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Wildcats look to continue their winning ways  Page 12

CHILDCARE OPTIONS
Students, employees turn to Early Childhood Learning Center  Page 4

FORTISSIMO
A cappella club wins big at competition  Page 7
Washington legislators get first crack at pot laws

BY KYLE FENTON  Staff Reporter

Two Washington state senators expressed confidence in merging the state’s current laws on medical and recreational marijuana last week with their own changes of course.


According to The Evergreen, The Seattle Times marijuana blog, State Sens. Brian Hattfield and Ann Rivers are simultaneously pushing a bill that would replace the state’s three-tier tax system with a single marijuana tax paid by the consumer.

The tax would be 37 percent of selling price initially, and could scale down in future years.

In 1998, Initiative 692 was enacted, authorizing the medical use of marijuana. In 2012, the voters of Washington authorized Initiative 502, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana for those 21 years of age and older.

These two initiatives contradict one another in terms of how people may acquire marijuana in the state.

I-502 has created a tightly regulated market which is highly taxed. As of now, some medical dispensaries operating under I-502 are selling their product in an unregulated market, and dodging a steep excise tax that’s required at each sale.

This situation has left a wild west atmosphere for marijuana entrepreneurs since recreational shops have opened, considering there are few regulations governing medical marijuana.

Rivers and Kohl-Welles proposed merging the medical and recreational marijuana systems under the Washington Liquor Control Board, renaming it the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board.

The merging of these two markets would allow medical dispensers to continue to operate, but only sell edibles and concentrates. It would require product testing that is at least as strict as the testing state-licensed recreational marijuana goes through.

The senators also proposed changing possession and growing regulations for medical cardholders, and people 21 years of age and older.

Sen. Rivers’ proposal would allow up to six plants for medical use, and healthcare professionals may authorize an additional amount if necessary for patients, but not more than 15 plants.

Sen. Kohl-Welles’ proposal allows anyone of age to grow up to six plants, and medical patients the right to grow up to 15 plants.

As of now, the Department of Health (DOH) has nothing to do with patients regarding a database of medical marijuana patients.

Sen. Rivers’ proposal would make it mandatory for health care professionals to notify the DOH that their patients qualify for such use.

The DOH then contracts with a third party to design a database health care professionals may access in order to provide their patients with an authorization card. Authorization cards would be valid for two years for adults and one year for minors.

Sen. Kohl-Welles’ proposal has to do with a DOH waiver card. A qualifying patient may seek a DOH waiver card if he or she has been diagnosed with a terminal or debilitating medical condition, as set in statute.

The waiver is only needed for those under age 21, individuals who want to have the sales and use tax exemptions, or individuals who want to possess or grow marijuana in amounts greater than allowed for recreational users.

Sen. Kohl-Welles’ proposal could be a very progressive move for the future of marijuana culture in Washington state.

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

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Corrections:
David Douglas served in the Army, not the Marines.

His grandson was named after David’s middle name, Anthony, not Jayden.
Central implements new budget model

BY AARON KUNKLER
Staff Reporter

Over the past year, the administration at Central has been attempting to meet budget shortfalls in various ways. One of the most prominent attempts has been the shift toward a Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) system.

Last spring, the state legislature froze tuition increases and other sources of income from the state, leaving Central with a $6.5 million debt. RCM was implemented to help reallocate funds, allowing students and professors to help plan out their academic needs.

“It’s always wonderful to have new gas prices,” said senior music and psychology major Leah Espinoza.

According to CNN, the national average is $2.06 per gallon. This time last year, it was $3.31. A recent survey stated that Washington’s average price per gallon is $2.25.

Gas prices have dropped so much that it now costs Joanna Hunt, who works at the Central bookstore, under $30 to fill her tank up all the way.

Before the price drop, Hunt said that she wouldn’t fill her tank completely. “I would put $15 or $20 in and hope that it lasted me through the week,” Hunt said.

Now that prices are so low, Hunt can travel to the west side more often for work or to see family.

Hunt drives a Chevy Aveo, which gets up to 35 miles per gallon. “Thankfully, Ellensburg is not congested, so it’s easy to get around,” Hunt said.

Thulean said, over the past couple of months the prices have been dropping around seven to 11 cents per week. “The owner called, and told me to to lower the price four cents,” Thulean said. “Before I left the counter, he called me again and said ‘lower it another seven cents.’”

That 11 cent drop in prices in one day was the largest drop in a single day that Thulean had seen.

Espinoza thinks that people are not taking into account the environmental impact of driving constantly. “It’s a temporary fix to an ongoing problem,” Espinoza said.

The prices “are just going to rise again,” Espinoza said. According to gasbuddy.com, the highest price per gallon nationwide is in Kauai County, HI, at $3.68 per gallon. The lowest price was found in Kootenai County, ID, at $1.62 per gallon.

Thulean said prices were on the rise again, and had to raise prices at Texaco up to $1.91 on Tuesday.

FILLING UP

Above: Gas prices have plummeted in recent months. Below: The average prices per gallon, per county, in Washington state.

“Record low gas prices hit the ‘burg”

BY AARON KUNKLER
News Editor

For the first time since March of 2009, the price of gasoline is under $2 per gallon.

Just last March, the price per gallon was almost $4, according to Texaco manager Bill Thulean.

The significant drop in gas prices has allowed students and employees to travel more. “It’s always wonderful to have low gas prices,” said senior music and psychology major Leah Espinoza.

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Central’s children

ECLC provides quality childcare for students, employees

BY FELICIA KOPPERDAHL
Staff Reporter

College can be extremely overwhelming for faculty and students with children. When considering the class load, homework and the duties of daily life, childcare can be a concern that causes additional stress.

However, Central has been doing its part to alleviate the pressures of childcare.

