for the theatre department, sees this partnership as being very beneficial.

"I think one of the advantages of this is that it does offer the students the possibility of getting a BA or BFA," Smith said. "And another thing that I think that they see, after taking classes there, is that they can take classes over here for their BA that would make them a much more rounded artist, a much more hireable performer. I think they would be able to compete much more readily in a really diverse market and an expanded market."

**"I think the more options you provide a student the more well-rounded their education could be."**

**-Michael Smith**  
Theatre professor

Robinson appeared somewhat biased towards four year students. He sees the university setting as not only beneficial for providing degrees, but also life experience and growth.

"There's a certain amount of maturity that comes between 18 and 22," Robinson said. "Just having a one-year certificate at 18 doesn't make you the same

kind of performer as somebody who has had a little bit more training and life

experience for the next three or four years. So that's a big bonus to really have the time to mature."

Paul Bugallo, a senior theatre performance BFA, also said the partnership is advantageous.

"I think it's a really good idea for both, because I think that our program could use more film training and film experience," Bugallo said. "I think actors should be first in all kinds of acting, so I think that they should be able to get a full degree. When they come over here

they're actually able to get a bachelor's degree, which is nice."

allow Central students to also attend SFI, for a more film intensive experience.

This choice of studying for one's final year at SFI then returning to Central and applying for graduation, can seem illogical. But it is an option.

"Studying abroad is an option," Smith said. "I think the more options you provide a student the more well-rounded their education could be."

Aside from the benefits offered to students who wish to earn a degree at Central, this partnership also operates as a form of recruitment.

"The university as a whole is always looking for opportunities to recruit students," Robinson said. "If you could have students come [SFI] and get what they're offering and have an automatic track to be able to do what their parents want them to do, then everybody's a winner."



Aside from the opportunities the partnership provides for SFI students to earn degrees, the transferable course credits established in the agreement could



**CAT Media**



Quality Video Production from Students to their Community

CAT Media is Central's student-produced video and TV programming. CAT tv specialists do it all, from producing the Ellensburg Live variety show to filming and editing weddings, concerts, meetings, commercials and public service announcements.

Since Spring Quarter of 2013, CAT Media has been providing for all of CWU's video production needs. To get involved, talk to Professor Jon Ward about COM 452.



**[YOUR AD HERE]**

CALL FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

**The OBSERVER**

by the students & for the students of CWU

(509)-963-1095

Deal good for up to 5 people

From 4pm until closing

**Copper Kettle**

Exclusive to CWU "faculty, staff, and students" (ID required)

**1/2 Price on all Meals + Drink orders at the Copper Kettle**

Make an effort to cut out this Kettle, We will make an effort to make you want to come back

Offer valid through Jan 22 - 29

# What statue would you suggest?

With talk of a wildcat statue possibly being constructed for the SURC East Patio, Central students tell The Observer what statue they would put on campus and why.

Have an opinion? Let us know! Submit a letter to the editor at [cwuobserver.com](http://cwuobserver.com).



“A golden bust of myself right outside the front doors of the SURC cause I think it would be cool.”  
Alex Clark  
Freshman, mechanical engineering



“A statue of Wellington, right in the middle of the SURC. A lot of business comes through here.”  
James Todd  
Freshman, Spanish interpretation



“Statue of Wellington in probably the SURC east patio where the wildcat statue is going. It’s in the perfect place for people to see.”  
Jonelle Lauer  
Sophomore, public relations



“I would want a Roman statue right outside my window in Wendell, so I could see the sunset over the marble.”  
Emily Beyl  
Junior, psychology



“I would have batman right up on the SURC roof. Cause he’s my favorite superhero.”  
Erik Vanhulse  
Freshman, chemistry



“A statue of Edward Snowden by Hebel-er cause it’s the comper science department and it has to do with NSA.”  
Julian Avalos  
Junior, computer science



**CENTRAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY**  
CWU’s Student Run, Strategic Communication Agency

Gain hands on real world experience developing public relations and advertising campaigns for local and national accounts while earning credit towards your degree.

**INTERESTED?**

Talk to Professor Liz Kerns to find out how agency might be a fit for you. Enroll in 481 to find your niche! Account Executives and Agency Management Enroll in 483 for leadership credit

LEARN MORE:  
[www.cwuagency.com](http://www.cwuagency.com) COM 481 & 483

 /CWUagency  
 @CWUagency

 Central Washington University  
Department of Communication

**Pint Night Fundraiser**  
Tuesday, Jan 27th  
5pm to 8pm  
At



**iron horse brewery**  
Ellensburg, WA  
Pub  
412 N. Main Street

For Every Pint of Beer sold Iron Horse Brewery will donate .50 cents to KCFOA to help further our mission of “No More Homeless Pets” Drink Up!

