New bill could raise legal smoking age

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OPERACONCERT
Over the TOpera – an opera that mixes comedy and satire with dramatic pieces

WOMEN’S RUGBY
Varsity status helps vault women’s rugby to the national spotlight
The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board issued a notice informing members of the state’s marijuana industry of the new ban on the Guardian Mite Spray. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) received information from Oregon’s Department of Agriculture that the Guardian Mite pesticide contains abamectin.

Abamectin is a common insecticide used to kill bugs, this particular ingredient isn’t allowed to be used in marijuana production.

“Abamectin can cause convulsion, tremors and comas according to a Cornell University-based website. The Oregonian reported how this discovery was made by Rodger Voelker in his marijuana testing lab in Eugene. He found traces of abamectin while going through samples of organically grown crops. This was a surprise to many marijuana producers, since abamectin was not included on the list of ingredients for the pesticide. This pesticide was commonly used by producers since it was labeled as organic. A man who claimed to be the owner and producer of Guardian Mite told The Oregonian that the product contained ivermectin, a chemical like abamectin. However, ivermectin does not appear on the list of ingredients, either.

The alleged owner claimed that they were unaware that the product label had to contain every ingredient.

Since Washington announced the ban on Jan. 20, producers of marijuana who had been using the pesticide have been ordered to stop usage and remove the product from the property. With this ban being new to producers, many harvested crops have already been treated with Guardian Mite.

Producers must now inform their processors and retailers that their products may have been treated with a pesticide not approved by the WSDA. Retailers who have an inventory of products treated with the pesticide must post a notice in their shops from the producers for their clients to see.
Washington lawmakers are looking to raise the legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21.

Last year, a bill to raise the smoking age requirement did not pass despite the highly publicized support of Attorney General Bob Ferguson, according to The Seattle Times.

The latest attempt, House Bill 2313, was pre-filed on Dec. 18, 2015 and formally read into the record on Jan. 11, 2016.

"About a year and a half or so ago, when I was looking at potential legislation for the upcoming legislative session, we looked at what we could do to cut down on the amount of youth smoking in our state," Ferguson said in a phone interview. "We felt that raising the smoking age to 21 would be the most effective way to do that and to save lives."

In a youth health survey, 41 percent of minors said it was "very easy" to "sort of easy" to get cigarettes, according to the bill.

Additionally, the bill states many individuals who buy tobacco and vapor products for younger teens are between the ages of 18 and 20.

The bill's sponsors hope that by decreasing the amount of eligible buyers who are still in high school, the number of minors who will have access to tobacco and vapor products will also decrease.

"Literally by raising the smoking age you will cut down on the amount of teenage smoking and that, of course, cuts down on people getting addicted," Ferguson said. According to research conducted by the National Institute of Medicine, increasing the legal smoking age to 21 will curtail smoking by 21 percent and reduce smoking-related deaths by 10 percent.

Dr. Ginger Longo, Central's director of the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic, said she agrees cigarettes are easier for younger teens to get when their slightly older peers can legally purchase them.

"I think it's going to promote health overall," Longo said. "It's a good measure, [although] I think it will be hard to enforce."

Local tobacco shops could possibly lose some business under the new bill, but Jaime Newell, owner of Cloud 909 smoke shop, said she isn't concerned with the potential loss of business.

"It's going to be an issue of tax money in this state," Newell said. "Kids who are 18 to 21 will figure out another way to get cigarettes."

Brittany Rash, Smokeable Plus employee, said she doesn't think the law is a bad idea.

"It's probably the smart thing to do because, a lot of times, college students come to college and they're only 18 years old and they start smoking it and start getting addicted," Rash said.

She said that the store gets a lot of 18-to 19-year-olds who buy cigarettes.

While many are in support of the bill, there are some who are not.

Sen. Michael Baumgartner, Republican from Spokane and chairman of the Senate's Commerce and Labor Committee, said he wants more information regarding vaping and e-cigarettes because they could be healthier alternatives to cigarettes, as reported by The Seattle Times.

"I don't think there's enough research, I've actually studied it and there's not enough to say yes or no to [vaping being a healthier alternative]," Rash said.

Longo said she thinks that vaping is not a healthier alternative because the habit of smoking something is still there.

She said she agrees vaping and e-cigarettes have not been researched enough to see the effects.

Purchasing e-cigarettes and vaping devices would also be illegal for anyone under the age of 21, according to the bill.

Central students who are under the age of 21 may not be able to buy cigarettes if the legislation passes to raise the age to same as alcohol.

See "Legal" on P. 6

People on the Street

What do you think about the legal age to buy cigarettes being raised to 21?

Nelly Serrano Sophomore exercise science major major

"I mean, I think that's a pretty good age. If you can't drink until 21, I think it would be fair enough."

Shannon Joyce Senior recreation and tourism major

"I think if you are allowed to serve your country at 18, you should be able to buy cigarettes...I think 18 is still a reasonable age to purchase them."

Thomas Kirk Sophomore construction management major

"I couldn't do that. I gotta have my cigs, and I am not 21 for another six months so, if they passed that law anytime soon, I'd be in a real bad situation."

Alex Martin Freshman sociology major

"I agree. [Cigarettes are] dangerous just like alcohol and marijuana, I don't see why it shouldn't be 21."

John Dines Senior elementary education major

"If somebody can fight and die for our country they should be able to smoke cigarettes."

