Competing legislation could decide future of medical marijuana

Central’s wakeboard team heads to national championship in Louisiana

Photo by Derrick Clarit
More restrictions on medical marijuana may be on their way for Wash.

**Bills Rundown**

**SB 5052**: Reworks Wash. medical marijuana laws in place since the passage of I-692 in 1998.

**HB 2136**: Proposed companion bill of SB 5052, currently back on the House floor.

**I-739**: Initiative proposed by Real Legalization to greatly reduce marijuana restrictions.

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**COMPETITION** Medical and recreational weed are often at odds.

On the AWC’s website, they layout some key points of HB 2136 as it currently stands:

- Tax exemption for qualifying marijuana patients (state and local sales tax, not excise tax).
- Allows flexibility for cities to reduce current 1,000-ft. buffer around retail or growing operations.
- Allows Liquor Control Board (LCB) to contract with local law enforcement to eradicate illegal marijuana production.
- Provides revenue sharing with cities and counties.

However, these bills have not pleased with it. But we recognize from the way it was introduced and the way it was likely to go through the committee system that it was viable,” Davis said.

Davis said SB 5052 needs to be cleaned up before it can be enacted, but there is another legislative session before the bulk of SB 5052 will be enacted into law.

“My biggest concern is that [HB 2136 doesn’t pass],” Davis said. “2136 absolutely must be passed. We’ve worked on it, we’ve cleaned it up. You cannot put the medical system in a system that doesn’t work.”

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**More restrictions on medical marijuana may be on their way for Wash.**

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The reason for Bye’s positive outlook was in due part to the steps taken by the Mercer Creek Church and Pastor Dan Arnold to save the food bank.

They helped the food bank set up shop on that following Monday after the fire and, to this day, have allowed them to run operations through the church with no out-of-pocket cost.

Pastor Arnold said the church isn’t pushing the food bank to move anytime soon.

“Even if it’s two to four years, it’s no rush... We want to support and champion the food bank,” Arnold said.

Last Saturday, May 30, the food bank held a meeting to discuss possible locations for a permanent home. They hired Dude Senter as project manager.

for the food bank to restart after losing their original building.

A lot of ‘blood, sweat and tears went into the old location,” Bye said.

Over the summer, the food bank plans to host events at local parks, including Children’s Park and Community Park.

“We are very grateful for all the support to our continuing mission of feeding the hungry,” Bye said.

Support for the food bank is coming from Central as well.

Since Jan. 1, there has been a donation box outside the G-Store, that will be open until the end of finals, where students can donate to the food bank. Volunteers will also be outside Grocery Outlet and Super One collecting donations.

Last fall, the food drive collected over 1,200 pounds of food.

Olivia Durham, owner of the Fish Food Bank, wants Central students to get involved.

“Encouraging people to realize there is a need in the community, the whole experience is much more fulfilling when you constantly seek out ways to make a difference,” Durham said.

CWU offers summer jobs to students

BY TERA STENHOUSE Staff Reporter

Summer is almost here, and many students are planning on taking advantage of the extra free time to earn some money. Some students are choosing to stay on campus, working while taking summer classes, and others are deciding to return home to their old jobs.

Elizabeth Adkins, sophomore medical dietician and exercise science major, said she has been working the same summer job for a barista since high school.

“It’s this little home-grown coffee stand called Café De Li-stand called grown coffee burg home.

Wedekind works as a childcare provider for children from Central. Being from Ellensburg, We-dekind said she enjoys the summer job because she is able to interact with students while visiting the campus, and the pool during her work hours.

“It’s also really good on a childcare resume that you’re certified in first aid and CPR, and lifeguarding skills,” Saislin said.

Some students choosing to stay and work on campus this summer may find it lonely, but Shelby Wiedeinkind, sophomore education major, has always called Ellens- burg home.

Being from Ellensburg, We-dekind said she enjoys the summer job because she gets to see her friends from high school, as well as her friends from Central who are choosing to stay.

Wedekind said she enjoys being able to work at her job year-round, that her bosses understand she is a student first and that her classes and work are in the same place.

“I have a job because I want to go into childcare. An easy way to experience that is with nanny-ing and babysitting.” -Audra Saislin -Junior early childhood ed. major

According to King, working at the OPR gives her experience in the field she plans to have a career in, while allowing her to share her interests with others.

The stated mission of conference services is providing event planning services, dining options and accommodations to groups that are visiting Central for educational purposes. Conference services is a part of the Business Auxiliaries branch of Business and Financial Affairs at Central.

Taylor McGrew, an employee with conference services, said they hire about twelve students each summer for two main positions, conference registration assistant and conference building monitor.