Join us  
For an Evening of Fun & Prizes  
Silent Auction • 50/50 Raffle Tickets \$1 Each,  
The More You Purchase The More You Could Win • Spin the prize wheel •  
Raffle for a Helicopter Ride Donated By  
Central Valley Helicopters



**PULSE**  
magazine

Have you checked your Pulse lately?

CWU’s student-run Online interactive lifestyle magazine.

 [www.cwu.edu/~pulse](http://www.cwu.edu/~pulse)  
 /cwupulsemagazine  
 @CWUPulse

# Central hits road for Alaska trip

## Wildcats try to keep up in GNAC



PHOTO COURTESY OF CWU ATHLETICS

**HARD IN THE PAINT** Central Forward Julian Vaughn goes up for a layup against a Simon Fraser defender. The Wildcats currently sit at third place in the GNAC standings.

**BY JEFFREY MACMILLAN**  
Staff Reporter

The Wildcats (10-4, GNAC 5-2) travel to the frozen north to battle with two GNAC teams from Alaska.

The Wildcats face the Seawolves from Anchorage (9-8, GNAC 5-2) and the Nanooks from Fairbanks (5-10, GNAC 2-5) as part of a three game road trip that starts on Jan. 22 at the Alaska Airlines Center.

Fresh off their 74-71 ROOT sports buzzer-beating win over cross-state rival Western Washington University, the Wildcats, in a defensive statement game over the high scoring Canadians from Simon Fraser.

In that game, the Wildcats held SFU under 100 points for only the fifth time this season.

The Wildcats have been led by the defensive rim protector Joseph Stroud.

Stroud, who is currently 7th in the nation in block shots with 2.9 block per game, made his presence felt over the last two games with 38 points on 16 for

22 shooting (73 percent shooting) and nine blocks including a few which went into the crowd versus Simon Fraser.

Stroud knows how important it is for him to be in the game protecting the basket and blocking shots.

**“When I see them coming to the basket I get excited, because I’m going to try to send the ball to the stands.”**

**-Joseph Stroud**  
Wildcat Forward

“I know that my help defense is important,” junior forward Joseph Stroud said. “It really makes them change their shots and

bring excitement to the game.”

The Wildcats are currently tied for third place with Anchorage in the GNAC at 5-2 with a 10-4 record overall. Central’s opponent on Thursday, Jan. 22, the Seawolves.

Central is expecting a tough game defensively from the Seawolves, who have held five of their last seven opponents under 60 points.

“Anchorage is going to play a lot of help defense,” redshirt senior guard Dom Williams said, “And they always execute their game plan well.”

Williams, who averages 18.1 points per game, has had a breakout week with the game

winner against rival Western, and 28-point performance versus Simon Fraser.

Williams who has been shooting 44 percent from behind the three point arch has proven that he can get his shot and his team has total faith in him.

“Dom’s a shooter, and we knew that if he kept shooting he was gonna find his rhythm,” junior guard Joey Roppo said.

The Wildcats have held their opponents to 71.5 points per game and 41 percent shooting this season, and while defense has been a point of emphasis, the Wildcats have had trouble rebounding against the opposition.

Currently the Wildcats have a minus three margin in rebounds, but the team knows that rebounding is important.

“Coach has been getting on us to really help on the boards,” Roppo said. “The guards really need to go and help as much as we can.”

When the Wildcats face Alaska Anchorage, the key for the Cats will be trying to shut down the back court of junior guard Brian McGill and Travis

Thompson who combine to average 31.2 points per game and 2.64 steals per game.

McGill and Thompson should find it difficult to attack the hoop with Stroud close to the basket.

“When I see them coming to the basket I get excited,” Stroud said. “Because I’m gonna try to send the ball to the stands.”

The second game of the road trip takes the Wildcats to Fairbanks, Alaska.

There they will face the six foot three inch junior guard Ruben Silvas whose 60 percent field goal percentage puts him near the top for field goal percentage compared to others who play his position in the GNAC.

Silvas is also the team’s leader in rebounds, as he has proven with his team leading 5.7 rebounds a game that he is willing to go in to battle to get his hands on the ball.

