11-5-2015

The Observer

Central Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
Central Washington University, "The Observer" (2015). CWU Student Newspaper. 2551.
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper/2551

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

@CWUObserver
cwuobserver.com
Online daily, print weekly
Graphic Design by Grace Lindsley
In order for a product to be categorized as organic, it has to be certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and must meet its standards.

The USDA’s website states that organic products have to be grown without the aid of antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, irradiation or bioengineering. The USDA also monitors the product from farm to table, including soil and water quality, pest control, livestock practices and rules for food additives.

Because the USDA is a federally mandated program, it currently does not oversee marijuana which is legal at the state level in Washington. So even though some farms may be following the standards for organically-grown crops, they are doing so without actual federal oversight. Even if the product is in fact organic, it can’t be “officially” organic per se the USDA.

One local marijuana farm worker who wishes to remain anonymous said, “The FDA doesn’t deal with [marijuana] yet since it’s still federally illegal. So any farm claiming to be organic is using false advertising and runs the risk of being sued by the FDA.”

Although some farms may actually be growing organically; others might be abusing the term for its marketing appeal. They could argue that marijuana is in fact organic, it can’t be “officially” organic per se the USDA.

For anyone onboard the organic hype train, it may be best to wait until marijuana becomes legalized at the federal level and the USDA can verify and monitor farms for their organic standards.
The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015

Excerpts from The Observer:

**The fight for water rights**

As drought related issues continue, water becomes gold

BY KAILAN MANANDIC

Staff Reporter

Plastic bags in limbo as City Council wants more info

BY JORDAN CAMERON

Staff Reporter

Reduced snowpack may lead to empty reservoirs

BY DESTINI DICKINSON

Staff Reporter

**The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015**

**MCDONALD’S PLIGHT**

Farmers in the area will likely have to cut back on water usage, especially since they generally use more than others.

**JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER**

**Reduced snowpack may lead to empty reservoirs**

BY DESTINI DICKINSON

Staff Reporter

If Kittitas County gets very little snowpack this winter, the area could experience one of the worst droughts in recent years.

Professor Carey Gazin of geochemistry and hydrogeology, Associate Professor Mike Pease of geography and Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell agree that this year could end up as one of the worst droughts on record.

“Anything less than 90 to 100 percent snowpack is going to cause a drought,” Jewell said.

Last winter, light snowpack contributed to a significant drought in the Ellensburg area. This year is looking like it might be the same or worse.

“[Last year’s drought] was pretty bad. If we don’t get a good snow pack, it will be worse,” Gazin said.

Gazin said that it was had to begin with before snow, then without snow it worsened. When summer and fall came to an end, the reservoirs were all very dry.

Pease added that there was an unusually low amount of snow in the valleys.

The Cascades’ snow was very low by April and had an early melt. There was a high pressure system that stayed over the Pacific Northwest and air couldn’t come in and create moisture, which is why it was so dry.

Jewell, Gazin and Pease all

**See “Water” on P. 6**

**Plastic bags in limbo as City Council wants more info**

BY KAILAN MANANDIC

Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg City Council is withholding their decision on a plastic bag ban until they know what the community wants.

Ellensburg’s environmental commission met on Oct. 19 and decided they didn’t have enough information to advise the City Council. The council will not decide on what to do with plastic bags until they get the recommendation on Dec. 16.

During this time, the commission will be researching the effects of plastic bag bans on other cities and looking at alternatives to a ban.

According to James King, member of Our Environment and Central’s environmental club, the commission is very interested in how other cities have implemented the ban.

“They want to know how [other cities’] versions have worked,” King said.

The commission will research this and the community’s feelings towards a ban before making a recommendation.

“Our options range from an outright ban to doing nothing,” said Mayor Rich Elliott.

While Elliott personally dislikes plastic bags, he hopes the council will find a balance and encourage recycling and reuse.

“I’m guessing we’ll at least do that,” Elliott said.

While the council doesn’t need to use the commission’s advice, they plan to wait for the December meeting before making a decision.

See “Ban” on P. 6

**See “Snow” on P. 4**

**The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015**

**JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER**

**Reduced snowpack may lead to empty reservoirs**

BY DESTINI DICKINSON

Staff Reporter

If Kittitas County gets very little snowpack this winter, the area could experience one of the worst droughts in recent years.

Professor Carey Gazin of geochemistry and hydrogeology, Associate Professor Mike Pease of geography and Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell agree that this year could end up as one of the worst droughts on record.

“Anything less than 90 to 100 percent snowpack is going to cause a drought,” Jewell said.

Last winter, light snowpack contributed to a significant drought in the Ellensburg area. This year is looking like it might be the same or worse.

“[Last year’s drought] was pretty bad. If we don’t get a good snow pack, it will be worse,” Gazin said.

Gazin said that it was had to begin with before snow, then without snow it worsened. When summer and fall came to an end, the reservoirs were all very dry.

Pease added that there was an unusually low amount of snow in the valleys.

The Cascades’ snow was very low by April and had an early melt. There was a high pressure system that stayed over the Pacific Northwest and air couldn’t come in and create moisture, which is why it was so dry.

Jewell, Gazin and Pease all

**See “Water” on P. 6**

**Plastic bags in limbo as City Council wants more info**

BY KAILAN MANANDIC

Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg City Council is withholding their decision on a plastic bag ban until they know what the community wants.

Ellensburg’s environmental commission met on Oct. 19 and decided they didn’t have enough information to advise the City Council. The council will not decide on what to do with plastic bags until they get the recommendation on Dec. 16.

During this time, the commission will be researching the effects of plastic bag bans on other cities and looking at alternatives to a ban.

According to James King, member of Our Environment and Central’s environmental club, the commission is very interested in how other cities have implemented the ban.

“They want to know how [other cities’] versions have worked,” King said.

The commission will research this and the community’s feelings towards a ban before making a recommendation.

“Our options range from an outright ban to doing nothing,” said Mayor Rich Elliott.

While Elliott personally dislikes plastic bags, he hopes the council will find a balance and encourage recycling and reuse.

“I’m guessing we’ll at least do that,” Elliott said.

While the council doesn’t need to use the commission’s advice, they plan to wait for the December meeting before making a decision.

See “Ban” on P. 6

**See “Snow” on P. 4**

**The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015**

**JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER**

**Reduced snowpack may lead to empty reservoirs**

BY DESTINI DICKINSON

Staff Reporter

If Kittitas County gets very little snowpack this winter, the area could experience one of the worst droughts in recent years.

Professor Carey Gazin of geochemistry and hydrogeology, Associate Professor Mike Pease of geography and Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell agree that this year could end up as one of the worst droughts on record.

“Anything less than 90 to 100 percent snowpack is going to cause a drought,” Jewell said.

Last winter, light snowpack contributed to a significant drought in the Ellensburg area. This year is looking like it might be the same or worse.

“[Last year’s drought] was pretty bad. If we don’t get a good snow pack, it will be worse,” Gazin said.

Gazin said that it was had to begin with before snow, then without snow it worsened. When summer and fall came to an end, the reservoirs were all very dry.

Pease added that there was an unusually low amount of snow in the valleys.

The Cascades’ snow was very low by April and had an early melt. There was a high pressure system that stayed over the Pacific Northwest and air couldn’t come in and create moisture, which is why it was so dry.

Jewell, Gazin and Pease all

**See “Water” on P. 6**

**Plastic bags in limbo as City Council wants more info**

BY KAILAN MANANDIC

Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg City Council is withholding their decision on a plastic bag ban until they know what the community wants.

Ellensburg’s environmental commission met on Oct. 19 and decided they didn’t have enough information to advise the City Council. The council will not decide on what to do with plastic bags until they get the recommendation on Dec. 16.

During this time, the commission will be researching the effects of plastic bag bans on other cities and looking at alternatives to a ban.