Central currently has two childcare locations on campus: the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) and the Rainbow Center. The ECLC is located in Brooklaine Village, and the Rainbow Center is located in Michaelson Hall, room 109.

Janie Charlton, director of ECLC, said the childcare centers put students and faculty first.

“We definitely cater more to college students because we operate on the academic calendar,” Charlton said. “We are close to campus.”

Timothy DeSelms, a post-graduate student, had two children at the ECLC 10 years ago and currently has two-year-old twins at the center.

“The ECLC is more than childcare, it is more like preschool,” DeSelms said. “Both full-time and student teachers have a passion for teaching children and it shows in their attitude everyday and my children’s level of learning.”

Charlton said that the childcare center provides an outlet for student parents to meet one another and have common ground.

“A lot of our parents are single parents, so they get to meet other non-traditional parents that have children and they get to network that way,” Charlton said.

The Rainbow Center and ECLC accept children from the ages of one month to eight years old. The facilities are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with two blocks available: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Parents choose blocks depending on what their daily schedule is. Depending on the block chosen, the prices can range anywhere from $16-$20 a day. Parents can also have their child at the center all day, which could cost $26-$30 per day. A full day of childcare elsewhere in the community often runs over $25. Students can pay for the childcare centers through financial aid and student loans. There is also a loan specifically for childcare called the Student Childcare Loan.

The faculty at the Rainbow Center and ECLC are very experienced. Charlton said the majority of the faculty is Central alumni.

“All our teachers have their education or early childhood degrees, so we are more than qualified,” Charlton said. “I think quality care is always hard to find.”

The majority of the faculty have been with the centers for a number of years, such as the assistant director of ECLC, Michelle Hill.

“It’s not like we just got a job, this is actually our profession,” Charlton said. “I’ve been here a while and my assistant director has been here for 16 to 17 years and there’s a teacher who has been here almost 11 years.”

These childcare centers are early learning centers. In other words, the centers are not daycares or babysitters for the day. They are centers that teach children and engage in activities that challenge them mentally and physically. The education and music department also come to the facilities every now and then to do observations of the children and staff.

“We don’t just take care of children, we actually teach them,” Charlton said.

PHOTOS BY DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

JUST PLAYING AROUND: Left: Elijah Sarria-Wiley having fun with a cone. Above (left to right): Liam Pritchett, Kaesen Laush and Eric Kohn on playground equipment.
By Tera Stenhouse
Staff Reporter

To help new students get acclimated to university life, the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) hosts monthly “Tea at 3” speeches in the SURC pit.

The speakers are mostly professors at Central who have gone through many of the troubles college freshmen experience today.

College is a time for trying new things, exploring talents, and also deciding a path for a career. Sometimes, however, going through these motions is not easy to do.

Hannah Barclay, program leader at the CLCE, has noticed students enjoy hearing from different adults.

“After every talk, at least one or two students have connected with the speaker and engaged in personal conversation regarding their future, or have exchanged contact information,” Barclay said.

Barclay said preparations for choosing the speakers come from students and faculty members.

“We try to book one community member and two CWU faculty or staff members per quarter,” Barclay said. “We look to represent a variety of departments on campus to give students a chance to hear from a wide spectrum of people and to honor new or retiring members of CWU.”

This quarter’s first “Tea at 3” speech was held on Jan. 22 and featured Mercer Creek Church College pastor, Bryan Halferty.

Halferty is heavily involved in many college students’ lives at Central, and it is well known for his teachings at the college youth program, “Salt.”

During his speech, Halferty said he had fears for his future when he was a freshman. He struggled with choosing a career path that involved his passions.

“I was trying to do life as a writer, but missed ministry and caring for people,” Halferty said. “There is this goodness that happens when your joy meets the needs of the world.”

Halferty encouraged students to identify who they are, silence the “haters,” listen to the wise and keep working toward their passions.

“We experience great tension internally, and the ‘haters’ factor frequently,” Halferty said. “Lean toward the kindness.”

Students were able to ask Halferty questions, and express their own challenges in deciding which path they want to take in college.

Tagan Rapp-Stieler, sophomore law and justice major, highlighted how unpredictable life is.

“You may plan your life the way you want it, but unexpected things happen,” Rapp-Stieler said. “You learn things you did not know about yourself along the way.”

Tea at 3 lends a helping hand

Next ‘Tea at 3’
Feb. 5
Speaker: Kenn Briggs
Occupation: Department Chair, P.E.

For more, contact:
CLCE (509)963-1850

SUCCESS

The “Tea at 3” speeches aim to help freshman who are having trouble finding their way.

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Get off of Marshawn’s D

The media is out of control. They are really pushing Marshawn Lynch, Seattle Seahawks’ renowned running back, over the edge with incessant interviews.

As part of his NFL contract, it is a requirement for Lynch to make himself available to the media, and him interviewing is all that is needed for him to fulfill this part of his job.

In many of his latest interviews, Lynch has been making himself available but only answers reporters’ questions with one-line phrases. Recent examples of different interviews would be, “Yeah,” “I’m thankful” and “I’m here so I won’t get fined.”

Why are reporters pounding Lynch with questions that they know will go unanswered? It is starting to become a thing for Lynch to have these one-line phrase interviews.

What is more concerning though is how Lynch is coping with these interviews. For instance, in a recent interview Lynch shut his eyes, wiped his face and distressfully looked from left to right. Reporters know that he has to make himself available to the media for a certain allotted time, but they insist on crowding around him as if he was a zoo animal.

If Lynch retired after this season or after the next, I would say the relentless media pressure would have a part in that decision.

Reporters need to show the man more respect. One of the questions a reporter asked him was, “why don’t you talk about the celebration dance after Kam Chancellor’s touchdown?” I was pained when I saw Lynch’s emotional reaction to these questions.

Why aren’t people believing his anxiety claim? Critics say that since he can keep his composure in front of a stadium of fans, he must not have anxiety in interviews.