Central will have their hands full over the next three games as they will truly miss the confines of Nicholson pavilion where they are 7-1, and take their defensive show on the road to extend their two game win streak.

**“Anchorage is going to play a lot of help defense, and they always execute their game plan well.”**

**-Dom Williams**  
Wildcat Guard

Joseph Stroud



**Position:** Forward  
**Season Averages:** 11.4 points, 5.4 rebounds

### Remaining Schedule

@ Alaska Anchorage Jan. 22

@ Alaska Anchorage Jan. 24

@ NNU Jan. 31

vs WOU Feb. 5

vs Saint Martin’s Feb. 7

@ WWU Feb. 12

@ Simon Fraser Feb. 14

vs Alaska Anchorage Feb. 21

@ Seattle Pacific Feb. 26

@ MSUB Feb. 28

# Todd, running back and forth

BY KYLER ROBERTS  
Staff Reporter

Jordan Todd is one of few Central Athletes that double dip. Todd is not only a standout on the gridiron, but also is a sprinter on the track team.

Todd is a junior dual-sport athlete and law and justice major. He plays running back for the football team and is a sprinter for the track squad, which is very rare in D-2 college sports. When signing his letter of intent to play football, he was undecided on whether or not he would run track.

"I knew that I could run if I wanted to, but I wasn't sure if I was going to or not," Todd said.

He decided to compete in track & field, and so far it has looked like a great decision. It is difficult to participate in two sports and work towards a degree, but a determined Todd has pushed through it.

"It's the hardest thing, man... After a season, you're kind of just like; 'okay it's offseason, I can kind of rest a little bit' but doing two sports its going from one season to the next," Todd said.

Football is widely known as a sport that "never ends," which Todd confirmed.

"Track and football both overlap, so it's pretty tough," Todd said.

Although it gets tough to be a dual-sport athlete, Todd finds definite benefits to it.

"You get connected to more of the athletic community... doing two sports you get to meet all of the other athletes," Todd said. "It keeps you in shape. During football in the winter, our main priority is getting stronger; and we will get our speed back in the spring."

Todd has an advantage over other athletes because of his ability to do both football and track.

"With track you can get stronger, but you never lose your speed; and you get back into shape faster," Todd said, adding "that staying in shape was the biggest benefit of being a dual-sport athlete."

Todd had a record-breaking senior season playing running back at Interlake High School in Bellevue, Wash. He had several schools interested in his talents, but Central was a no-brainer decision for him.

"When I came here, everyone was really close, and just seemed like a family whereas in Western Oregon, for example, they seemed disorganized and against each other," Todd said.

The display of family and having his desired major were the two big reasons that Todd decided to become a Wildcat.

Todd is one of the top running backs in the nation, while

also running the 100m dash, 200m dash and the 4x1 relay race for Central's track team. He has shown the ability and motivation to be a big part of both squads moving forward.

While being named to a number of GNAC All-Conference teams over the past few years, Todd attributes his success to his work ethic and his teammates.

"We're grinding out here all year... not just me but we're all grinding. Especially when I came in as a freshman, they welcomed me in and played with me as if I had been playing with them all year," Todd said. "Everybody is just playing for everybody, everyone is out here ready to work."

Motivation has never been a problem for Todd. He points to his competitive attitude as a reason.

"I'm trying to be the best. I'm really competitive, whether it's tic-tac-toe or football. Every time I'm like 'I don't want to work out,' I think 'what if that dude is going harder than you, or what if a teammate is going harder than you,' that's what keeps me going," Todd said.

Todd said that he did not have personal goals for football. His focus wasn't on individual stats; but rather team success as a whole.

"I never really had personal goals," Todd said. It's always cool to get mentioned in first team and stuff like that, but I'm just trying to make a postseason run, you know, that's my main want and focus right now. Not just me, but all the coaches and my teammates want it too."

As far as his goals in track and field, Todd would like to stay under 11 seconds in the 100m, and hit 21 seconds in the 200m. He also sees some true potential in the 4x1 relay group.

"We've had injuries and haven't really gotten to focus on handoffs," Todd said. The more you practice, the better you're going to be. You can take off half of a second just by having good handoffs. I think we can make it to nationals if we get our squad together."

That's some high praise from one of the fastest men on campus. Hopefully we can see Todd and the rest of the track team continue to do well, and perhaps satisfy Todd's goal of getting to nationals.

Todd believes he wouldn't be able to do anything he has done without his teammates. He is appreciated by his peers, and he appreciates them.

Jordan Todd had one more thing he wanted to make sure everyone on campus would know.