According to James King, member of Our Environment and Central’s environmental club, the commission is very interested in how other cities have implemented the ban.

“They want to know how [other cities’] versions have worked,” King said.

The commission will research this and the community’s feelings towards a ban before making a recommendation.

“Our options range from an outright ban to doing nothing,” said Mayor Rich Elliott.

While Elliott personally dislikes plastic bags, he hopes the council will find a balance and encourage recycling and reuse.

“I’m guessing we’ll at least do that,” Elliott said.

While the council doesn’t need to use the commission’s advice, they plan to wait for the December meeting before making a decision.

See “Ban” on P. 6

**See “Snow” on P. 4**

The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015

**JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER**

**Reduced snowpack may lead to empty reservoirs**

BY DESTINI DICKINSON

Staff Reporter

If Kittitas County gets very little snowpack this winter, the area could experience one of the worst droughts in recent years.

Professor Carey Gazin of geochemistry and hydrogeology, Associate Professor Mike Pease of geography and Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell agree that this year could end up as one of the worst droughts on record.

“Anything less than 90 to 100 percent snowpack is going to cause a drought,” Jewell said.

Last winter, light snowpack contributed to a significant drought in the Ellensburg area. This year is looking like it might be the same or worse.

“[Last year’s drought] was pretty bad. If we don’t get a good snow pack, it will be worse,” Gazin said.

Gazin said that it was had to begin with before snow, then without snow it worsened. When summer and fall came to an end, the reservoirs were all very dry.

Pease added that there was an unusually low amount of snow in the valleys.

The Cascades’ snow was very low by April and had an early melt. There was a high pressure system that stayed over the Pacific Northwest and air couldn’t come in and create moisture, which is why it was so dry.

Jewell, Gazin and Pease all

**See “Water” on P. 6**

**Plastic bags in limbo as City Council wants more info**

BY KAILAN MANANDIC

Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg City Council is withholding their decision on a plastic bag ban until they know what the community wants.

Ellensburg’s environmental commission met on Oct. 19 and decided they didn’t have enough information to advise the City Council. The council will not decide on what to do with plastic bags until they get the recommendation on Dec. 16.

During this time, the commission will be researching the effects of plastic bag bans on other cities and looking at alternatives to a ban.

According to James King, member of Our Environment and Central’s environmental club, the commission is very interested in how other cities have implemented the ban.

“They want to know how [other cities’] versions have worked,” King said.

The commission will research this and the community’s feelings towards a ban before making a recommendation.

“Our options range from an outright ban to doing nothing,” said Mayor Rich Elliott.

While Elliott personally dislikes plastic bags, he hopes the council will find a balance and encourage recycling and reuse.

“I’m guessing we’ll at least do that,” Elliott said.

While the council doesn’t need to use the commission’s advice, they plan to wait for the December meeting before making a decision.

See “Ban” on P. 6

**See “Snow” on P. 4**
Ecologist speaks on state of Wash. wildfires

By Victoria Shamrell
Assistant News Editor

Washington State just had its biggest wildfire season in history this past summer. Wildfires are a natural phenomenon, and they will continue to happen despite what some may hope. Fire, however, is important to the environment and is needed in order to let it grow and change.

Speaker
Paul Hessburg started out his key note speech on a humorous note by showing a photo of a baby named Philux in a pumpkin from his friend.

Hessburg is the US Forest Service Yakima Experimental Landscape Ecologist and he is a professor at the University of Washington, Washington State and the University of Idaho.

He started out by explaining to his audience of 80 people about inland northwestern forests and how their landscapes have changed through fire.

“Historical fire suppression and fire exclusion have created an enormous fuel load and a fire deficit.”

Paul Hessburg
US Forest Service Ecologist

Last year marked one of the worst snow seasons on record for Snoqualmie Pass. This year could turn out to be the same.

Historical fire suppression

Pease said that this is because of poor resulting conditions.

“Historically, we have more snow, that will impact soil moisture,” Pease said.

That would mean that the county would have to irrigate earlier, which will reduce total availability of water next summer.

Gazis said the agricultural interests have junior water rights.

What to Expect

People thought there was an “infinite supply.”

Gazis said that they have to buy a senior water right to replace the water they take out. She said this means Ellensburg is progressive towards water management.

Gazis said that she doesn’t know if two times in a row is enough to start water rationing, but three times in five, or four in ten might be. In 2014, the county experienced one of its worst droughts ever recorded.

According to Jewel, water rationing has already occurred in some areas. He said that junior irrigators have already started rationing their supply.

The conditions this year are warmer and drier than normal. If this year pans out to be very dry, Pease said water rationing could be likely.

The carry over storage is significantly reduced because last year didn’t get a snowpack and the county had such a dry summer, said Jewel. It’s the lowest levels in the past decade.

However, Jewel stated that how bad the drought will be is really hard to say:

He said it depends on precipitation levels, timing of precipitation and if it comes down as rain or as snow.

“We can get a lot of rain, but it may not be the right time,” Jewel said. He said that no snow at all could make it very severe, because there is already less carry-over storage from last winter.

Pease added that Ellensburg could get by in the valley area, assuming there is a strong snowpack in the mountains.

Gazis said the agricultural industry will suffer the most. Farming is pretty big in these areas, so without snow it could be pretty harmful on crops.

“I think that farmers probably will only get one cutting of hay if there is very little snow,” Gazis said.

Pease said that farmers will only be able to focus on their first or second cutting of hay and that, if there is a prolonged drought, they’ll have to take parcels of land and not grow them for the next year.

A lot of farmers have junior water rights in Kittitas County, which guarantees a certain amount of water, but not as high as senior water rights.

Jewell said that this year, junior water users got 47 percent and, without snow, it’ll go down to between 20 and 30 percent next year.

Jewell said the county has been watching climate models and their predictions. He said they’ve shown reduced snowpack and normal precipitation levels, but more as rain than as snow.

This little-to-no snow might be the norm, but they weren’t expecting it for another 20 years or so, said Jewell. He thinks it will become the norm, but that they’re trying to prepare for it.

Jewell said that the Yakima Basin Ingrated Plan has been developed over a three year period.

People are lobbying in Olympia and Washington D.C. Projects include increasing water storage and enhancing ecosystem and habitat components.

If this becomes the norm, Jewell said they have a plan in place to deal with it.

“Anything less than 90 to 100 percent snowpack is going to cause a drought.”

Kittitas County Commissioner

‘Historical fire suppression and fire exclusion have created an enormous fuel load and a fire deficit.’
Green news from around the world

BY THE OBSERVER EDITORS

Conservative climate denial still present in America

Sondefysk Biblioteket at the University of Bergen in Norway conducted a study comparing the positions of conservative parties around the world on climate change, according to The Guardian.

Båststrand looked at the platform of conservative parties across the U.S., the U.K., Norway, Sweden, Spain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Germany:

However, the U.S. Republican party seems to treat climate change as a non-issue,” Båststrand said in the study.

Another factor in why climate change is such an issue (or lack of it) among republicans, according to the study, is because the Republican ideology score is the highest it’s been in 50 years.

To put it in simpler terms: conservatives of 35 years and even 20 years ago would be considered liberal compared to today’s standards.

Republicans view climate change as a democratic issue instead of a scientific or critical risk management issue, according to The Guardian.

Solar energy could be the new California cash crop

More than 300,000 acres of farmland in California will lay fallow this year, according to the National Geographic.

The recent drought has spurred debates over water allotment and a new law is requiring half of all electricity come from renewable resources such as solar and wind energy by the year 2030.

There is a silver lining for farmers and farmers have that land.

Almost a third of California’s agricultural land is at risk of being disturbed and eliminates almost 7,000 acres of farmland in California will lay fallow this year, according to National Geographic.

Farmers can also lease the land out to solar energy companies for 25-30 years. At the end of the term, the farmer can reclaim the land for crops.