They look for students with positive attitudes, customer service skills, problem solving skills, flexible schedules and the ability to work as a team.

According to McGrew, Central visitors really enjoy being able to interact with students while visiting the campus, and students get the opportunity to create a memorable experience for them.

“Every dispensary needs to advertise the product. Bud Pods are made with medical grade silica cone and magnesium lenses.

Smith only uses laboratory grade acrylic in his displays to ensure it doesn’t chemically react with the cannabis. Smith also makes bud dishes, light show displays, humidors, edible displays and custom displays.

A jar display cabinet starts at $385, but does not include the jar. A complete display cabinet with a LED lighted base would cost at $900. Bud Pod displays are more expensive, starting at $1260.

Though Bud Bar Displays has only been around for a little over a year, Smith said that he has already noticed a rise in business.

“Only time will tell whether or not the company will succeed. Even if it’s two to four years, it’s no rush... We want to support and champion the food bank,” Arnold said.

The company will succeed. Only time will tell whether or not the company will succeed.
Central alumnas’ business wins ten-grand

BY CLARISSA POSNER
Staff Reporter

Owned and operated by Central alumna Megan West, Claim Clothing is a successful local business with an impressive array of garments. Recently, West was the recipient of Kittitas County’s fifth annual Enterprise Challenge business plan award.

Two years after graduating in 2013, West began plans for what would become Claim Clothing. After only one year of planning, at the age of 23, West opened her store.

“I worked on the business plan for a year solid, 8 to 5 p.m. a day,” West said.

It took a lot of hard work for her to start her business. “I met with entrepreneurs, attorneys and a business development center and also did a lot of research before opening Claim Clothing,” West said.

There were various challenges West faced when opening her store. She said the biggest hurdle was her age.

“A lot of people had questions and concerns because of how young I was,” West said. “I had to convince them that I was serious about what I was doing.”

When Claim Clothing won the business plan contest, West received $10,000 as prize. The money was dedicated to the improvement of her business. West has big plans on how she is going to do this.

“We are working on an online shop along with revamping our back room and getting necessary equipment for the online shop,” West said.

Along with the business plan award, West also received Washington Main Street Program’s Entrepreneur of the Year award after being nominated by the Ellensburg Downtown Association.

Ashley Walking, employee for Ellensburg Downtown Association, said they thought she was a great nominee because of her unique story.

“We were very impressed that Megan reached her first year’s store goal in her first six months of opening it,” Walker said.

The Ellensburg Downtown Association also nominated her because they appreciated West’s desire to make downtown Ellensburg a special place, especially in regards to the historic Geddis building she’s leased.

“We were impressed how Megan wanted to keep the historic side of the building and went for a more rustic look for Claim Clothing, which we liked because it holds true to the original historic building,” Walker said.

West has inspired many Central students with her success at such a young age and so soon after graduating.

“It is always inspiring to hear success stories about graduates of Central who have succeeded in the real world in a big way,” junior sociology major Desiree Mix said.

PHOTOS BY BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER
The long-awaited Wildcat statue found its place on the east patio of the SURC this week.

The statue has been in the works since the beginning of the academic year. The project was conceptualized and pushed through by the Student Government and headed by Rob Lane, vice president for student life and facilities.

As reported in earlier stories by The Observer, the total cost of the statue was $73,826, which was significantly cheaper than the staggering estimate of $160,000 given by Lane earlier in the year. The deadline to secure funding for the sculpture was Dec. 12. The sculptor chosen was Matthew Gray Palmer, who has experience doing similar projects for other universities.

Justification for the statue was to create an iconic focal point on campus where students could gather for photo opportunities and boost the name brand of Central.

Other universities have similar displays. Western Washington University has a fountain, Gonzaga has a bulldog statue, Washington State University (WSU) has a cougar statue and the University of Washington has a large W sculpture.

The student body has voiced opposing opinions ranging from excited to confused.

Freshman psychology major Alyssa Butler favors the idea of a fresh attraction on campus because of the excitement it might bring for incoming students.

“I think it’s really cool. I like how big it is,” Butler said.

Freshman education major Morgan McNutt said, while she likes the idea of the statue, she believes the positioning of it is awkward.

“I think it’s cool, but the way it’s standing is kind of weird. I like the idea of a statue, but I don’t like the one they picked,” McNutt said.

Many students voiced concerns over the usage of funds.

“Did we vote on this?” sophomore musical theater major Jala Harper said. “That money could’ve been spent on a new football stadium so that we could have night games or on academics or events.”

Kaleigh Krehbiel, freshman psychology major, agrees with Harper.

“I think the money could’ve gone somewhere else where it would’ve been more productive than just a statue,” Krehbiel said.