Recently, there were reports that Lynch may sue the NFL for its lack of accommodation for his personal anxiety. Assuming he has written proof from a doctor, then good for him. Lynch’s mental health needs to be taken as seriously as his physical health.

The only moments we have really seen him open up in interviews were in a special one-on-one interviews with long-time friends, and his brief interview with Deion Sanders, who had a successful NFL career, and is someone Lynch most likely knows better and respects.

Many of us have parts of our job we don’t like, but Lynch’s interviews go further than that. He is physically incapable of overcoming his emotions and the pressure directed upon him. These emotions are exacerbated when there are dozens of reporters shoving microphones and cameras in his face.

Perhaps reporters could approach interviews differently with Lynch. They could give him more space, loosen up the questions and maybe approach him one at a time.

If you want a good interview with Lynch, get to know him better. For the time being, respect the man, give him space and let his actions do the talking.

Let’s Play? Or let’s get sued?

BY MARIA HARRISON EDITOR

Recently there’s been a lot of questions surrounding the legality of Let’s Play videos. They are really pushing under the radar.

Let’s Plays are recorded playthroughs of video games made by gamers. They often have commentary tracks that either offer insight into the game, make jokes or offer tips and tricks for other players.

Some Let’s Plays are like those done by the most popular YouTuber PewDiePie. Show the face of the game while they play, offering even more insight into how the player is reacting.

The whole thing seems rather innocent, considering Let’s Plays are just videos of people playing a game and talking about it, but there’s more to it than that.

Let’s Play videos don’t just use clips from games. They show almost the entirety of a game’s main questline, from start to finish.

Video games are protected under copyright laws, which prohibits the sharing or use of the game’s assets without express permission from the copyright holders.

That means that any given game’s assets can’t be shared without the game’s developer’s permission, as long as they fall under certain categories.

Game/Show argues that Let’s Plays could be protected under what’s called Fair Use.

Fair Use allows copyrighted content to be used by others, as long as they fall under certain categories.

Game/Show argues that Let’s Plays with commentary may be “transformative works” and therefore fall under Fair Use.

Some say that the intrinsic value of a game comes from playing the game, not just from watching it being played the same, and that’s true.

However, for games that are heavy with story, I don’t think adding a commentary track really makes the Let’s Play “transformative.” Considering that some games play the interactive movies, it just doesn’t work.

Slapping commentary on a movie and then posting the entire film on YouTube certainly isn’t Fair Use.

For that reason, I think Let’s Plays are wide open to lawsuits.

I’m sure a great lawyer could make a case for Let’s Plays, but most Let’s Play creators can’t afford a powerful lawyer to protect them.

If insanely popular PewDiePie, who actually makes money on his Let’s Play videos, gets slapped with a lawsuit, he can afford to fight back.

If “GlyphMan3974101” has an affiliated game company come after them, they’ve got no chance.

Better than the protection of the law, but less reliable, is that Let’s Plays can actually be good for games.

Game/Show mentions indie games “Puppy Bird” and “Five Nights at Freddy’s” as games that flourished specifically because of the attention garnered from popular Let’s Plays.

Watching interesting Let’s Plays have intrigued many gamers into purchasing a game they otherwise uninterested in.

I’ve done it too.

I would have never have tried what became one of my favorite games of all time had I not seen a video of it on YouTube.

Again, unlike having Fair Use backing you up, the “my video helped your game sales” justification isn’t as solid.

In a time when the most popular YouTuber is a Let’s Player, it’s clear Let’s Play videos can no longer fly under the radar.
Boots ‘n’ Cats takes the win
Central a cappella club wins three out of four possible awards at competition

BY ADAM WILSON
Editor-in-Chief

It wasn’t Boots ‘n’ Cats’s first dance at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), but a new lineup and outlook on their performance secured near-complete domination of the quarterfinal round last weekend.

The group, which consists of seven members, took home first place and three other awards, missing only one to complete the sweep.

Emily Salisbury, senior vocal performance major, said the competition’s MC announced Boots ‘n’ Cats won. She said the feeling was not so much due to their hard work, but because of how well they actually performed.

The results “validated a lot of hard work over the last two years,” Salisbury said.

The awards for Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Vocal Percussionist and Outstanding Choreography, all of which Boots ‘n’ Cats took home, were announced before the top three. According to Salisbury, by the time 3rd and 2nd place were announced, they knew they had the top spot.

“We left everything on the stage when we performed, and every single one of us walked off the stage saying that there was not a single thing that they would have done differently,” Salisbury said, adding that this feeling was even better than winning.”

Sarah Hemenway, senior vocalist and performance major, didn’t want to assume they won until they did.

“The judges loved those individual aspects of our performance, why wouldn’t they love our performance even better?”

Hemenway asked. “You wanna hope for the best, but you don’t want to anticipate.”

According to Salisbury, one of the key improvements from last year’s ICCA quarterfinal, where they placed 2nd, was their stage presence.

“We’re such a small group,” Salisbury said. “It’s hard for us to look big on stage.”

A year of experience, as well as adding junior vocal performance major Michael McCormick to the group, gave Boots ‘n’ Cats the edge they needed to take home the top prize.

McCormick “knows what stage presence is,” Hemenway said. “He knows what comes across to an audience and what doesn’t.”

Antonio Fernandez, senior music major, took home the award for best vocal percussionist for his work on the entire set. Part of the set included a 30-second beat boxing solo – a significant amount of time given the group is only given 12 minutes to perform.

“It wasn’t Boots ‘n’ Cats’s performance, why wouldn’t they love our performance even better?”

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“Typically we practice an average of six hours per week; right now, it’s more like nine hours a week,” Payne said.

Payne said that it takes time and dedication to prepare for a competition like this.

Regardless of the general fatigue and anxiety surrounding the upcoming event, club members are involved because they love music and singing.