"Get more fans out here, come show support at the games and get us hyped up," Todd said.



**FOCUS** Jordan Todd readies himself for the upcoming race. Todd competes in the 100, 200 and 4x100.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CWU ATHLETICS

**RUNNING RAMPANT** Jordan Todd shakes a Lincoln University defender in the last home game of the 2014 season

## Jordan Todd



**Hometown:** Bellevue, WA.

**High School:** Interlake

**Major:** Law and Justice

**Position:** Running Back

## 2014 Stats

### Football:

- Rushing yards-738
- Rushing touchdowns- 12
- Receiving yards- 172
- Receiving touchdowns- 2

### Track:

- 100 Meter dash- 11.02
- 200 Meter dash- 22.42
- 4 x 100 relay (third leg)- 42.04

# On the road again

BY MAXWELL MONSON  
Staff Reporter

The Central women's basketball team is preparing to face off against Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) on the road in Nampa, Idaho, which will finish their three game road trip. Central holds a 9-7 overall record and sits at fifth place in the GNAC.

Central will look to senior guard Courtney Johnson, who is averaging 13.8 points per game, and freshman guard Jasmin Edwards, who is averaging 13.5 points per game, to try and make a jump in the GNAC standings with two big wins.

This win would give them a huge boost in the standings, which might be enough to propel the Wildcats into the fourth spot in the GNAC.

"Huge match up, to be 5-4 after the first half, that's where we want to be" Coach Jeff Harada said.

Johnson, has been a key piece to the Wildcat's season thus far and will need to continue to do so if the Wildcats are going to keep making jumps in the standings.

Johnson had a tough outing Saturday night shooting 1-9 from the field, but she is looking

to catch her spark again for these upcoming games.

"Road games are tough in the GNAC, top to bottom we have one of the most competitive leagues in the nation. You need to make sure to get your mind right," Johnson said.

Central has undergone road woes for most of the season, but was able to capture their first conference road victory in Billings, Mont. on Thursday night, beating the Montana State-Billings Yellowjackets by a score of 75-54.

The win against the Yellowjackets was a key victory. It helped break down the barrier, which could lead to more road wins

"The road win versus Montana State-Billings Excites us, gets us ready for the next road win. We definitely expect to win this game." Junior forward Jasmine Parker said.

The Wildcats will look to continue their streak versus NNU on Saturday.

They will have their hands full dealing with NNU's junior guard Taylor Simmons.

Simmons is averaging 13.6 points, 4.6 assists and 3.1 steals per game. According to Harada

## Remaining Schedule

@ NNU Jan. 24

vs Alaska Anchorage Jan. 29

vs Alaska Fairbanks Jan. 31

@ Simon Fraser Feb. 5

@ WWU Feb. 7

vs Seattle Pacific Feb. 12

vs MSUB Feb. 14

vs NNU Feb. 21

@ WOU Feb. 26

@ Saint Martin's Feb. 28

the Wildcats will need to put some extra focus on Simmons.

"Contain, great player. Keep her in front of us, she is a good three point shooter, we need to force her into tough contested shots." Coach Harada said.

The Wildcats and first year head coach Jeff Harada will look to shake things up in the GNAC and get the Wildcats back on track for an NCAA playoff berth for the first time since 2003.



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

**FAST BREAK** Jasmine Parker pushes down the court. Central will be on the prowl to get their second road win of the season on Sat.

*Before You Leave for the Holidays*

## 10 Tips to Prevent FROZEN Water Pipes

1. The temperature in the home should be no lower than 55 degrees.
2. Make sure all garden hoses are disconnected.
3. All exterior floor vents and the crawlspace access door should be closed and sealed properly. Foam floor vent inserts are available through local lumber and hardware stores. If you want to cut out your own inserts, use 2" thick pink waterproof foam board.
4. Insulate perimeter walls in the crawlspace with R-19 six-inch fiberglass batts.
5. Wrap both cold and hot water pipes with R-11 three-inch thick fiberglass batts. Insulating water pipes does not necessarily prevent frozen pipes.
6. If you wrap water pipes with heat tape, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Improper use may cause fire.
7. When temperatures go below zero, try letting the hot & cold water trickle overnight. This is especially critical for water pipes on outside walls.
8. Try opening the cabinet doors under a sink or appliance near an outer wall to allow heat to get to uninsulated water pipes.
9. If you plan to be away from your home for a while, be sure to have someone check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent frozen water pipes, or have your water turned off at the meter by the City Water Division, at no charge during normal working hours, so you can drain your pipes.
10. Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water. If the water pipes burst, this can minimize damage.