Some students also expressed that they found the statue underwhelming.

“I expected it to be way bigger,” Harper said.

Nathaniel Addison, junior Japanese and theater major, believes that the statue was an unnecessary expense.

“I didn’t think the school really needed it,” Addison said. “It’s only decoration, it does nothing for the academics. Freshman music major Maria Fields would prefer the statue to resemble Central in a more unique fashion.

“I think it looks more like a cougar than a wildcat,” Fields said.

Alex Thiongo, sophomore aviation management major, also said he feels it looks quite similar to WSU’s statue. Nonetheless, he is appreciative of the artwork.

“I hope no one spray paints it. I think it’s a beautiful sculpture to represent the school mascot,” Thiongo said.

Kevin Porter, senior economics major, believes the statue “represents the ferocity that is Central Washington University.”

“The craftsmanship is commendable,” Porter said.

Wildcat statue arrives

BY SIMONE CORBETT
Assistant News Editor

WILDCAT PRIDE Boosting campus spirit was one of the leading arguments for a Wellington statue.

BY SYLVIA BROWN
Assistant News Editor

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WILDCAT PRIDE Boosting campus spirit was one of the leading arguments for a Wellington statue.
Hate for the new wildcat statue

Ellensburg is a weird place. When I first moved here from Yakima, I hated it. It's small and boring for incoming students.

Central was, and still is, in the middle of absurd state-budget cuts and it always feels like you're at the mercy of the university's bureaucratic 8-ball. While nowhere near the size of Seattle, Yakima allowed me a certain degree of anonymity. That doesn't exist in Ellensburg. It took years to figure out.

If you're like me, you're used to a big city. While nowhere near the size of Portland, Ore., Los Angeles and Spokane, Wash., for journalism conferences, most importantly, I grew closer to friends in my profession, and I am really excited to keep in touch as we grow older.

I hope the paper continues to grow after I leave. I am confident that its online presence will blossom as the paper will never hesitate to express our minds—whether the thoughts were positive, negative or just downright bizarre! One night the power went out the night before publication, but the paper got out anyway.

The Observer staff would like to wish a fond farewell to our graduating editors and a hearty congratulations to all graduating Central students!

With love, The Observer
Brainery Blurbs by Ean Zelenak

People actually build little parade floats for their dogs, or they’ll have a group of dogs in some costume theme.

By Jim McKean, event organizer.

On June 20, dachshund enthusiasts from all over the Pacific Northwest will flock to Ellensburg to take part in the 13th Annual Dachshunds on Parade event.

According to the Dachshunds on Parade event website, after registration, participants are provided breakfast with their dogs, sponsored by the Rodeo City Kiwanis club, until 8:30 a.m. when the judging for the costume contest begins.

Jim McKean, event organizer, said the costume contest has grown with the event and gets more outlandish with each year. “The costume contest has just gotten ridiculous,” Brian McKean said. “[Participants] just keep topsy-turvying everything every year.”

According to Jim McKean, the dachshund parade is at 11 a.m. and then, at noon, the dachshund races begin. Owners choose whether their dog will race in the miniature or standard class. Brian McKean said the races are one of his favorite parts of the event.

“We always had fun with the wiener dog races. We were never ones really to dress our dogs up, but the tricks and the races are probably the top two for sure,” Crawford said. According to Brian McKean, the event began as a school project when he was a public relations student at Central.

“We did it in three months, from start to finish. [I] had no idea what kind of response we were gonna get.” Many of his family members and friends had dachshunds, so Brian McKean knew there were going to be at least five dogs at the event, but the unexpected positive community response convinced him to do the event the following year as well.

“We wound up getting over 60 dogs to show up for the first event, and we got some from all over the state...and it’s grown since then,” Brian McKean said.

Attendance has averaged around 270 dogs with over 1,000 spectators.

“It’s family friendly. It’s a fun event. It’s free. It’s a good time,” Brian McKean said. “If you love dachshunds, then there’s no better place to be. If you hate dachshunds, you may want to stay out of downtown.”

When: Saturday, June 20.

Dog registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

Where: 4th Ave. and Main St.

Attractions include: costume contest, dachshund races, dachshund parade, dog trick contest and vendors selling dachshund-themed merchandise.
BY VICTORIA SHAMRELL
Staff Reporter

It was the final product. Every student involved in the fashion show’s production put extensive time and effort into the show.

Andrea Eklund, director of the fashion show, said there was one small hiccup during the 3 p.m. show. At the very beginning, the music went silent for a minute, but then started up again.

“The great thing about the models is they kept on walking,” Eklund said. “They knew not to stop [and] to just pretend there was music, so it showed how ready they were.”