VW scandal killing all the bugs (literally)

In September, Volkswagen faced the possibility of billions of dollars in fines from federal regulators for intentionally falsifying emissions performance with software in its vehicles, according to Mother Jones magazine.

VW installed a device that would detect when it was undergoing an emissions test. At the time of the test, the engine would operate within the emission standards.

As at other times, the cars would produce emissions of harmful gases such as nitrogen oxides, which causes smog and is the leading cause of respiratory ailments, according to Mother Jones.

The fine named half a dozen models sold from 2009 to present and the Environmental Protection Agency just announced it’s expanding its investigation to include three more models of cars.

In a testimony to Congress last month, VW’s chief of U.S. operations said the problem came from a handful of German engineers and not from the company’s top management.

On-the-ground research shows rate of Greenland melting

Scientists recently completed the first ever on-the-ground research to collect data on the rate in which Greenland is melting into the Pacific Ocean.

The New York Times reported that three scientists on NASA measured data from one of the “icy rivers” that crisscross the porous Greenland ice shelf.

The scientists will cross-reference the data gathered by satellites to determine the accuracy of rising sea levels and the rate of Greenland’s melting. This information could be used to predict when and how quickly sea levels will rise in coming years.

According to data gathered by NASA, the sea has risen about 3.22 millimeters per year since 1993. That data gathered by these three scientists could either dispel this information, or reaffirm it.

“In the end, the fact that kind of understanding can only come about through empirical measurements in the field,” a scientist was quoted saying in the article.

Key witness admits to lying in Amazon pollution case

Drama has erupted in the two-decade long Chevron pollution case in the Ecuadorian Amazon after a key witness admitted to lying under oath, news outlets reported.

According to VICE News, Alberto Guerra, a former Ecuadorian judge who was a star witness, accepted large bribes and other money benefits to help ensure Chevron would win the case.

In 2014, Chevron avoided paying a $9.5 billion fine for deliberate pollution of the Ecuadorian Amazon in the 22 year long legal battle.

Guerra was reportedly bargaining with the worldwide oil giant to cooperate in the trial and make certain deals, VICE reports. He apparently lied to Chevron, saying the plaintiffs in the case offered him 300,000, hoping that he would receive a larger counter offer.

“Yes sir, I lied there,” Guerra was reportedly saying in VICE.

Environmental group Amazon Watch is now pushing for a full investigation, and for Chevron’s lawyers to be investigated and brought on charges, reports commonsdreams.org.

INTERESTED IN GOING TO LAW SCHOOL?

The West Coast Consortium of Private Law Schools invites you to attend a reception. Meet one-on-one with representatives from different law schools.

Admission is free.

Thursday, November 12, 2015

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Seattle University School of Law
1001 2nd Ave.
Seattle, Washington - 12th and Columbia


MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

California Western School of Law
Chapman University School of Law
Golden Gate University School of Law
George Washington University School of Law
Mercer University School of Law
University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
University of California at Los Angeles School of Law
University of California at San Diego School of Law
University of Chicago Law School
University of Connecticut School of Law
University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law
University of Houston Law Center
University of Illinois College of Law
University of Iowa College of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law
University of Minnesota School of Law
University of Miami School of Law
University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Law
University of New Mexico School of Law
University of Oregon School of Law
University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law
University of Pennsylvania School of Law
University of Pittsburgh School of Law
University of Sciences College of Law
University of South Carolina School of Law
University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Western State University College of Law
Whittier Law School
Williamette University College of Law

Pregnant?

COME IN for a free pregnancy test. Before you decide.

509-925-2273 • www.carenetellensburg.org

STUDENT CLUBS: Vendor applications are still being accepted!

Contact the Ware Fair Coordinator in SURC 274, call 509-963-3315 or email warefair@cwu.edu

SAVE THE DATE!

DEC. 3-5, 2015

IN THE SURC

WARE FAIR

The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015

5NEWS
El Niño: not your dad’s warm weather

BY ELLIOTT LIBBA

One of the strongest El Niño weather systems in recorded his- tory is forecast to bring warm, dry weather to Washington State this fall and winter, leading to a possible repeat of last summer’s drought.

The El Niño Southern Oscilla- tion (ENSO) is a pattern that causes sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean to fluctuate between warm and cold.

The warming phase—called El Niño—pushes warm water towards the western coast of the United States, while the cooling phase—La Niña—moves water back towards Southern Asia.

Essentially, ENSO’s behavior turns the Pacific Ocean into a large, swirling, bathtub, filled with both warm and cold water.

“El Niño happens about ev- ery five years or so when the tradewinds—which normally blow from north east and south east at the equator—weaken,” said Biology professor Clay Arran- go. “When they weaken, all the warm water that was pushed up towards the western Pacific actually slashes back towards the eastern pacific.”

The sloshing of warm water towards the west coast causes the Pacific Northwest to experience a relatively mild winter during El Niño years.

“We typically get a dryer year with less snow pack,” said Arran- go. “Whatever precipitation we do get is likely to fall as rain, but it’s probably not going to be a lot.”

This comes as bad news for the state’s water reservoirs which replenish themselves primarily with snow melt.

After the Cascade Mountains received record-low snowfall last winter, the state’s water supply dried up alarm- ingly fast. In response, Governor Jay Inslee declared to state a statewide drought emergency.

If El Niño forecasts are cor- rect, ski resorts, farmers, and fisherman alike can all plan on struggling through another business- year of water shortage.

“Having this El Niño come on the tail end of a prior drought is the worst thing for our region,” Arrango said.

The timing of this upcoming El Niño adds even more stress on Washington’s agricultural sector which is dependent on a suffi- cient water supply.

The Yakima River Basin is one of the state’s most valuable economic drivers. Serving as the nation’s top supplier of apples and hops, the region exports over $1.8 billion in farm products annually, all nuked by Yakima’s water.

Timothy Hay farmers in Ellensburg can also expect another tough season due to El Niño.

During last summer’s drought, ju- nior water rights owners had their flows reduced to 46 percent of their normal allocation. The current projections for this summer say those same flows could be re- duced even further, all the way down to 36 percent.

While El Niño is expected to bring much needed rains to a parched California, Clay Arrango explained that Washington’s water shortage can only be alleviated by snow.

The western water infra- structure is set up to catch snow melt that falls in the spring and the summer,” Arrango said. “The problem with getting rain is that it doesn’t sit in the mountains. It just goes down and it fills up [the reservoirs] right away, and then we have to let everything else pass through.”

As global warming continues, El Niño-like winters could eventu- ally become the norm in the Pacific Northwest.

An inefficient water infra- structure has prompted the state to propose a massive project called the Yakima Basin Integrat- ed Plan (YBIP). The Yakima County Commission- er District three Ohio O’Brien says that one of the projects main priorities is to take advantage of the accumulating rainfall, rather than just snow.

“Since we’re not having as much snow, we need to store this water that falls as rain,” O’Brien said.

The YBIP would also con- struct a new water reservoir south of Ellensburg, raise dam levels, upgrade irrigation systems, and add an additional 500 passes for salmon and steelhead.

The YBIP would cost $3.8 billion and be completed over a course of 30 years.

“This [YBIP] is vital because agriculture is a major economic driver,” O’Brien said. “We need to accommodate the fact that there’s not enough water during droughty years.”

Even with an agreement in place, that doesn’t mean prob- lems won’t arise in the future.

For water users such as Suncadia, which has three full golf courses which take plenty of water to maintain.

While there are other mitig- ation water banks that are follow- ing the proper process and steps similar to Suncadia’s water bank, there are, unfortunately, others who are taking risky shortcuts,” said Paul Eisenberg, senior vice president of development for Suncadia Resort.

Eisenberg said that Kittitas county is not being as diligent as it should be.

“The county is not perform- ing the impairment analysis for its program, which means that a harmed senior water right holder can take action to immediately shut down the operation of such wells that impair their more se- nior water rights,” Eisenberg said.