“My mom always told me that I couldn’t sing,” Payne said. “She was kind of right.”

Payne said that his interest in music began in sixth grade, when he participated in band.

He was originally a music major at Central, but it wasn’t until the formation of Fantastic Forte that he began singing as a hobby. Kim Roberts, junior history education, is also a member of Fantastic Forte.

Roberts said she is excited for the competition and feels optimistic about their overall performance.

“We have definitely improved a great deal this year - and improved faster - compared [to] last year,” Roberts said.

Fantastic Forte will be competing alongside the other two a cappella clubs from Central: Boots ‘n’ Cats and Nuda Cantata.

In the weeks before the competition, Fantastic Forte practiced for several hours daily.

In the evening, after quick dinners and classes, but before long nights of studying, members gather and harmonize through a list of peppy tunes they’ll showcase at the event.

Payne said entering the competition involves several steps.

The group needed to produce a song list of approximately 15 songs that demonstrated their best singing ability.

The video had to also show of their overall professionalism. This was followed by lots of paperwork and money spent, Payne said.

Despite that, all of Central’s a cappella clubs were accepted to compete at ICCA.

Fantastic Forte, along with the two other clubs, are just a few of many collegiate groups that performed Saturday in front of a panel of five judges.

The groups were scored on overall presentation, the quality of their music and their visual professionalism.

“[Winning] would mean a lot of hard work paid off,” Roberts said.

Payne said if Fantastic Forte places in the competition it will mean more work to do, and more money to spend.

Singing and instrumental groups have gained attention in pop culture thanks to television, movies and even YouTube.

Pitch Perfect, about a high school a cappella club, Glee, a TV show about a high school glee club, Nick Pitera, a YouTube a cappella singer, and a cappella group Pentatonix, whose Christmas album “That’s Christmas to Me,” made over 1 million dollars in sales last December.

“The ‘Fantastic’ journey to ICCA’s

BY DEANNA BANGS
Staff Reporter

Three a cappella clubs from Central competed at ICCA on Saturday, Jan. 24.

One of the clubs to compete was Fantastic Forte.

Established in the fall of 2012, Fantastic Forte’s 11 members performed and competed against other a cappella groups from around the United States and Canada.

In the days before the competition, Fantastic Forte spent extra time to adequately prepare their songs.

Jordyn Payne, independent studies senior and the club director, helped direct and instruct the other members while they practiced for the big event.

“Typically we practice an average of six hours per week; right now, it’s more like nine hours a week,” Payne said.

Payne said that it takes time and dedication to prepare for a competition like this.

Regardless of the general fatigue and anxiety surrounding the upcoming event, club members are involved because they love music and singing.

“My mom always told me that I couldn’t sing,” Payne said. “She was kind of right.”

Payne said that his interest in music began in sixth grade, when he participated in band.

He was originally a music major at Central, but it wasn’t until the formation of Fantastic Forte that he began singing as a hobby. Kim Roberts, junior history education, is also a member of Fantastic Forte.

Roberts said she is excited for the competition and feels optimistic about their overall performance.

“We have definitely improved a great deal this year - and improved faster - compared to last year,” Roberts said.

Fantastic Forte will be competing alongside the other two a cappella clubs from Central: Boots ‘n’ Cats and Nuda Cantata.

In the weeks before the competition, Fantastic Forte practiced for several hours daily.

In the evening, after quick dinners and classes, but before long nights of studying, members gather and harmonize through a list of peppy tunes they’ll showcase at the event.

Payne said entering the competition involves several steps.

The group needed to produce a song list of approximately 15 songs that demonstrated their best singing ability.

The video had to also show of their overall professionalism. This was followed by lots of paperwork and money spent, Payne said.

Despite that, all of Central’s a cappella clubs were accepted to compete at ICCA.

Fantastic Forte, along with the two other clubs, are just a few of many collegiate groups that performed Saturday in front of a panel of five judges.

The groups were scored on overall presentation, the quality of their music and their visual professionalism.

“Winning would mean a lot of hard work paid off,” Roberts said.

Payne said if Fantastic Forte places in the competition it will mean more work to do, and more money to spend.

Singing and instrumental groups have gained attention in pop culture thanks to television, movies and even YouTube.

Pitch Perfect, about a high school a cappella club, Glee, a TV show about a high school glee club, Nick Pitera, a YouTube a cappella singer, and a cappella group Pentatonix, whose Christmas album "That’s Christmas to Me," made over 1 million dollars in sales last December.

The ‘Fantastic’ journey to ICCA’s

BY DEANNA BANGS
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“Glee, Pitch Perfect, and Nick Pitera] have certainly increased the visibility and popularity of a cappella groups,” Payne said.

What’s more, Payne believes that the popularity of the television, films, and performers has increased interest directly at Central.

“I think there’s more of an interest [in a cappella groups] now, because of them,” said Payne.
Students experience day of poverty

BY MARIA HARR
Scene Editor

An entire month passed in the course of four hours on Saturday Jan. 24, in the Sue Lombard Dining Room.

A Poverty Simulation sponsored by the Family and Consumer Science Department was held.

Participants experienced a facsimile of a month spent in the shoes of a member of an impoverished American family.

“I don’t really know what to expect,” Nicole Doblado, senior family studies major, said.

Doblado was part of the “Chen family,” which started the simulation with no health insurance and only $200 in savings.

After an explanation of the rules, time limits and fake “services” open to the “families,” such as a grocery store, bank and school, the simulation began.

When the week started, student participants burst out of their chairs.

Some looked confused and tentatively circled the outer tables, while others rushed straight to the fake service they needed.

The Chens lingered longer than others in the chairs that made up their fake home, not knowing where exactly to start.

Over the course of the next three, 15 minute long “weeks,” the Chen family experienced many of the hardships dealt with by families living in poverty.