Rachael Wescott, junior apparel, textiles and merchandising major, believed the show ran smoothly.

“Yes, it was very successful,” Wescott said. “All my models did great, nobody fell...it was really awesome.”

Wescott, pictured on the left, said the audience had a great reaction to her fashion line. They clapped loudly, a friend even texted Wescott and said she cried.

Wescott also won two awards for her fashion line: the judge’s choice award for best line and the judge’s best piece overall award for her simplistic white wedding dress.

“My favorite part was going out on stage and seeing all my friends congratulating me, and after the show, they were congratulating me on all the hard work paying off,” Wescott said.

Eklund was up in the booth, so she could really see the audience’s response to each of the garments.

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“Yeah, I think it was very positive,” Eklund said. “You could hear them talking to each other and pointing, and I like that they’re discussing what they’re seeing.”

Alex Lambert, senior apparel, textiles and merchandising major, said all the models for the show had practiced for 4 to 5 weeks, one hour per week.

All the models did a great job during the show, said Lambert, and she encourages all the models to audition again for next year’s production.

“It was really cool,” Lambert said. “They showed a lot of improvement and that was great to see and really see how their confidence changed.”

Wescott was very pleased with the way her models showed off her garments. Wescott said it was much better than she could have imagined.

“Making the women that were my models feel beautiful like that was worth everything,” Wescott said.

Lambert said being stage manager was one of her favorite parts. She enjoyed working with everyone and seeing them work together.

“I think kind of interacting with different peers in my class and also interacting with the ready-to-wear models, just because a lot of us formed relationships with one another and new friendship[s],” Lambert said. “Just working with a whole bunch of new people was great.”

Eklund said her favorite part was after the show, down in the audience, seeing how excited the students were.

“So all the students in fashion show production, they put in so many hours, and having them be so excited and talk about how great it was and the great experience they had and all the hard work they put into it was worth it,” Eklund said. “For me, it’s why I put in so many hours, to see their satisfaction in putting on this great event.”
High risk night spurs student carnival

By Angelica Bartorelli
Staff Reporter

Some nights during the academic year pose a higher risk to students, both on and off campus. Student behavioral studies have shown that nights prior or following big celebrations—such as Halloween, prom, graduation and the weekend before finals—are the most high-risk nights of the year.

On June 6, the Saturday prior to finals week this year, the Wellness Center is holding their Fourth Annual Late Night Carnival in the SURC from 9 p.m. to midnight.

According to Doug Fulp, health educator in the Wellness Center, the goal of the event is to “provide students with substance-free alternatives.”

Over the course of the evening, there will be activities and events that students can participate in, including games and movies.

There will be a screening of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” in the SURC pit, sponsored by Campus Activities.

In the Recreational Center, there will be an intramural volleyball tournament and several inflatable game stations. Cotton candy, soda and pizza from Pizza Collin will be served to all attendees.

Throughout the night, music will be provided by 88.1 The ‘Burg.

Although the event has been held for the past four years, the most notable change has been in location. The event, originally held in Nicholas Pavilion, was moved to the SURC “to be more centrally located and more expandable,” Fulp said.

Fulp, who has been involved with the event for the past two years, said he hopes the carnival will continue to grow in terms of partnerships on-campus and execution of the event.

Expanding the event allowed the Wellness Center to “gain more student participation,” said senior Peer Health Educator Kari Kenyon, who is also helping Fulp plan the event.

In order to make the Late Night Carnival possible, the Wellness Center was provided with two grant opportunities.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) donated a “Healthy Choices” grant, which is solely for the planning and execution of alternative substance-free events for students. The more recent grant has been offered by the National Social Norms Institute to help fund and ensure the success of the event.

Sophomore law and justice major Rene Hendrickson attended the event during her first year at Central.

“In my passion for law and justice, I had to check out an event that had a central focus of having fun and promoting student wellness,” Hendrickson said. “What college student doesn’t like free stuff?”

The event offers a safe and legal alternative to students looking to have fun.

“I had such a great time at the event and encourage others to think smartly and make good choices,” Hendrickson said.
Cabaret focuses on student struggles

Sex, drugs and musicals aren’t often immediately associated with each other, but that hasn’t stopped the Central Theatre Organization (CTO).

The CTO will be putting on “Sex, Drugs and Musical Theatre: A Cabaret of Real Issues” next week. The performances will address current social issues of today, involving sex, drugs, relationships, suicide and more.

The goal of the production is to better connect with a younger audience who may be dealing with similar issues. The performances will be on Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 in McConnell Hall Tower Theatre at 7 p.m.

Rebecca Kelly, sophomore musical theatre major, said this will be her first time participating in a cabaret show.