**For more information, or for after hours emergency water shutoff, contact the City of Ellensburg Water Division at 962-7230**

## NEWSWATCH

Your news, Central students, OUR Community

## COM 442

If you've ever dreamed of pursuing a career in Broadcast Journalism, please talk to Professor Terri Reddout about how you can get involved in NewsWatch.

Student-led news team dedicated to sharing stories that impact Kittitas County.

**Live.** 30 minute newscast Thursdays at 4 p.m. on channel 2  
Replays at 7 and 11 p.m. Thursday, Friday, & Saturday on channel 14  
Archived online at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NewsWatchCWU/featured>



Central Washington University  
Department of Communication



# Aloha, from the islands to CWU

## Central rugby player shares his Hawaiian lifestyle



PHOTO COURTESY OF CWU ATHLETICS

**SLICING AND DICING** Open side flanker Vili Toluta'u cuts through a couple of defenders in pursuit. Toluta'u scored 25 points off of five tries during the 2013-2014 season.

**BY ALEXA OLAGUE**  
Staff Reporter

Each time sophomore rugby player Vili Toluta'u scores, he flaunts the Maui area code 808 on the outside of his wrist and he throws up the shaka sign. The gesture, from Hawaiian culture, suggests the spirit of "Aloha."

On the inside of his wrist is "Joshua 1:9," a favorite scripture of his, which advises him to be strong and courageous.

"For me, the shaka means hang loose, smile, and thank the Lord, my family, and my friends back home for all of the support," Toluta'u said.

For Toluta'u, moving from the beautiful islands of Hawaii to the snow-covered valley of Ellensburg has not been the easiest task.

"I miss the food, the weather, the beaches, all of the above, I miss it all," Toluta'u said.

However, Toluta'u said he enjoys the small town feel of Ellensburg and is happy with his decision to attend Central.

"I didn't really know much about Central until I met Coach Pacheco in Las Vegas while he coached a USA developmental team," Toluta'u said. "Coach talked to me about the great school and the great rugby team."

For head Rugby coach Pacheco, recruiting a player like Toluta'u was a no brainer. The

vast talent Toluta'u possessed at a young age was especially appealing.

"I was coaching a USA National Development Team in Las Vegas and I decided to bring in a young player [Toluta'u] to be on the team that had senior players," Pacheco said. "He handled it very well for the youngest guy on the squad and his on field performance was great."

This was not the first time Toluta'u had been the youngest player out on the rugby pitch. At the age of 13, Toluta'u began tagging along with his older brother, Samuela Toluta'u, to his rugby practices and fell in love with the sport as soon as he began to play.

"My older brother is my biggest influence," Toluta'u said. "He's the one that got me into the sport. He always dragged me around to his practices back home. I just started playing with the older men, and fell in love with the sport."

"Toluta'u's home is thousands of miles away from Ellensburg in Wailuku, Hawaii.

"I am a big believer in diversity, [he] was our first player we recruited from Hawaii," Pacheco said. "He brings a different way of thinking and I believe the diversity we have on the team exposes everyone to different ideologies which helps them grow as individuals."

Toluta'u has his goals set and

### Vili Toluta'u



**Hometown:** Wailuku, HI

**High School:** HP Baldwin

**Major:** Sociology

**Position:** Flanker

plans to stick to them.

"I want to go as far as I can, such as the professional leagues and meeting new people around the world," Toluta'u said. "I want to represent my family and the U.S.A."

According to Coach Pacheco, these goals for Toluta'u are not too far out of reach.

"Vili has been identified as a potential USA Eagle by the National Team," Pacheco said. "He has moved up the national team from high school All-American, to under 20 national team, to collegiate All-American. The next move up for him is the National Team. This speaks to his immense talent, drive, and coachability."

Toluta'u is an openside Flanker. In the game of rugby, this position wears the number seven.

"My position is like the all-around player," Toluta'u said. "It is basically like a linebacker and running back in football. The flanker is always around the ball."

Coach Pacheco describes the openside flanker position as being a 'ball winner.' Pacheco also describes the position as someone who is responsible for maintaining a lot of possession and causing defensive turnovers, as well as being a fast player who can tackle well.

"Vili has all of these attributes, but he is also a great ball carrier and has a very good catch/pass ability," Pacheco said. "On the field he is a player that will empty his tank every time he steps out on the field. He optimizes his effort. He is definitely a 'lead by example' guy because he is so active."