Their ten year old son was suspended from school and, unable to afford care, the Chen parents had to leave him at home alone.

Mr. Chen, played by Sherina Martinez, junior family studies major, had to pawn off the family’s possessions for a small amount of extra cash.

Doblado, in the role of the Chen’s eight-year-old son, felt powerless and frustrated while the family struggled.

By the end, several other students who’d been cast as young children said they had similar experiences.

Most of the 45 participants were students in family studies, and it became clear during the discussion at the end of the simulation that they had been deeply affected by their experience.

Many of them said the experience, even as brief as it was, gave them new insight into what an impoverished family goes through, which would help them in their future careers.
Safe space for LGBT on campus

BY MIKALA WILKESON
Bill Reporter

Central has been rated five out of five stars for LGBT friendliness by Campus Pride Index, a website launched in 2002 to help colleges improve LGBT education.

Katrina Whitney, a diversity officer within the Center for Diversity and Social Justice, submitted her evaluation of Central’s support of the LGBT community to the Campus Pride Index.

The Index compares how colleges treat their LGBT members.

“I believe Central Washington University is on its way to doing a wonderful job in regards to [the] policy and procedures in place,” Whitney said.

Whitney believes that the Campus Pride Index is a great starting point for improving campus safety.

“Let’s make sure we follow on our way to creating a safe space,” Whitney said.

Although Central is on its way to becoming a safer place for students, it is still not perfect and there are still students everyday who endure challenges in the classroom setting, Whitney said.

“There are students every single day that are mis-gendered. There’s students every single day that have to deal with that notion of micro-aggression within classes; they may be mis-gendered, [they] may use wrong pronouns. They may not feel safe based on their identity,” Whitney said.

Whitney believes that the students within the CDSJ work as hard as they can to make a safe environment for all students.

Central’s friendliness toward members of the LGBT community is a major reason Working as the event programmer within the CDSJ, Reynolds sees Ellensburg as a place where the residents do not care if you are different.

“I’m very happy with the people and the community to Mercer Creek and to Reso- nate. She has gone to the church for a while, but feels more comfortable about going to church now. She has gone to Mercer Creek and to Resonate.

According to McCann, Ellensburg residents are not as friendly as people on campus.

McCann thinks they are not as friendly because some Ellensburg residents are from a generation in which being LGBT was not socially acceptable.

Although she did not experience that negativity in her hometown of North Bend, McCann finds Central to be friendly.

For the most part, McCann enjoys her experience here at Central. “I generally feel accepted here, as a female and as someone who is queer,” McCann said.
Sara Jean’s Sweets, a small space serving big flavor, pairs fairly well with Moose Tracks Coffee. Moose Tracks Coffee and Sara Jean’s Sweets, located on the corner of 5th and Main, is decorated in a manner which makes the rather modest-sized eatery feel cozy, rather than cramped. Their February decorations of red heart decor compliments the pre-existing color scheme of light turquoise tables and velvety red accents.

Among the velvet red accents are red mugs and industrial style lights, all hung from the ceiling above the espresso machines. Although the color scheme of light blues and reds seems a bit vintage, this place and its sweets are nothing but modern. It has the hip vibe of a café, with the bonus of gourmet cupcakes.

Although they are located on one of the busiest streets in Ellensburg, the low-key atmosphere, infused with the aroma of freshly brewed espresso, makes this place ideal for conversation. Whether you’re looking to satisfy a sweet tooth, a caffeine craving on-the-go, or just meeting up with a friend, Sara Jean’s is just far enough from campus to make students feel removed from the sometimes overwhelming world of academia.

You can also get a 12-ounce drink and a cupcake for under $10, a price befitting a college student who is tired of the usual SURC offerings.

As a sucker for a good peanut butter to chocolate ratio, I had the peanut butter cupcake. It consisted of a chocolate cupcake topped with peanut butter frosting and a sliver of a peanut butter cup wedged decoratively inside it.

The ratio was pleasing and the sweetness was nicely cut with the bitter coffee taste of my latte from Moose Tracks Coffee.

My companion, a barista, gave a good review of her Café Cubano (Americano), a Moose Tracks creation. She even admitted that she doesn’t normally drink Americanos, but thoroughly enjoyed this particular drink.

The coffee also helped balance out the sweetness of her “Sweethawks” cupcake, which was apparently too sweet due to the amount of frosting.

The “Sweethawks” cupcake comes in both chocolate and vanilla flavors and is topped with Super Bowl winning colors (blue and green, of course).

The employees are just as sweet as their cupcakes. The barista on duty was very friendly and more than happy to explain the specifics of the drinks ordered.

The drinks were well-made and ready to drink in a matter of moments.

The combination of coffee and cupcakes proves just as complimentary as the combination of Sara Jean’s Sweets and downtown Ellensburg.

Ellensburg’s sweet combination

Review: Sara Jean’s Sweets and Moose Tracks Coffee

Sara Jean’s Sweets
423 N. Main St.
Mon - Sat
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday
Closed

Sara Jean’s Sweets and Moose Tracks Coffee

Moose Tracks Coffee

Ellensburg’s sweet combination

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

SWEET HEARTS Sara Jean’s Sweets prepared for Valentine’s.

KAYLEE BIALOZOR/OBSERVER

Review: Sara Jean’s Sweets and Moose Tracks Coffee
From that college down the road

BY NICHOLAS OLIVER Staff Reporter

Michael Wanzley, better known as Wanz, is a Grammy-winning R&B singer and Central alumus who recently returned to Central to perform at the men’s basketball game versus Western, and to give a guest lecture to the music building.

Wanz was a software test engineer, working at software companies such as Microsoft before hitting his big break in the music business.

In June 2012, Wanz received a phone call from Street Level Records owner, D-Sane.