According to Kelly, the difference between a cabaret and a traditional play is that a cabaret is a series of musical numbers that have a common theme but no continuous storyline.

Kelly said this was also the first time she choreographed a show.

“I have choreographed two numbers for the show,” Kelly said. “I’ve really enjoyed being able to have the chance to do choreography because, up until now, I’ve never really had the chance to show some of my creative ideas.”

Some of the roles Kelly will be playing include the conscience of a pregnant girl, a drug addict and a girl who is caught in the crosshairs of a bad relationship.

“Tha’s the really neat thing about having the opportunity of this cabaret show,” Kelly said. “We all get to be really creative and it’s free of expectation.”

Kayla Shaafroth, sophomore musical theatre major, said most of the plays done at Central are geared towards the older generation in town, but the musical numbers in this cabaret will be more relatable to a younger generation.

“There will be songs about drug use, depression, sex and relationships,” Shaafroth said. “We’re trying to get the younger generations into theatre, because we have great support from the older generation. However, I feel like we’ve lost that interest from the younger... we’re trying to show them how magical theatre can be.”

Shaafroth will be playing a variety of different characters.

“I have a bully as one [character],” Shaafroth said. “I’ll have a drug addict as another. I’ll also be playing a girl who deals with constantly getting turned down by a guy.”

Shaafroth said that although she hasn’t had a lot of experience with acting in this genre, she enjoyed the growing process. She also enjoyed doing the behavioral research required for these types of characters so she could create a level of authenticity that audiences appreciate.

This production differs from others in the past, as all of the other shows the CTO puts on are faculty driven, whereas this cabaret was almost completely student produced and overseen.

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Who: Central Theatre Organization
Where: June 5 and 6 @ 7 p.m.
Where: McConnell Hall Tower Theatre
Price: Free

“Sex ‘N’ Drugs ‘N’ Theatre”

BY NICOLAS COOPER  Staff Reporter

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New club hosts Hack-a-thon
Central Startup Club accepts coding challenge

BY ALEXANDRA PROCTOR
Staff Reporter

The Central Startup Club hacked away at the competition this weekend at their first Wildhacks Hackathon.

The company ArcZap presented three challenges to both the individuals and teams. The competitions were instructed to create an Android app, make a program that finds events through Facebook and locate bugs on their new website.

The rules for the ArcZap event challenges were simple: the code must work, be built in JavaScript and use Facebook's application program interface. The prize was $200 cash, courtesy of ArcZap.

The three judges, all professors at Central, were Tatiana Harrison, computer science professor, Filip Jagodinski, computer science assistant professor, and Yvonne Chueh, mathematics professor.

Chad Burgess, graduate student of computer science, and Patrick Murphy, senior computer science major, programmed their way to victory and walked away with the cash prize.

Their program was the only one to succeed, and they did not hesitate to sign the papers that gave ArcZap the rights to their concept.

The event was put on by the Central Startup Club, that only started in March.

The club focuses on promoting new business ideas and endeavors at Central. The Startup Club offers students the chance to interact with business professionals and talk about possible future business endeavors with them.

“I saw lots of talent and just asked myself, ‘why isn’t there anything?’ Why doesn’t the school have a program where they [students] can have a time to innovate,” Taban Cosmos, junior computer science major and club president, said.

Tatiana Harrison, club advisor, is very proud of the club and is hoping to have more events like the Wildhacks Hackathon.

“Students work so hard at their classes and studies that you lose the big picture of where you’re going, what is this all about,” Harrison said. “Events like this help students to realize how cool it could be. It gives them something to look forward to when they stop working on this project in a team of people and think about being successful in business. It applies their knowledge to things.”

Competitor Shane Thompson, junior computer science major, is very excited for the next hackathon.

“It is a great portfolio building experience and learning experience because you learn to work on a project, conceptualizing a project that you thought of yourself and then implementing it, rather than taking some other prompt that you get from a teacher and trying to implement it,” Thompson said.
Central sports highs and lows

BY RYAN COLE
Staff Reporter

This season was filled with soaring highs and crushing lows for some of Central’s varsity teams.

Highlighted by a championship appearance, the women’s rugby team shattered expectations and had a historic season.

Missing the playoffs, after high expectations at the season’s beginning, Central’s softball team was left looking forward to next year, trying to build on the successful aspects of their season.

Central women’s rugby

Formerly a club sport, Central’s women’s rugby team made the leap to varsity sports this year, but nobody could have foreseen what ended up happening. The Wildcats made a run at the national championship in May versus Penn State. Though ending in a loss, Central’s season was one for the ages.