Eisenberg warned that with- out more consideration on the part of the Kittitas county, things could go down hill.

The county makes no guar- antees that its certificates will ac- tually allow the wells to continue operating, which will not defend challenges to individual wells,” Eisenberg said. “Leaders will begin to ask deeper questions and refuse to utilize these risky mitigation banks as soon as these curtailment actions begin to occur.”
Kittitas County 9-1-1 calls Oct. 27 - Nov. 1

Christmas came early

Santa was found sitting on the ground by an undecorated Christmas tree on Nov. 1 at 1:35 a.m.

A male came into a drug store to get a prescription filled and was told not to be inside of the business on Oct. 27 at 11:55 a.m. The caller said the man has trespassed in the past. The caller said there were no threats, but they were frightened.

A small bag with a white substance was found on the floor of a lecture hall on Oct. 27 at 12:10 p.m. The caller has it inside of her office for pickup.

A wind farm was de-energized overnight on Hayward Road on Oct. 27 at 4:47 p.m. The caller has noticed the FAA.

Three males threw rocks at a car on West Davis Street on Oct. 27 at 5:49 p.m.

Someone was laying under a blanket next to the barrier on South Thorp Highway on Oct. 28 at 9:19 a.m. There were beer cans and food to the blanket.

A yard gone wild and overgrown was reported on 15th Avenue on Oct. 28 at 11:34 a.m.

Garbage was launched over a back fence on East River Avenue on Oct. 28 at 12:24 p.m. According to the reporting caller, this is an ongoing problem.

A landlord has been entering residences illegally on Pelton Avenue on Oct. 28 at 3:46 p.m. The caller is out of town and this is an ongoing problem between the reporting party and landlord.

An elderly female has been hanging out with a known marijuana dealer on South Chestnut Street on Oct. 28 at 3:55 p.m.

A janitor was trying to support a cleanly lifestyle by selling cleaning supplies out of their silver Dodge Durango which was reported on Oct. 28 at 6:01 p.m.

A disgruntled tricycle rider flipped over bicycles attempting to steal one on Oct. 30 at 12:53 a.m. on North Chestnut Street.

A female customer carelessly flung trash all over the lobby on West University Way on Oct. 30 at 3:18 a.m.

A female had her head down in her lap and the caller did not know if she was high or asleep on Oct. 30 at 6:27 a.m. on South Canyon Road.

A female customer filed papers against another party and received a large amount of rude text messages. The caller wanted to know if the papers had been served on Oct. 30 at 9:22 a.m.

A person filed papers against another party and received a large amount of rude text messages. The caller wanted to know if the papers had been served on Oct. 30 at 9:22 a.m.

A person called in about their flower-child daughter who has been living in the woods with an unknown man named “Chip” on Oct. 30 at 5:29 p.m.

A group of roaming college students were “gear up” to paint the town red on Oct. 30 at 9:38 p.m. on Helena Avenue.

A carload of people were coming and going on East Countryside Avenue, celebrating Halloween early by throwing beer bottles and urinating on Oct. 30 at 10:37 p.m.

A goose, that was shot to death, was found in a pasture on Dolarway Road. A neighbor went into the caller’s property to retrieve the body.

A tree fell and KITTCOM heard it on Oct. 30 at 6:04 p.m. The branches are down in the roadway and partially blocking Bullfrog Road.

A confused elderly gentleman called to ask what day of the week it was on Nov. 1 at 12:06 p.m.

Moldy hay was shooting flames into the air on Emerson Road on Nov. 1 at 1:03 p.m.

For about a decade now—following the rise of watching others play games for entertainment—we’ve seen the rise of fundraisers based on the same concept. Last year, the fundraiser Desert Bus for Hope raised $643,242 for Child’s Play, an organization that donates fun things like video games! to children in hospitals. Since its start in 2008, the charity Extra Life has raised over $14 million for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Over the summer, the annual Summer Games Done Quick raised $1,233,844 for Doctors Without Borders with a speedrunning marathon that lasted from July 26 through Aug. 1.

The success of these fundraisers can be attributed to the level of interactivity they have—something that fans of interactive media certainly can understand. Similar to fundraising marathons or charity fun- runs, Extra Life asks you to find families and friends to donate if you pledge to play games for 24 hours straight.

Summer Games Done Quick (and their secondary annual fundraiser, Winter Games Done Quick) function by marathoning speedruns of various games. When a watcher donates, they can add a message that is read out loud on the event’s livestream and their donation can be used, as they choose, to reach certain goals throughout the event.

Desert Bus for Hope is all about comedy and sweet swag. The fundraiser is hosted by sketch comedy group LoadingReadyRun. The incentive for donating on this fundraiser is slightly more sinister than the other two. The more money they get, the more time they have to spend playing the game.

In an article by the New York

The Nerdiest

Modern fundraisers
for modern gamers

Desert Bus for Hope, Extra Life and Awesome Games Done Quick are all coming fairly soon.

They're interactive, fun, and allow you to make your own choices about where the money goes or how it's used in the context of a single event.

In a world where a Swedish golf can scream into a camera while playing video games and earn $4 million a year (according to Forbes), it’s not hard to imagine video game viewing fundraisers as being the money making powerhouses they are.

Desert Bus for Hope, Extra Life and Awesome Games Done Quick are all coming fairly soon. Believe in the charities they help and you will be taking part. I hope you do as well.
Too much water for too many lawns

Central has a lot of lawns. And they water every single one. Or, they water the nearby cement.

Neither grass nor cement are native to this area and both require artificial upkeep (though cement does not require the copious amounts of watering Central thinks it does).

Ellensburg is in an area where shrub steppe used to dominate. Shrubs and grasses require little water, and is found growing in areas without much rain.

According to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, shrub steppe is the “largest natural grassland in North America,” spanning through seven states, including Wash.

Instead of the shrub steppe grasses that naturally grow in this area of low rainfall according to usclimatedata.com, Ellensburg averages only 8.89 inches of rainfall annually. Central’s campus is covered in thirsty, thirsty grass.

The likely reason for this is that our culture has become enamored with landscaping. It’s heartbreaking; the fact that it is necessary. Am I right?

As members of the Central community, I strongly encourage you to act on these university objectives and make this upcoming holiday season meaningful by giving back to the community.

As students, it doesn’t have to be a grand gesture - even just an hour of volunteering is time well spent. Let’s make a pact to make the next few months more about giving back to others and less about ourselves.

Together, let’s strengthen the Central community.

DEAR READERS:

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

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

By Maria Harr

Editor-in-Chief

OPINION

The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015
cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com

BY MARIA HARR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central has a lot of lawns. And they water every single one. Or, they water the nearby cement.

Neither grass nor cement are native to this area and both require artificial upkeep (though cement does not require the copious amounts of watering Central thinks it does).

Ellensburg is in an area where shrub steppe used to dominate. Shrubs and grasses require little water, and is found growing in areas without much rain.

According to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, shrub steppe is the “largest natural grassland in North America,” spanning through seven states, including Wash.

Instead of the shrub steppe grasses that naturally grow in this area of low rainfall according to usclimatedata.com, Ellensburg averages only 8.89 inches of rainfall annually. Central’s campus is covered in thirsty, thirsty grass.

The likely reason for this is that our culture has become enamored with landscaping. It’s heartbreaking; the fact that it is necessary. Am I right?

As members of the Central community, I strongly encourage you to act on these university objectives and make this upcoming holiday season meaningful by giving back to the community.

As students, it doesn’t have to be a grand gesture - even just an hour of volunteering is time well spent. Let’s make a pact to make the next few months more about giving back to others and less about ourselves.

Together, let’s strengthen the Central community.

DEAR READERS:

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

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

By Maria Harr

Editor-in-Chief

OPINION

The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015
cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com

BY MARIA HARR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central has a lot of lawns. And they water every single one. Or, they water the nearby cement.