D-Sane recruited Wanz to be featured on the future hit “Thrift Shop.” Wanz had never heard of Macklemore & Ryan Lewis up until that moment. He headed to the studio at 1 a.m. to lay down the now iconic horns of the song.

Little did he know, from that short 45-minute session, he would not only record a Grammy winning song, but also become an integral piece of a pop culture phenomenon.

Wanz is now on tour with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, while also working on his solo album, but he found time in his schedule to perform at the men’s basketball game versus Western on Jan. 14.

While visiting Central, he gave a lecture to music students, gave a jazz clinic, and also did an interview with the campus radio station, KCWU 88.1. The Burg.

Music professor Chris Bruya has known Wanz for over 30 years and was a graduate student while Wanz was an undergraduate at Central.

Bruya even had Wanz play percussion on a song titled “Brown Boy” as part of an album that Bruya had put together with other Central music students.

“I [Wanz] gave a jazz clinic, while he was in town and sang jazz, and it was pretty damn good,” Wanz said.

Bruya said he thinks it is important for all students to see and talk to people who have graduated from Central and gone on to be successful. For him, hearing about student success after college is the goal for any instructor.

“When I see Wanz and other musicians who are out performing and teaching, it encourages me and inspires me to strive to be like them,” said David Rim, junior education major.

In his interview with The Burg, Wanz recalled what it was like going to school at Central. He shared the story of how he had first heard one of his most important influences, The Police, his freshman year.

“When I came to school I didn’t like rock music,” Wanz said. “I was a funk and soul guy. It was really freaky the first week.

On the Barto lawn, they’re blasting the AC/DC, they’re blasting the Led Zeppelin, then I heard The Police and I loved them ever since.”

Wanz said while attending Central in the early 1980’s, he was able to learn more about the world of music than he could have ever dreamt of.

At the time Central had a nationally acclaimed jazz department.

Wanz went on to talk about Central Connection, his first funk band that he had formed while at Central. The band mostly played Earth, Wind, and Fire covers as well as covers of other funk band’s songs.

He said that on May 17, 1980 Central Connection played at a campus-wide dance in Barto Hall and “killed it.”

He said that college was important in developing his thirst for knowledge. He said it’s where he learned to think and consider every second, and how to take advantage of every moment he was given.

“Life is made up of little moments,” Wanz said. “What I’ve learned in my 53 years of life is that people can let one little moment make or break their world.”

AWARDED The R&B singer won three Grammy awards in 2014.

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Michael Wanz/Wanzley Grammy winning R&B singer

Hollywood, CA - Wanzley, who was nominated for Best R&B album at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards, performed live and spoke to a sold-out audience at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills. The event was presented by the Los Angeles chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) and was attended by a who’s who of the music industry.

After the performance, Wanzley gave a Q&A session to the audience, discussing his experiences in the music business and the making of his latest album, “What I’ve Learned.”

Wanzley’s album has received critical acclaim and has been nominated for a Grammy Award for Best R&B Album.

The Observer • Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2015

SCENE

Review: Big Hero 6

BY DAN ZELENAK Contributing Writer

Since the acquisition of Marvel, Disney has gained many different types of comic books.

Many people were surprised to find out that one of the more recent ideas that Disney decided to adapt into a full feature film was the comic Big Hero 6.

Created by the same 3-D animation team that created Wreck-It Ralph, Tangled and Frozen, Big Hero 6 has a more modern look that has become iconic in Disney’s 3-D animation depart- ment, which is separate from their collaboration with Pixar.

The story of Big Hero 6 follows the recently upturned life of Hiro, a technological prodigy, in his journey to attend university with his older brother, Tadashi.

However, after presenting an idea that grants him acceptance into the school, an accident occurs, and Hiro’s experiment is stolen.

Hiro partners up with Tadashi’s robotic creation, Baymax, which was designed to help the sick and elderly.

Hiro and Baymax, with the help of four schoolmates, discover who stole Hiro’s creation and caused the accident.

Together they must find a way to retrieve Hiro’s creation.

Big Hero 6 manages to capture the concepts and ideas from the original comic book series as well as allowing Disney to add its own creative twist to the characters themselves.

The characters are all fun, enjoyable, and relatable. The story is fast, upbeat and allows for many moments of thrilling action and heartbreaking scenes.

The way the main cast is able to emote creates the emotion of the story.

Characters are feeling within the story.

Audiences have fallen in love with the characters and have given the film a lot of praise.

Most critics would agree that the only gripe to be had with Big Hero 6 would be that the story is somewhat predictable. However, that’s only in the sense that it’s a story that movie-goers have most likely seen before.

While it does have those moments where the audience can foresee what might happen next, Disney throws a monkey wrench into the story that is sure to send movie-goers on an emotional ride.

Big Hero 6 was exactly what Disney needed to create after buying out Marvel.

They took some of the ideas from the golden goose of Marvel’s collection and breathed new life into a forgotten series.

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SCENE
The Wildcats’ men’s basketball team (12-4, GNAC 7-2) looks to make it five wins in a row as they finish off the last leg of their three game road trip against the Crusaders of Northwest Nazarene (8-11, GNAC 6-3).

The Wildcats are on a rapid ascension of the GNAC as they have moved into a tie for second place in the conference. This was sparked by timely team defense and late game heroics from multiple players.

Junior Forward Joseph Stroud attributes the team’s defensive success to coaching and communication.

“Getting blocks is a big part of my game,” Stroud said. “And the guys around me make it so I can get them.”

Stroud’s defensive play over the four game winning streak has been key to the Wildcats’ climb up the GNAC rankings.

During the Wildcats win streak, Stroud has averaged four defensive rebounds and three blocked shots per game.

Stroud’s ability to guard the basket has not gone unnoticed by his teammates.

“Me and Dom can take chances on the ball,” sophomore guard Marc Rodgers said. “If me and Dom get beat, we know we got him [Stroud] behind us.”