“I already knew a lot of the players on [the team] and knew that our team would be good, but what I didn’t expect was our team to be really good,” sophomore Angela Veevalu said. “Coming in second in the nation in two different styles of play is amazing. I’m proud to play alongside these women.”

Central faced tough competition from big Division I competitors from Washington State University and Oregon State University, but that didn’t scare them. Central lost only to the University of California twice, but that didn’t scare University and Oregon State.

Central’s mental toughness was put to the test all season long as they played only five home games and fifteen away games. The Wildcats won all of their home games and went 12-3 away from home.

“It took some time to get used to each other and I feel that these trips to California, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Colorado have helped us grow off the field, but even more so on the field,” Veevalu said. Some of the highlights from the season include an 88-0 win versus Stanford University in Palo Alto.

Central’s defense was the key to their success this season. They have only allowed 59 points in their history-making championship run. They went 12-3 away from home.

Heading into next year, Central expects to build on the success they had this season.

“We are really good right now, but I expect us to be great next season,” Veevalu said. “I expect the new blood joining our family to bring some of that young energy and hard work, as well as the current players including myself to step it up next year.”

Central softball

After a 32-20 year, the Wildcats had high expectations for 2015. They finished 20-23.

Some of the highlights from the season include an 88-0 win versus the University of Washington, a 115-0 win versus Oregon State University and a 53-7 win versus Stanford University in Palo Alto.

Though their play didn’t result in as many wins as they had hoped, Central still had a productive season from their players. At season’s end, Central finished third in team batting average in the GNAC and second in the GNAC ERA.

These are all aspects that the team can build on going into next season. Central’s team is relatively young and will lose only three seniors heading into next year.

Though only racking up 47 plate appearances this season, sophomore Taylor Ferleman led the team with a whopping .447 batting average. Second on the team was sophomore Kailyn Campbell, who in 147 plate appearances had a .395 batting average.

On the pitching mound, sophomore Kiana Wood led the team in ERA with a 3.84 mark, while junior Lindsey Kamphuis led the team with an 11-11 record.

Expectations will be high once again for the Wildcats’ softball team next season. With a rough year under their belts, they can only go up from here.

“I could see the greatness right ahead of us, but we just barely fell short, and that’s something that I don’t think will happen again.”

—Kailyn Campbell
Sophomore first baseman

After a 32-20 season in 2014 that saw the Wildcats make the playoffs, expectations were buzzing coming into the 2015 season. However, those high hopes never materialized into the success the players and coaches were hoping for.

“We had high expectations for this season,” sophomore K. A. I. Y. N. C. A. M. P. B. E. I. said. “We had an incredible amount of talent that could have gone a long way.”

Central finished on the outside looking in as the fifth best team in the GNAC, one spot out of the playoffs.

Though Central had a better overall record than the fourth place team, Western Oregon University, they finished with a worse conference record. The two teams split their season series 2-2.

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“I could see the greatness right ahead of us, but we just barely fell short, and that’s something that I don’t think will happen again,” Campbell said.

“Next year, I have even higher expectations. A lot of our team is returning and we have some new players coming in that can make an impact. I think we will have a strong regular season and an even stronger postseason run.”
Riding the waves to success

BY CHANCE DAVIS
Staff Reporter

After a full season on the water, the Central wakeboard team has one more weekend at the 2015 USA Wakeboard National Championship in Shreveport, Louisiana.

It was around this time in 2013 when the Central wakeboard team set off to nationals and was ranked first in the nation, winning the title.

Alex Armstrong, Theodore Zogofo, Sterling Frye and Amanda Parker are just a few of the competitors that are in Shreveport, La. for the 2015 USA Wakeboard Nationals, where they look to bring home the championship.

“Our goal going into nationals is, first and foremost, to have a good time,” Zogofo said.

“During the actual competition, we want to finish top 10, and have all the individuals qualify for the semifinals. We had a really fun year and what a better way to end it with it down in Louisiana.”

Central’s wakeboard team had been nationally recognized for years, but when they won at the 2013 USA Nationals, it legitimized them as competitors.

They started out this season slow, having to deal with cold weather. It was hard for them to start the season where they left off in 2014, when they were ninth going into nationals, coming off back-to-back West Coast Championships.

However, towards the end of the season, they started to progress. They spent everyday on the water and showed up to regionals expecting to qualify for nationals, which is exactly what they did.

The wakeboard team is one of many sports here at Central and, to the people on the team, it is much more than a sport.

According to junior Brian Schneider, who has been on the team for four years, the people he has in his life since joining the wakeboard team have made his college experience that much more incredible.

“All the people on the team are some of the most fun guys in the school. The good times are always rolling and the people who are a part of the team will always show support towards you,” Schneider said.