Pacheco describes Toluta'u as the class clown of the team and provides levity to stiff situations

that sometimes occur.

"Every game to me is an experience," Toluta'u said "In my first year in college, especially when I got to play with everybody, seeing new things, other colleges."

The men's rugby team is known around the nation for its excellence and success while competing at the Division I level. In rugby's transition from a club sport into an official varsity sport within Central's athletic department this school year, coach Pacheco describes the fall season as productive.

"We played some sevens and won a couple of tournaments," Pacheco said. "We have just begun training for the most important part of our season, the Varsity Cup which begins April fourth. The matches we play before then will be our preparation."

In the previous two years the men's rugby squad has made the semifinal game. But this year, the team has set its sights on making the grand final.

"We are not there yet, but we can get there provided we change some of our training behaviors," Pacheco said. "We commit to the sacrifice that it will take to be champions."

The Wildcats will travel to Boise State University to take on the Broncos on Jan. 31 before traveling up to Bellingham to take on Western Washington University on Feb. 7.



# Top 10 Central athletes

Continued from last issue

## 6. Billy North: Baseball, 1967-69

Billy North was inducted into the Central athletics Hall of Fame in 1987. North is also a Seattle native who might have the most “bling” of any Central athlete. He won two World Series titles with the Oakland Athletics in 1973 and 1974 on a team littered with hall-of-famers. North was a switch-hitter and threw right-handed. He was drafted in 1969 by the Chicago Cubs and spent two years with the Cubs before being traded to the Athletics. He spent the last four years of his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants. In 1974, North led the league in steals and swiped 395 bases in his career to go along with a .261 batting average and 1,016 hits.



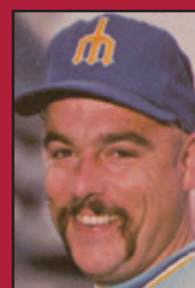
## 7. Keith Baker: Track and Field, Class of 1992

Keith Baker is a 2014 Central athletics Hall of Fame inductee and won a National Championship in track and field. He is a five-time All-American and to this day is the record holder for indoor 110-meter hurdles. Before attending Central, Baker served in the United States Army. He spent four years in the service where he was trained to jump out of planes and use explosives. Baker was 22 years old when he first came to Central. While at Central, he played football for one season and earned an accounting degree. In 2011, Baker began to enter “Men’s physique” competitions, which is a drug-free form of bodybuilding. He won some local competitions and began to compete on the national level and beat athletes half his age. Also, in 2011 he placed in the top ten in three competitions and in 2013 took the top prize. Baker resides with his wife Rebekah and four kids.



## 8. Dave Heaverlo: Baseball, Class of 1972

Dave Heaverlo is a 1983 Central athletics Hall of Fame inductee and a former major league baseball player of seven years and an Ellensburg native. Heaverlo was drafted by the Giants in the first round of the 1973 amateur draft and made his major-league debut in 1975. His seven-year career included stints with the Giants, Athletics and Mariners. As a career reliever, Heaverlo perfected the sinking forkball. His career record was 26-26, with a 3.14 earned run average (ERA) and 288 strikeouts. Heaverlo now resides in Moses Lake, WA and is a local radio personality.



## 9. Dean Nicholson: Basketball, Class of 1950

Dean Nicholson is a 1983 Central athletics Hall of Fame inductee. A Seattle native and Ellensburg High School grad, Nicholson is one of the most successful athletes in college sports history. Nicholson was inducted in the Central athletics Hall of Fame in 1983 and was inducted into the Washington State Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. While playing at Central, he was named all-conference four straight seasons and led the Wildcats to a conference title in 1947 and their first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament berth in 1950. He scored 1,377 points, which ranks ninth on the school’s all-time list. He also lettered in tennis and baseball. The son of longtime Central men’s basketball coach Leo Nicholson, they combined for 1,114 victories, which is a record for a father-son tandem in all of college sports. Dean Nicholson recorded 609 victories.



## 10. Rose (Shaw) Wessels: Basketball, Class of 2002

Rose Shaw is a 2014 Central athletics Hall of Fame inductee and is the all-time leading scorer in Central women’s basketball history. Shaw chose Central because she wanted to play right away and five games into her freshman year she cracked the starting lineup. Shaw scored 1696 career points. One of Shaw’s most notable moments is when Central beat Western Washington for the first time in 20 years during her senior year. Shaw now works for the City of Kirkland as an office specialist in the engineering division.



\*No picture available