Williams, who scored 77 points during the team’s winning streak and hit the game winning buzzer beater versus arch-rival Western Washington University is the driving force the Wildcats have relied on to complement their outstanding defensive play during the streak.

Williams knows he’s a primary scorer for the team and he’s happily accepted the role.

The Crusaders are also the last team to hold Central under 70 points this season.

Rodgers said he knows how important it is to start early when creating offense for his teammates.

“Getting the assist is just as good as getting a bucket for me,” Rodgers said. “Because you’re making two guys happy.”

The Crusaders presented a defensive problem for the Wildcats in the first meeting as the Cats shot 32 percent from the floor and were out rebounded 50-29 in a physical performance by the Crusaders front line.

Stroud said he needs to be better on the boards if the Wildcats are going to get the win.

“Terry and Roppo can all hit for us.”

Williams’s defensive play has been strong when one talks of Williams they must be sure to talk about his ability to score and hit big shots when the Wildcats need them the most.

“I know we all can score,” Williams said. “Guys like Marc, Terry, and Roppo can all hit for us.”

Rima who presents issues in the paint has 13 career double-doubles for the Crusaders.

“Rima is a handful,” Stroud said. “I know coach wants us to figure out a way to contain him.”

Stroud and his teammates will need to be mindful of Rima’s presence in the paint if the Wildcats are going to have a chance at victory.

On the prowl

Central looks to shred Crusaders in road game

PHOTOS BY JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

UP STRONG Sophomore guard Marc Rodgers goes up for layup.

CWU VS NNU @ Nicholson Pavilion 7:30 PST

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UP STRONG Sophomore guard Marc Rodgers goes up for layup.
Central women’s basketball returns home to face off against the University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Anchorage after winning an overtime thriller on the road versus Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) 68-66; the team’s first win at NNU in ten years.

This will be a key piece to second half playoff push Central starts with the matchups versus University of Alaska Anchorage and University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Central starts a two game home stand Thursday night tipping off against first place University of Alaska Anchorage who holds an 8-1 conference record and 18-1 overall.

According to the latest USA TODAY.com NCAA Division II basketball rankings Anchorage came in at third in the nation.

This is a great chance for Central to make their mark and get a huge home win over Anchorage. However, they will have their hands full with Anchorage having six players averaging double digit points.

“They speed, their overall team speed and athleticism,” Head Coach Jeff Harada said. “They are so much quicker than us. They are long and athletic. They press the whole game so for us we need to be composed and not get caught up in playing that up down fast tempo. We want to dictate the tempo and slow the game down a little.”

The last time Central and Anchorage faced each other it was not a pleasant night for Central. Anchorage walked away with an 80-57 win and dominated all facets of the game causing Central to turn the ball over 29 times. Central was out-rebounded 43-31. Central will need to be careful with the ball against the press, just make it a point to take care of the ball better. We need to be in attack mode and not let them pressure us and dictate what they want us to do but attack the press and keep them on their heels.”

Harada said Central will need a big night from both their guards if they are going to beat first place Anchorage.

Senior guard Courtney Johnson and freshman guard Jasmin Edwards who both averaging 13.5 points per game will lead the Wildcats.

In the last outing versus Alaska Anchorage, Johnson seemed to really find her groove and shot her way to a 15 point game. Another performance like that could go a long ways for Central in this game.

“The style they play requires them to play a lot people and they really get after you and they play hard every time they are on the court. Johnson said. So we just need to match that and be fresh and have all 11 players ready to play.”

The second matchup of this two game homestand will be versus Fairbanks. This is a crucial game for Central holding just one spot lead over Fairbanks in the standings.

Fairbanks is currently at sixth place with 8-5 conference record in the GNAC and 12-7 overall. Fairbanks is led by sophomore forward Jordan Wilson who is averaging 16.3 points/game.

Central will need to pay close attention to Wilson to keep her in check on the court.

To support Wilson in the attack, Fairbanks looks to senior guard Benissa Bulaya. Bulaya is averaging 11.6 points per game and five assists per game.

Coming into the second half of conference play in the GNAC, the Central ladies have put themselves in a spot to make a run and clinch a playoff berth for the first time since 2003 and in Harada’s first year at the helm.

It is tough to drop home games in the GNAC and make the playoffs so making sure Central picks up both of these home wins will be huge.
Wildcats dash towards WSU

BY KYLER ROBERTS
Staff Reporter

Central is coming off of a fruitful 2014 indoor track and field season, and the team’s focus has not shifted. They only seek improvement and can hopefully propel even more athletes to nationals this year.

With three indoor meets already in the books for Central’s track and field team, the competitors are hungry for more. The Wildcats have done very well to start off the season and the future is looking bright.

Indoor season differs from the traditional outdoor season in a few ways, so for some invitationals meets, only a select group of competitors are hungry for more.

“The people who we had competing looked good... it was definitely a meet where we were still working out some kinks and shaking the rust off of people,” Central track and field coach Kevin Adkisson said. “But we definitely saw good marks and it bodes well for the season as we go getting.”

The success continued at the Idaho Collegiate meet on Jan. 23 in Moscow, ID where more PRs were set.

One athlete, junior high-jumper Taylor Fettig, recorded a jump of 5 feet, 5 inches, which already exceeds the NCAA Division II provisional national qualifying standard.

Fettig is coming off of an extremely successful 2014 season, as she also qualified for nationals in the high jump last year.

“Obviously it’s a blessing,” Fettig said. “I’m always trying to improve my mark, this week I’m going into the meet knowing that I can improve and will do better.”

She has a few GNAC Player of the Week honors under her belt, in addition to earning two GNAC Player of the Week honors under her belt, in addition to earning two All-American honors.