“Being out there is not always about being competitive. We spent a lot of time this year just teaching people how to wakeboard.”

The culture that Central has helped foster wakeboarding and that opportunity is available to all of Central’s students, said Schneider.

“Central is a pretty active college and people are outdoorsy here. We have all these lakes somewhat close to us and being so warm, people just want to be out around the water.”

The proceeds of which went to help out with all of their future competitions as a team.

The team also have many sponsors, but one of the biggest contributors is Pautzke Bait, which is a local business that allows the team to use their Master Craft boat.

The team currently practices at a private lake called The Pit, which is located in Selah, Wash. It is a man-made lake that they have gotten permission to use as a team, which they go out every weekend to take advantage of.

The team consists of all levels of riders, including people who have never been wakeboarding before.

“If you have never learned how to wakeboard and want learn or get better while riding behind high quality equipment, we are behind every level of competition,” Schneider said. “We just want people on the water to share our love of the sport with.”
A historic offseason for Hawks

BY MAXWELL MONSON/STAFF REPORTER

With the majority of offseason over, the Seahawks have found themselves in familiar territory. Heading into the new season, they are once again being boasted as one of the most talented teams in the NFL.

There were some key additions, as well as losses, that got the Seahawks to this point. However, I believe the continuity of the roster from our Super Bowl win is why the Seahawks are being ranked so high.

In the salary cap era of football, keeping winning teams together is one of the hardest feats in the NFL. There are 31 other teams trying to get a piece of your roster. There were some key additions as well as losses, that got the Seahawks to this point. However, I believe the continuity of the roster from our Super Bowl win is why the Seahawks are being ranked so high.

The Seahawks have seen this first hand with Byron Maxwell, a historic offseason for Hawks. The Observer Readership sponsored by: Locally Crafted Items

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The Seahawks have been able to do, unlike most other teams, is keep their core unit together. When the season starts, we will have 17 out of the 22 starters that won us a Super Bowl. That is something that is almost unheard of in today’s NFL. Keep these players together to grow as a team only makes them that much stronger the next year.

Even though we kept the majority of our starters together, the Seahawks still had to go find some key pieces. Specifically, the Seahawks made a splash when they traded for Jimmy Graham. Graham will be a game changer for the Seahawks offense.

On almost any play that we run the ball, teams will stack the box, meaning they’ll put an extra man by the line of scrimmage instead of in pass defense. That worked pretty well the last few years because we did not have a dynamic receiving threat and relied heavily on the performance of Marshawn Lynch.

Insert Graham and that plan goes out the window. Graham requires an extra defender to really cover him. The defense only has one player they can swing between pass defense or run defense to bolster coverage, so what do you do when you need two players each to stop both Lynch and Graham?

That is how Graham is going to be a game changer. He will either be left open or Lynch will have a hay day every Sunday.

Graham may have been the highlight of the offseason, but it was not the only big signing the Seahawks made. With the departure of Maxwell, the Seahawks needed to fill a void. Cary Williams is the man being called upon to fill in.

Williams comes from Philadelphia, where he started last year. He is a perfect fit for the Legion of Boom. Williams is big, strong and mean. There won’t be a huge drop off from Maxwell to Williams. The Seahawks’ system will let him really showcase his skill set.

Another area of concern was the interior defensive line.

The Seahawks lost some depth there late in the season due to injuries, mainly when Brandon Mebane got hurt. With the uncertain future of first year Seahawk Kevin Williams, the Seahawks knew they needed to find some more support.

They went and signed Ahtybah Rubin. He is a defensive tackle that spent the last few years in Green Bay. The Seahawks love to have a big rotation on their defensive line, so this gives them another player to work with. I don’t expect Rubin to start, but he will definitely making meaningful snaps during the season.

Between the draft, offseason signings and not letting their core break up, the Seahawks have put themselves in a spot to compete for another Super Bowl.

They have all the talent they need. They just have to stick to the system that has got them to the Super Bowl the last two years and let everything else take care of itself.
Wildcats preparing to pounce for next year

BY JAKE NELSON  
Staff Reporter

After a seven win, four loss season in 2014, the Central football team looks to have an even better season coming under second-year head coach Ian Shoemaker. With key returners coming back on both sides of the ball, the expectations for 2015 couldn’t be higher.

“Any year when you start off, your expectations are high,” Shoemaker said. “First thing win a GNAC Conference Championship, and then put ourselves in a position to be competitive nationally. That first game of the season will give us a great vision of who we are.”

Shoemaker couldn’t be happier with how the team’s spring ball went. Since all players know his style and strategies, they were able to start the spring off right and were much more pre-cise; this time around, we were much more crisp.