Neither grass nor cement are native to this area and both require artificial upkeep (though cement does not require the copious amounts of watering Central thinks it does).

Ellensburg is in an area where shrub steppe used to dominate. Shrubs and grasses require little water, and is found growing in areas without much rain.

According to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, shrub steppe is the “largest natural grassland in North America,” spanning through seven states, including Wash.

Instead of the shrub steppe grasses that naturally grow in this area of low rainfall according to usclimatedata.com, Ellensburg averages only 8.89 inches of rainfall annually. Central’s campus is covered in thirsty, thirsty grass.

The likely reason for this is that our culture has become enamored with landscaping. It’s heartbreaking; the fact that it is necessary. Am I right?

As members of the Central community, I strongly encourage you to act on these university objectives and make this upcoming holiday season meaningful by giving back to the community.

As students, it doesn’t have to be a grand gesture - even just an hour of volunteering is time well spent. Let’s make a pact to make the next few months more about giving back to others and less about ourselves.

Together, let’s strengthen the Central community.

DEAR READERS:

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

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PHOTO BY HAPE, GERA

By Maria Harr

Editor-in-Chief

OPINION

The Observer • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015
cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com

BY MARIA HARR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central has a lot of lawns. And they water every single one. Or, they water the nearby cement.

Neither grass nor cement are native to this area and both require artificial upkeep (though cement does not require the copious amounts of watering Central thinks it does).

Ellensburg is in an area where shrub steppe used to dominate. Shrubs and grasses require little water, and is found growing in areas without much rain.

According to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, shrub steppe is the “largest natural grassland in North America,” spanning through seven states, including Wash.

Instead of the shrub steppe grasses that naturally grow in this area of low rainfall according to usclimatedata.com, Ellensburg averages only 8.89 inches of rainfall annually. Central’s campus is covered in thirsty, thirsty grass.

The likely reason for this is that our culture has become enamored with landscaping. It’s heartbreaking; the fact that it is necessary. Am I right?

As members of the Central community, I strongly encourage you to act on these university objectives and make this upcoming holiday season meaningful by giving back to the community.

As students, it doesn’t have to be a grand gesture - even just an hour of volunteering is time well spent. Let’s make a pact to make the next few months more about giving back to others and less about ourselves.

Together, let’s strengthen the Central community.

DEAR READERS:

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

The Community Jug sits in the former location of the hooch of The House of Haze. The relaxing atmosphere is intended to invite customers in to enjoy food and wifi in a laidback environment.

“As soon as I came to town, this was the only place that I saw that actually had any kind of character to it. I mean, it’s alive,” Minor said.

As far as why he chose Ellenburg for the location of his business, Minor said he saw its potential.

“Ellensburg is a town that I believe is primed for an economic boom and expansion,” Minor said. “It’s designed by its nature to be efficient and that’s what’s all about.

By just being alive it’s about being efficient."

Minor began investing in planting produce at what became Robinson Canyon Farm, located a few miles outside Ellensburg, back in January 2015.

He decided to create The Community Jug after finding difficulties dealing with federal regulations, vendors and farmers when trying to sell his food.

“Figured I’d just go ahead and sell my own product,” Minor said.

This summer, Babcock and Clymer began working with Robinson Canyon Farm, and then began assisting Minor in creating The Community Jug.

“This is my life and doing all this—creating this whole place—has been a co-operative process between Michael, myself and Garrett,” Clymer said.

As they are a relatively new business, there are still some challenges that the crew of The Community Jug face in terms of making sure everything is running as smoothly as possible.

“Getting the timing and scheduling down is a little [up] in the air right now,” Minor said.

As they get their produce locally, from Robinson Canyon Farm and some from other local places, such as Plum Crazy. Minor hopes to continue and develop the shop’s future.

“Right now we have soups, paninis, sandwiches and juice bar,” Minor said. “We will be doing smoothies in the future. We have kombucha that is brewing right now.”

They get their produce locally, from Robinson Canyon Farm and some from other local places, such as Plum Crazy. Minor hopes to continue and develop the shop’s future.

“For me to do this every day; from the moment I wake up every day, doing transactions and working with customers, even on Saturdays and Sundays,” Babcock said.

“We’ll have our cocktail license, as curing meats,” Minor said.

“If we were ever to have an event here, it would be fairly easy to get a local act together and promote it,” Babcock said.

Minor, Clymer, and Babcock have big expectations for the future of The Community Jug. It seems as though they all have developed a genuine passion for what they do.

“It’s been really great and it’s kind of put the whole life-crisis of ‘what am I going to do for the rest of my life’ at ease,” Clymer said.

For only being open a few weeks, it seems The Community Jug has already begun to make a mark.

“By next spring and summer, this will be a living and thriving entity and an extension and expression of the community and people that are within it, including Michael, myself, and Garret,” Clymer said. “A place for farmers, a place for musicians, a place for consumers—people who want to have good food that is grown well.”

The Community Jug provides some delicious and unique options for students and residents in search of healthy, fresh food. For those who want to kick back and have a relaxing meal, this little cafe is provides the perfect environment.

2. Reusable grocery bags

Instead of throwing away all those plastic bags that you collect when you go grocery shopping, try reusable bags instead.

Reusable bags are stronger than cheap plastic bags, and more items can fit in them. Even here in E llenburg a local environmental group is looking into getting plastic bags being banned. Why not start using reusable bags now?

3. Don’t buy bottled water

While bottled water is convenient, it can hurt the environment a lot.

Despite bottles being made with less plastic than in the past, they still can’t be reused. Instead, look for water that already comes in a reusable bottle or reusable water bottle.

A water purifier is great for at home use, while a reusable water bottle is great for getting in the classroom, the gym and just traveling all day.

The best part are no trips to the trash or recycle bin.

4. Alternative transportation

It’s commonly known that automobile emissions are harmful to the environment, so while a car may be convenient, it’s may not worth it.

If the campus is within walking distance of your home, walk to class instead of driving your car. One benefit of doing this is that gas is saved, plus no hunting for parking.

Try riding a bike or long-biking or even ride sharing with a friend if the campus is a fair distance away.

5. Change your light bulbs

Try changing all the light bulbs in your house or apartment to help the environment.

6. Thrift instead of buy new

Buying new clothes when old ones get worn out is unavoidable, but instead of going to a store and buying new clothes, try going to a thrift shop instead.

By going to a thrift shop, you can find the same clothes for cheaper prices.

7. Portion control

America is known for its large portions, but the unhealthiest food is thrown away ending up in a landfill.

Ask for smaller portions, or see if there is half-size portions of the meal.

This way you can pay less and finish the food, instead of paying more for a larger portion and being unable to eat it all.

8. Save water

Shorter showers or turning off the water while brushing your teeth can save gallons of water.

The environment is harmed by wasting water, so reducing the amount of water you use helps.

According to Energy Star’s website, one Energy Star light bulb, that sells for $6, can save between $30 to $80 in electricity over the lifetime of the bulb.

9. E-textbooks

It’s becoming more common now for textbooks to have an e-textbook offered in addition to the physical one.

By buying an e-textbook instead of a hard copy, money can be saved and it helps reduce the impact on the environment.

An e-textbook is also more portable and easier to carry around on a tablet or other device, instead of adding to the weight of a backpack.

10. Unplug and power down electronics

When a charger or other device is plugged into the wall, it still uses electricity even while not in use. By unplugging devices not in use, more electricity can be saved and the bill will be cheaper.

Another good habit is to power down your devices when you go to bed for the night, including your computer or laptop.

This way they won’t continue to use electricity all night while you sleep and will still have some battery life left in them.

11. Use Blackle

Although Google is a great search engine, its white screens uses a lot of energy. There is an alternative version of Google called “Blackle,” that is more energy efficient.

A computer monitor uses less power to light up a black screen compared to a white screen.