“My goal is to set high expectations for myself... I know last year I went into the season wanting to be an All-American,” Fettig said. “I think we will still be able to hold our own and have some good results at the conference level,” Adkisson said.

Although rust is still being shaken off from not participating lately, Central’s track and field squad expects to once again do the best it can do.

“All of their eyes on the UW Invitational coming up on Jan. 30.”

On the men’s side, Adkisson still thinks that the quality of the competitors is the best they have had in a few years.

“We think we will still be able to hold our own and have some good results at the conference level,” Adkisson said.

The next meet that will feature the entire track and field team competing is the Washington State University Cougar Indoor in Pullman on Feb. 6.
BY ALEXA OLAGUE
Staff Reporter

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When thinking of sports, most people think of football, soccer, baseball, basketball, your common, sports. But thinking of weightlifters, people typically think of men.

Erin Murray, junior, exercise science major, defeats both of those typical classifications.

For Murray, weightlifting is not just a hobby, it’s a lifestyle. “I’m referred to with titles like ‘little foot’ or ‘small’ or ‘tiny but mighty,'” Murray said.

Growing up, Murray tried different sports, but none of them clicked to her.

The daughter of two Navy doctors moved around quite a bit throughout her childhood, but ended up in Wenatchee during middle school.

Murray began her college career at Washington State University, but an eating disorder forced her to move home.

During her treatment, martial arts was used as a form of therapy. While training, Murray began to feel better and stronger, and eventually joined a crossfit gym where she was taught how to squat, bench, and deadlift properly.

Murray was noticed by another powerlifter who noticed she had a good form and asked if she had considered competing.

“Tired of what I was doing, I asked her how she fell in love with it all,” Murray said.

Last summer, Murray competed at the United States Powerlifting Association (USPA) national competition. This was a competition in which Murray broke records and shocked all of her opponents.

“I love seeing the progress,” Murray said. “When I first started, my maxes were a 113 squat, 100 bench and 195 deadlift.

For Murray, powerlifting has helped her heal and helped get back on her feet again. “Two and a half years ago I weighed 125 pounds and barely had the energy to walk around classes,” Murray said. “And now I’m healthy around 133 and loving what I’m physically capable of doing.”

Murray is the current USPA Washington state record holder for her weight class, 148 pounds, and age, 20-23 years old, in all lifts, 270.06 pounds, 165.35 pounds, and 334.76 pounds, respectively (squat, bench, and deadlift).

Murray also holds the USPA Classic Raw American and the International Powerlifting World Classic Raw record for bench with a weight of 165.35 pounds.

While at Central, Murray’s good friend and workout partner, senior biology major Alyson Pederson, is also a weightlifter, but trains for Strongman, a form of lifting which uses heavy weight and high repetitions.

“Erin is not your typical power lifter,” Pederson said. “She isn’t full of herself or flaunting her gains. She has a very gentle soul and is very soft spoken.”

Murray has become wholeheartedly invested in her fitness lifestyle, and has decided she does not want to be just another “meathead” in the gym.

“I want to be fully knowledgeable and an expert at all aspects of what I do,” Murray said. “I am majoring in exercise science and also planning on minor in sport business.”

Murray is still on the fence about what she wants to do after graduating, but right now has a couple of different dreams, including completing a master’s degree in national and also planning on being a high-certified strength coach.

“If I choose not to continue education, I would want to start working as a personal trainer,” Murray said. “With the end goal of opening my own gym someday and training strength athletes.”

Murray qualified for Worlds in November and has her sights set on breaking both her current records and world records.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIN MURRAY

Erin is not your typical power lifter; she isn’t full of herself or flaunting her gains. She has a very gentle soul and is very soft spoken.

“Erin is not your typical power lifter; she isn’t full of herself or flaunting her gains. She has a very gentle soul and is very soft spoken.”

Murray’s pre-lift traditions is having someone slap her on the back before she goes out to the platform, claiming it gets her in the right mindset.

Murray describes how as soon as she hits her first squat, the audience disappears and she is in the zone.

“I never hear the music when I’m on the platform,” Murray said. “Just everything except the barbell goes away.”

Erin Murray’s mother, Ann Murray, traveled with Erin to this meet, and felt worried, just as any mother would feel.

“As she warmed up for squats, I could see nerves starting,” Ann Murray said. “But she pressed on, using the nervousness to fuel her.”

Ann Murray describes that as a child, Erin liked to take on projects that seemed beyond her age, always demanding of herself more than the expectations when competing or performing. This self discipline has carried over to her fuel her passion for powerlifting.

“Watching the determination on her face made me so proud,” Ann Murray said. “More than the actual numbers she pulled, it was the way I could see her overcoming the negative voice in her head that made her a true champion.”

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Super Bowl XLIX

DARRIAN CREAMER
Senior Psychology Major
Prediction: Seahawks 35-28
“I’m going to Wing Central to watch the game but I don’t have a tradition.”

ELISHA PAAGA
Freshman
Prediction: Seahawks 23-13
“I’m always at my grandma’s house and there’s always chips for the dip. It’s great being together, it’s a great environment.”

HOLMAN FAATILI
Senior Law and Justice Major
Prediction: Patriots 19-17
“Honestly, I think Seattle has a good chance, but I’m going for the Patriots. The score is going to be low and it will be a close game.”

ASHLEY HARRIS
Sophomore Marketing and Business Major
Prediction: Seahawks 24-21
“I am watching the Super Bowl in the Wellington Event Center with the rest of my residents.”

KYLIE ELLIOT
Senior Nutrition Major
Prediction: Seahawks 28-14
“I worked last Super Bowl and I’m doing the same for this Super Bowl.”

KYLIN FULTON
Freshman Pre-med major
Prediction: Seahawks 24-14
“Well, usually I either get with a bunch of friends or family and make a lot of food and we just sit around the big screen TV in the living room.”

Seahawks vs Patriots