“Last year, we came in with a new coaching staff and new systems; this time around, we were forward to continuing his football career in a Central uniform.

“I expect to compete at a very high level and prove to my brothers that I belong with them on the field,” Ooley said. “I expect to do whatever my coaches and teammates need me to do in order to better the program.”

Ooley attended the Central football camp when he was in high school, where he felt at home. Ooley said he was comfortable right away and knew he was making the right choice choosing Central.

“After my offer and visits, the guys on the team really seemed to welcome me and take me in,” Ooley said. “It made me feel like I am already apart of the brotherhood.”

Central kicks off the 2015 season in Pueblo, Colo. against Colorado State University. The kickoff is set for 5 p.m.

Players to watch on Defense in 2015

In 2014, The Central defense averaged 35.45 points per game, which is a huge jump from 2013, when the offense only averaged 24.1 points per game.

Junior Receiver Jesse Zalk: In 2014, Zalk averaged 10.3 yards per catch and caught seven touchdowns.

Senior Running Back Jordan Todd: In 2014, Todd averaged 3.9 yards per carry and ran for a total of 738 yards.

Players to watch on Defense in 2015

Senior defensive back Cedrique Chaney: Chaney recorded 50 tackles in 2014. He named to the All GNAC first team as a defensive back.

Senior defensive back Isaiah Fakkema: Fakkema had 49 tackles and 10.2 tackles for a loss in 2014. He also had 7.5 sacks.

Senior defensive back Kevin Haynes: Haynes led the defense with 99 tackles in 2014 and was All GNAC first team defense last season.
Central women’s soccer looks ahead to fall quarter

BY ZAC HERETH
Staff Reporter

The Central women’s soccer team is ready to kick their season into gear coming off their second straight GNAC conference tournament berth.

All but three players from last year’s squad will be returning next season, including last year’s GNAC Freshman of the Year, Mackenzie Nolte.

“We want to make it past that and reach our goals of winning our conference,” Nolte said. “Our team has so much potential. Everyone is super dedicated and you can tell they’ve all worked really hard.”

Nolte will be a sophomore in the fall and is undecided on her major, but would like to eventually become a pilot. She led the team in points last season with 19, and was second in the GNAC conference with eight goals.

Last year, the Wildcats finished fourth in the GNAC with a record of 7-4-3 in conference games and 8-8-3 overall, giving them the final spot in the conference tournament. They lost in the first game to regular season conference champions Western Washington University (WWU).

The Wildcat women will need to get past WWU to reach their goal of a conference championship in the upcoming season. “Western has always been a tough team for us,” Nolte said. “It’s a really good battle every time, and we’re getting closer and closer. As long as we’re all mentally in it, we can accomplish anything.”

Nolte said the team would need to be aggressive, pass well and work together as a team to make it past WWU.

Head coach Michael Farrand said that the team has added depth this season, which could be key to competing against the two powerhouses, WWU and Seattle Pacific University (SPU), late in the season. WWU finished last season ranked first in the west region and SPU was ninth.

The extra level of depth allowed the Wildcats to have more full practices during the spring, which included a scrimmage against the Seattle Sounders women’s pro-am team.

However, the focus is not only on conquering WWU and SPU. Central’s schedule features two other top 10 teams in the west region and the addition of NAIA women’s soccer juggernaut Concordia University to the GNAC conference.

“We can’t take any of the teams in our conference for granted,” Nolte said. “Central’s team will get senior Riley Reitz and junior Jessica Haga back after missing last season with ACL injuries. Farrand and Nolte feel the incoming recruiting class could have some immediate contributors.

“Our freshman coming in seems to be great,” Nolte said. “They’re looking like they’re really going to make a difference for us and honestly, with the talent that we have on the team now and the dedication, I can’t wait to see how it comes together because right now it looks great. We all understand how to play together now so it will be a lot more fun to see what our potential is after growing together this last year.”

Although the team didn’t lose many players, they will need to replace a three-year starter at goalkeeper and fill the shoes of forward Hadli Farrand, who lead the team in assists and was second in points last season.

Senior Sydney Williams will be taking over in the goal in her second season at Central since transferring from Olympic Community College. The team will look for newcomers and returners to replace the production of Farrand.

Nolte thinks one of the keys to the team’s success will be the focus on playing for one another. “When our freshmen group came in last year we were really close right off the bat,” Nolte said. “Closest freshmen team [the coaches] said they’ve ever seen and we felt it too. We all love each other and hang out all the time. The ability to get along so well I think has helped our team get closer and be able to work better together.”

Farrand also believes being close is key for the team. “We always want to make sure it’s about us as a group and a family,” Farrand said.