Blackle is run by Google and looks exactly like their regular search engine, except on a black background. If you switch from Google to Blackle up to 750 gallons of water per year can be saved.

Set Blackle as your homepage and start saving power.

12. Meatless Monday

This is exactly what it sounds like. Try not eating any meat on Mondays. Instead, try a salad or a vegetarian patty.

By abstaining from eating meat for one day per week the risk of diabetes, on a black background. If you switch from Google to Blackle up to 750 gallons of water per year can be saved.

Set Blackle as your homepage and start saving power.

13. Say goodbye to notebooks

Instead of taking notes in a notebook, try taking notes electronically. This way no money has to be spent on purchasing notebooks and pens.

Try taking notes on a tablet or laptop, but we sure to clear it with your professor beforehand.

Not only is it more convenient but the rules regarding note taking, sometimes may not allow it but other may be open to it.

As of the time taking notes on a tablet or laptop is actually quicker than writing them out by hand.

14. Turn down the heat

A lot of energy can be saved by turning down the thermostat a few degrees or just turning it off altogether.

If you have your thermostat set at 70 degrees, try turning it down to 65.

The temperature difference will be hardly noticeable, but will help the environment and your electric bill.

If you’re still cold, instead of turning up the temperature, try wrapping on more layers like a sweater or wrapping up in a blanket.

15. Ditch aerosol sprays

As much as hair spray and room freshener is necessary, try finding a pump spray or an alternative to aerosol sprays.

Hair spray comes in a pump spray and it still does its job the same as the aerosol version.

For room fresheners, in the past few years, Scentsy, which is a wax that melts on a warmer, has become popular and are allowed in the residence halls.

Using these alternatives can help reduce your carbon footprint.

16. Try environmentally responsible brands

Seek out brands for that are environmentally responsible. They usually have labels that show it.

This way, you know what brands are committed to helping the environment or making a difference.

To see a full list of what the labels look like check out this website: https://www.birchbox.com beau ty-label-breakdown/

17. Stop all the junk mail

All the junk mail you get every day is a big waste of paper. A way to reduce this paper waste is by opting out of receiving junk mail.

By calling 1-888-567-8688, you can get your name taken off most mailing lists.

It's a win-win situation for you and the environment.

18. Use cold water

Instead of using hot water to wash your clothes, try using cold water instead.

90 percent of the energy used in the average laundry goes towards heating the water.

According to treehugger.com, using hot water to wash every load in a year is equal to burning about 182 gallons of gasoline in a car.

But using hot water, not only are you saving energy and helping the environment, now you won’t have to separate your colors.

19. No trays

In the SURC, instead of using the trays to carry all your food, ditch the tray and carry what you are forced to eat out what you carried.

Not using a tray saves food waste, since you are forced to pay the electricity bill so most of that waste is in landfills.

If you’re still cold, instead of turning up the temperature, try wrapping on more layers like a sweater or wrapping up in a blanket.

For room fresheners, in the past few years, Scentsy, which is a wax that melts on a warmer, has become popular and are allowed in the residence halls.

Using these alternatives can help reduce your carbon footprint.

In college, with living in the residence halls, you don’t have to pay the electricity bill so most people don’t care about turning it down a few degrees.

But turning off the lights is a simple to reduce your carbon footprint by simply turning off the lights when you leave.

It helps reduce your campus carbon footprint.
Human powered transportation

BY THOMAS PATTISON
Staff Reporter

Recently, students at Central have been cutting back on using their cars. Instead, they have been taking to the streets and sidewalks of Ellensburg on bikes, longboards and even skywalkers.

Students have used bikes and longboards for years, but there has been a noticeable increase in the number of bike and longboard users this quarter.

This may have something to do with students being concerned about carbon emissions or helping the environment.

Carbon emissions, produced by burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas, are a contributing factor to global warming.

Regardless of the environmental effects, using a bike or longboard to commute to work and school instead of driving a car is a great way for students to save money on gas.

Kelly Coventry, freshman physical therapy major, has owned a longboard for about a month.

Coventry owns a car, but uses her blue-wheeled Punked brand longboard to get around town.

“I use it for short trips,” Coventry said. “It’s cheap.”

Coventry believes that the town’s relatively small size has a lot to do with the town’s large number of bikers and longboarders.

“Bikes and longboards are better modes of transportation because Ellensburg is a small community,” Coventry said.

Being a physical therapy major, Coventry also sees longboards and bicycles as an ecologically friendly way to rehabilitate people who have sustained leg injuries in the past.

“Rehabilitation is all about the patients gaining muscles in their ankles and legs,” Coventry said.

Not everyone uses their longboard or bike as a secondary mode of transportation, for some people, it is their only way to get around at a decent speed.

Quinton Miller, junior film major, has been longboarding for around five years.

Me and my friends built our longboards in June 2010,” Miller said.

Miller, unlike Coventry, does not have a choice in whether he uses his longboard or a car.

“This is my car,” Miller said in a joking manner.

Not everyone has a longboard or a bicycle, but anyone that can afford gas for their car can easily purchase a longboard or a bicycle for anywhere between $60 to $1000.

Miller and his friends were short on cash and needed a cheap way to get around, so they decided to make their own decks.

A deck is the name of the part of a long board that its rider stands on. “It’s just plywood,” Miller said, when referring to his deck.

Despite claims that longboarding is dangerous, Miller has never got in a serious wreck on his longboard.

“I fall when I go too slow and hit a crack, but I’ve never fell at high speed before,” Miller said.

Regardless of why students choose to use a bike or longboard instead of driving, one fact remains: students at Central love to bike and longboard, and will likely continue to do so until ice and snow make the sidewalks too slippery.

SKATEBOARDING

A sustainable way to get around campus.

JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

CALL FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The OBSERVER

www.cwuobserver.com

by the students & for the students of CWU

(509)-963-1095

PULSE

magazine

Have you checked your Pulse lately?

CWU’s student-run Online Interactive Lifestyle magazine.

www.cwu.edu/~pulse
/cwupulsemagazine
@CWUPulse

THE OBSERVER • Nov. 5 - 11, 2015 11
Eburg environmental groups

BY CODY NILSON
Staff Reporter

There are plenty of ways to help clean up both Central’s campus and Ellensburg, like simply remembering to recycle that fourth energy drink can that helped get you through midterm exams.

On Nov. 7, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement Center (CLCE), a group of 45 domestic and foreign students, will work together to clean up the leaves in Ellensburg with their event “Raise a Rake.” This will be their second year putting on the event.

Last year, the event was run by Philip Gohl, a graduate student at Central working for the CLCE.

There were about 25 students that broke up into groups to clean up the yards of seven houses in three hours.

“We collaborated with Hope Source to get a list of elderly citizens who couldn’t physically rake and pick up leaves on their own,” Gohl said.

Gohl also hopes to be able to put on other similar events this winter, where domestic and foreign students will work together to help and improve the community.

This year, Raise a Rake will be hosted by Molly Shanks, junior family and consumer science education major.

This is Shank’s first year attending Central and being able to fulfill her passion of helping people and the community.

The difference between last year and this year is the number of students participating. The CLCE provides the rakes, and almost all of them will get used this weekend.

The group will not be cleaning individual houses this year. Instead, they will work on entire streets off of University Way. Raise a Rake will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Afterwards, a free lunch will be provided at Holmes diner.

“The great part about this event is the fact it helps the community, but at the same time it also allows students from foreign countries to interact with domestic ones,” Shanks said.

Around town and campus there are large amount of leaves and it’s necessary to pick them up. While they may look pretty when they first fall, they quickly become a mess when the seasons change.

They clog up storm drains and other water run-off s. While it might seem as if the leaves don’t have an impact in the big picture, they can make a difference when it comes to flooding.

Students can easily get involved in helping the environment by riding a bike or encouraging business to be more bike friendly.

The Ellensburg Environmental Commission is a great way to get involved and stay up-to-date with the most recent environmental advancements.

The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month starting at 5:15 p.m. at the council chambers located on 501 N. Anderson St.

“Nancy Lillquist, council liaison, briefed the Environmental Commission on the follow up steps regarding the Bicycle Friendly Community Award,” read the most recent minutes provided by the Environmental Commission.

Currently, Ellensburg holds the silver award for bicycle friendly communities, which could be renewed in 2019, but the Environmental Commission would like to get upgraded to gold.

The award is based on the number of places and business which are “bike friendly,” meaning they have bike racks and paths to ride.

Sometimes this spring, the Environmental Commission will be hosting a cleanup on campus. A great environmental cause to look for when the weather gets better.

All it takes to help the environment is getting together with a couple friends to take a Saturday to go around town and pick up litter or clean up trash out of the Ganges, which runs through campus.

Even taking advantage of all the different types of trash disposal on campus can help. In the SURC, there are several different options.

Take the time to read and see which item goes in which bin. It’s simple and helps.

Environmental Crossword

Across
2. These drinking wells keep up sustained in summer months
4. He discovered an inconvenient truth
7. The cold phase of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
9. A splintering headache in South America
11. Famed ‘weather man’ at King 5 news
13. A convenient ban in the works
15. Green thinking ‘hippies’ that care for earth
16. Food markers for the purest of the pure
17. The giants make energy from thin air
18. Permanent weather

Down
1. Energy source the dinosaurs gifted us
2. Kittitas County reservoir replenisher
3. Chevron has beef with this
4. They’re crazy, hot, and no laughing matter
5. We’re adding to it everyday
6. They take your garbage and recycling
7. They might seem as if the leaves don’t have an impact in the big picture
8. A convenient ban in the works
9. Chevon has beef with this
10. Reduces consumption
14. Stores that recycle unused clothes and items
11. Renewable energy
12. Stores that recycle unused clothes and items
13. You should do this with paper, cardboard and plastic

COURTESY OF CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Central's men's basketball team tips off their 2013-season with four returning starters and ten upperclassmen.

Head coach Greg Sparling feels good about the team's experienced returning players.

“I think guys have matured and they understand the system, so we are ahead a little bit than we were last year,” Sparling said.

The Wildcats' have a healthy amount of experience at the guard position, with three of the four returners appearing in all 26 games last season.

Central's backcourt will be led by junior Marc Rodgers and seniors Joey Roppo, Gary Jacobs and Terry Dawn.

Without Central's star player from last season, Dom Williams, who averaged 20.2 points per game, good for 25 percent of the team's total offense, the Wildcats will have to turn to a committee of guards to make up for those lost points.

“At the end of the day Dom Williams was a special player and I think some guys that were averaging six point a game, [are] gonna have to bump it up to nine points a game,” Sparling said. “And guys that were averaging ten points a game are going to have to bump it up to 12 points a game.”

The Wildcats have a tough start to the GNAC schedule. Central travels north to Alaska to play against the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), which was picked to finish one spot in front of Central in the GNAC preseason coaches poll.

“I thinks that's highly disrespectful, to call us fifth,” senior forward Joseph Stroud said. “I know we didn't have a spectacular tournament last year, but fifth, I don't take too kindly to that.”

Stroud was named preseason First Team All-GNAC, but according to Sparling, everyone has pushed one another to not only better themselves, but better their teammates.

Stroud was shadowed by Williams last year due to his scoring ability, but still managed to average 12 points per game last season.

“I played second to Dom because he scored a lot, but going up to the end of the year my scoring went up a little bit more,” Stroud said. “Summer workouts, offseason workouts, preseason workout and going into these scrimmages that we just had really built my confidence.”

According to Jacobs, Stroud's playmaking ability last year really gave them the fire they needed to finish games. Stroud hopes to continue that trend into this season.

“I feel like I'm the best player in the league right now and there is not a soul that is stopping me,” Stroud said.

“My confidence is sky high, and it's gonna stay sky high.”

Jacobs is another senior leader for Central's team that will have to pick up the slack after losing Williams.

Jacobs averaged 10 points per game last season, appearing in 22 of the 26 games played.

“ Jacobs has individual goals for himself, but understands what the team wants at the end of the season. “I'm just going to be blunt about it, I think our goal is win the GNAC championship,” Jacobs said.

Jacobs was left out of this year's preseason all-conference teams, but uses that fuel his own fire.

“He won a lot of games over there at Rainier Beach [High School],” Sparling said. “He's a guy that's an instant spark plug. He's small guy, but I'll tell you [that he isn't afraid to go right at the big guys].”

Another new Wildcat is junior transfer student Chris-Michael Garret.

Garret, a forward from Green River Community College, is still learning the system, but Sparling still expects a lot out of him.

“I mean he's a high energy guy … He plays so darn hard, sometimes he plays too hard,” Sparling said. “We are expecting a lot out of him on defense because we think he can cause a lot of havoc with his length.”

Central will play their annual exhibition this Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at home against Whitman College.

The Wildcats will begin their regular season games Saturday Nov. 14 against Simon Fraser University.

**Men's basketball uses fifth-place ranking as fuel for this season’s GNAC title aspirations.**

**BY AUSTIN BENNETT**
Assistant Sports Editor

**Central travels north to Alaska to start to the GNAC schedule.**

**“I'm just going to be blunt about it, I think our goal is win the GNAC championship.”** -Gary Jacobs

Senior Guard

**GNAC preseason coaches poll**

1. Western Washington
2. Western Oregon
3. Seattle Pacific
4. Alaska Anchorage
5. Central Washington
6. Alaska
7. Saint Martin’s
8. Montana State Billings
9. Northwest Nazarene
10. Concordia
11. Simon Fraser

---

**2014-2015 Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player to watch:</th>
<th>Joseph Stroud</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FG%: 70.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT%: 81.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG: 10.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPG: 3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPG: 2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2014-2015 Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player to watch:</th>
<th>Gary Jacobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FG%: 70.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT%: 81.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPG: 12.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPG: 5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPG: 2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Veterans lead Wildcat attack
Central returns three starters, picked to finish fourth in GNAC.

BY JAKE NELSON
Staff Reporter

The Central women’s basketball team looks to have a breakout season and return to the GNAC tournament once again.

In the 2014-15 season, Central had a record of 12-15 and was eliminated from their first game against Western Washington University and was eliminated from the GNAC tournament. But lost their GNAC tournament, but lost out season and return to the GNAC tournament once again.

In his second year at the helm, head coach Jeff Harada expects his team to improve everyday and be better.

“We snuck into the tournament last year as the sixth seed,” Harada said. “We were fortunate to get in and I think we learned a lot, and I hope the players have learned my style, and what I expect, and what is expected from me. My expectation is to finish better than we did last year.”

Every game in the GNAC is a battle, and Harada never looks at any team lightly. With his first season at Central under his belt, Harada feels more comfortable and prepared for this season.

Harada said it helps to be more familiar with the team’s conference opponents and that he learned how competitive the GNAC is from top to bottom.

“We are excited, and it is critical to prepare our team every night for every game. That is the beauty of our conference...it is so competitive.”

- Jeff Harada
Head coach

So far they both have been working really hard and you can see the growth.”

Harada not only expects Parker and Edwards to have big seasons, but also looks to the senior class to have a big year in their final year on the court.

“I expect them all to be excited to play their final year of collegiate basketball,” Harada said.

Parker looks to make her final season one to remember.

“I am super excited,” Parker said. “We did so well last year, and I look forward to what we can do this year. We have a lot of talent on the team and a great coaching staff.”

According to Parker, defense is the key for this year’s team getting to the GNAC tournament.

Harada expects his two leaders and team captains, senior forward Jasmine Parker and sophomore point guard Jasmin Edwards, to lead the team. Parker and Edwards were selected to the GNAC Preseason All-Conference team.

“Of course I expect them to be good,” Harada said. “I think they expect that from themselves and we are going to need them to be good for us to have a better year.”

After earning GNAC Freshman of the Year for her 2014-15 season, sophomore Jasmin Edwards looks to pick up right where she left off last season.

“I want to improve every year, and that is the goal as an individual and as a team,” Edwards said. “I think with the team this year we are all going to play really well together.”

Edwards has started her career with some impressive accolades, but for her it is about the team.

“It was an honor [because of] all the hard work and dedication, but it really was all because of my team,” Edwards said. “They put me in a really good position as a point guard and we all played well together.”

Central opens the regular season at home against San Francisco State University at 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13.

Player to watch: Jasmine Parker

Player to watch: Jasmin Edwards

2014-2015 Stats
Player to watch: Jasmine Parker
PPG: 10.1
RPG: 7.7
BPG: 1.7
FG%: 44.7

Player to watch: Jasmin Edwards
2014-2015 Stats
PPG: 12.2
RPG: 3.5
APG: 4.7
SPG: 1.5
SPORTS

GNAC Standings

**Football**
- Humboldt State University: 5-0
- Western Oregon University: 4-1
- Dixie State University: 2-2
- Azusa Pacific University: 2-3
- South Dakota University: 2-3
- **Central Washington University**: 1-3
- Simon Fraser University: 0-4

**Volleyball**
- University of Alaska Anchorage: 12-2
- **Central Washington University**: 12-2
- Northwest Nazarene University: 12-2
- Western Washington University: 12-2
- Concordia University: 7-7
- Simon Fraser University: 6-8
- Western Oregon University: 4-10
- University of Alaska: 4-10
- Seattle Pacific University: 4-10
- Montana State University: 3-11
- Saint Martin's University: 1-13

**Soccer**
- Western Washington University*: 11-0-1
- Concordia University*: 8-2-2
- Seattle Pacific University*: 7-3-2
- Montana State Billings*: 6-5-1
- **Central Washington University**: 5-6-1
- Simon Fraser University: 5-6-1
- Western Oregon: 4-7-1
- Northwest Nazarene: 2-9-1
- Saint Martin's University: 1-11

*Indicates GNAC tournament bid

---

**CENTRAL SPORTS UPDATE**

**BY AUSTIN BENNETT**
Assistant Sports Editor

**Volleyball**
No. 25 Central extended their winning streak to six games after defeating Concordia University (CU) and Western Oregon University (WOU) Halloween weekend.

The Wildcats held onto their four-way tie for first place in the GNAC with a 12-2 conference record. Fellow conference leaders Northwest Nazarene University, Western Washington University and University of Alaska Anchorage all came out victorious this past weekend as well.

The Wildcats next game comes with conference title implications. Central travels north to take on No. 11 Alaska-Anchorage, Thursday.

Central will then travel to University of Alaska on Saturday to finish their Alaskan excursion.

**Football**
The Wildcats are coming off a much needed bye week after three consecutive losses. Central put themselves in a 3-5 hole after their loss against Humboldt State University during homecoming week.

In light of losing during homecoming week, sophomore punter Jonathan Kuhn was named GNAC special teams player of the week. Kuhn averaged 40 yards per punt, netting a total of 283 yards on seven punts. Kuhn's longest punt went for 60 yards.

Central's next game will be against Simon Fraser University on Saturday.

**Soccer**
Central's playoff hopes were terminated by Montana State University Billings (MSUB) this past Saturday.

MSUB scored in the 49th minute, giving them a 1-0 lead, which eventually won the match. Central had multiple opportunities for an equalizer, as they had two shots on goal in the 78th and 81st minute.

Junior Allie Bohnett and sophomores Mackenzie Nolte and Whitney Lowe all earned Second Team All-GNAC spots.

---

NOW HIRING DRIVER GUIDES
2016 SUMMER IN ALASKA!

Apply Now to set up an interview!

- Paid CDL Training in Rexburg (Must be 21)
- Housing Benefits
- $500 travel reimbursement
- Most competitive compensation package

Apply Online: www.alaskacoachtours.com
425.501.8624 • cameron@alaskacoachtours.com
Central Fitness
23 different group fitness classes will be offered at the Rec Center this winter

**ZACH HINSON**
- FREE CONCERT -
8PM THURSDAY NOV. 5 SURC PIT

**CAMPUS ACTIVITIES PRESENTS**

**SPORTS**

**BY SAMUEL BEAUMONTE**
Staff Reporter

With fall quarter coming to a close, the recreation center has begun preparing roughly 23 new group fitness courses for winter quarter.

“There are three different kinds of classes: mind-body, boot-camp formats and dance-format classes,” Health Coordinator Shayne Wittkopp said.

Students can attend these courses by purchasing a $3 one-class pass, a $15 punch card that allows them to participate in ten classes or a $40 quarter-long pass.

“The first week of every quarter is demo-week, where every student can try a class for free,” said Wittkopp. “I want everyone to feel good in their skin and about their health. I believe that everyone should exercise. If [students] need help fitting in or being a part of a community, they can always come here.”

Abby Merritt, one of the lead instructors for group fitness classes, has been teaching these courses for three years. Merritt currently teaches cycling, calorie crush and the rise, ride and reps classes.

“I think that students burn from 700 to 950 calories in my rise, ride and reps class,” Merritt said. “It offers the best workout of my classes by mixing weight training with cycling. It’s a good workout and it’s a lot of fun, you make friends and get to know others through the experience as well.”

Merritt enjoys seeing students progress throughout the quarter and enjoys being there at the end to see what kind of progress they have made.

“The best part about teaching is helping people to stick with a good healthy routine and help them to reach their personal goals,” Merritt said. “I enjoy seeing the students that stick through it and how they progress, build muscle and feel more comfortable with themselves.”

Another lead instructor, senior accounting major Alex Tansy runs some of the courses in her free time.

“It’s really fun since you make a lot of friends with your students. At the beginning of the class you may say hello, we share really exciting events that have happened throughout our week and get to know every one.”

In addition to a Zumba course, Tansy also leads the killer countdown lesson, abs and glutes and a cycle class.

“Zumba is easily the most popular class, it’s high-energy and there’s loud music. You don’t really stop working out, you take a water break and you keep going at it,” Tansy said. “It’s a dance-format and as the instructor I create the routine for the students to follow. I like the course because it’s a workout, but you don’t realize it until you’re finished and you’re exhausted and covered in sweat.”

In a typical Zumba class, Tansy believes that students burn somewhere from 500 to 1,000 calories.

One of the new group fitness courses being offered this quarter, melt my muffin top, is being taught by instructor Jackie O’Connor.

“We mainly focus on cardio and core, but each class is a bit different,” O’Connor said. “Pretty much every week we do something different to mix it up. I try to show variation for different fitness levels. We use a lot of body weight, hand weight and body-bar exercises.”

In a typical Zumba class, Tansy believes that students burn somewhere from 500 to 1,000 calories.

One of the new group fitness courses being offered this quarter, melt my muffin top, is being taught by instructor Jackie O’Connor.

“We mainly focus on cardio and core, but each class is a bit different,” O’Connor said. “Pretty much every week we do something different to mix it up. I try to show variation for different fitness levels. We use a lot of body weight, hand weight and body-bar exercises.”

O’Connor has been teaching kickboxing and cycle courses since 2005, and likes to see a variety of repeat students and fresh faces attending her classes.

“I feel that by mixing it up and offering a variety of formats it makes the time feel like it’s going faster,” O’Connor said. “We try group and partner work in the class that makes it a lot more fun. I like to show different levels and modifications in class so that everyone can feel successful.”

**Popular fitness classes**

**Rise ride and reps**
6:30 a.m. Fridays

**Zumba**
7:15 Mondays

**Melt my muffin top**
6:15 p.m. Tuesdays