Karina Carter Registered nurse

"I think it would be beneficial because cigarettes are harmful to your body long term and has many long term negative effects."
Microsoft partners with Central on “YouthSpark”

BY RAY PAYNE
Staff Reporter

Microsoft’s chairman and corporate vice president of emerging businesses, Orlando Ayala, joined Central President James Gaudino in his State of the University address last Monday. This was the first time Gaudino was joined by someone else for the State of the University address.

When Ayala took the podium, he spoke about his upbringing in Colombia and his career growth in Microsoft. He went on to outline how Microsoft is working to further technological innovation. Ayala spoke about a possible collaboration with Central to develop “YouthSpark,” a new program focused on bringing computer science skills to students and teachers.

“We are very into insuring that we are providing opportunity in computer skills for all kids,” Ayala said.

While nothing is currently in the works between the computer science program at Central and Microsoft, future involvement is a possibility, according to Ayala in a post-speech interview.

“[It’s] amazing time for opportunity,” Ayala said during the section of his speech that included leadership advice.

Gaudino led off the address by giving praise to the university staff and faculty. He assured the crowd there is a “university-wide commitment to our students.”

Gaudino highlighted several academic statistics from 2015 before explaining his outlook for 2016.

In 2015, there was a 21 percent increase in freshmen admitted, with the retention rate going up by 5 percent for freshmen and sophomores.

The university is going to focus on getting re-accredited, having a “robust university-wide discussion” about what a baccalaureate is, and providing a “thorough review of our general education program” in 2016, Gaudino said.

Additionally, Gaudino addressed the lack of diversity on campus. He acknowledged the progress Central has already made, such as the fact that one out of three freshmen admitted are people of color. He did point out more can be done on campus.

“Central must continue to diversify its faculty and staff,” Gaudino said.
Fifth-year promise coming to Central

BY RAY PAYNE
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 27, President Gaudino went to Olympia to testify in front of the House Committee on Higher Education in support of a funding request for the creation of a new software system for scheduling and advising at Central.

The new program would reduce the time and cost of earning a degree.

According to the summary of the new software, it’s in the university’s best interest to make sure students don’t waste time or money by taking unnecessary courses or stalling until a required class is available for a student to take.

“If it’s our fault that you can’t do it, you shouldn’t have to pay an extra year’s worth of study to do it,” Central President James Gaudino said. “We’ll let you take those classes we messed up for free.”

Along with the creation of this program, dubbed “Degree Planner” or the “Fifth-Year Promise,” HB 2691 proposes a commitment by Central that any student who commits to a four-year degree program and follows the pathway agreed to by the student and adviser, but still doesn’t graduate due to an administrative error will be able to take that class for free their fifth-year.

The university’s willingness to provide for the Fifth-Year Promise was commended by the Washington state legislature.

The degree planner will computerize the university’s course catalog and can be used by both students and advisers to assist in keeping the student on track.

The program will allow students to develop their schedules quarters in advance to ensure that required classes for their program will be open when students need to take them.

The classes can be guaranteed to be open because the software will predict staff and classroom space needs ahead of time by tracking student progress toward degrees in real time.

One criticism that Gaudino acknowledged about the software is the fear that some students may be entered into the system on a degree plan too early. Some students may stay there out of fear that it might be too late to leave the program.

However, Gaudino had a response to the criticism.

“If you keep it open and keep it flexible and let the students do the ‘what ifs,’ then there shouldn’t be a real downside to this program,” Gaudino said.

“This doesn’t lock you in.”

Gaudino pointed out the software will allow for flexibility and differ from the other universities that offer similar programs, but will not guarantee classes if the student strays from the course path agreed to by their advisers.

“We want to give students the ability of seeing their path, even if it changes,” Gaudino said.

While the use of this type of software is nothing new for other universities, Central would be one of the first schools in Washington to implement this type of technology.

Gaudino said the school will pay for the fifth year if a student takes more than the allotted four years.
Kittitas County 9-1-1 calls
Jan. 26 - 31
Talkin’ Smack

A man reported that his new neighbor near East Third Street in Cle Elum is "mad at him" and "talking about him" at 4:54 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Unaware that smoking marijuana is now legal in Washington State, a concerned neighbor reported smelling the odor near Alder Street at 12:56 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 26. She was referred to the FBI.

A Roslyn woman reported that she is "not receiving the answers she needs" regarding the hypnotizing terrorists that have been breaking into her home, on Tuesday, Jan. 26. She was referred to the FBI.

An elderly caller was reportedly looking for "Cathy" on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 2:37 p.m. She's still waiting for Cathy to call back.

A man who built a fort in his trailer was reported for suspicious activity at 3:22 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28 by a neighbor who was likely disturbed by the overly animated shadow puppets.

The "faint odor of fresh marijuana" was reportedly smelled in the women's restroom on North Ruby Street at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28. The caller seemed certain that the marijuana had yet to be smoked.

After several failed attempts, 7 cattle escaped at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28 from Stevens Road in Ellensburg. How they fell off their escape is still a mystery.

After deciding to avoid class and spend some time in the dumpster for a while on Walnut Street, an individual reported that they found a backpack in their new hangout at 12:34 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

A caller reported that they believed their heater was on fire. It was reportedly "hot," on Friday, Jan. 29 at 8:57 p.m. on So- renson Road in Ellensburg.

Before he realized he could block her number, a Kittitas man reported that his ex-wife was harassing him via text messages, on Friday, Jan. 29. He was promptly referred to tech support.

A runaway snowmobile, last seen 4 years ago, was reportedly found on West Railroad Street at 9:51 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30.

A woman reported that her vehicle was stuck in a car wash on Main Street and she was locked outside, on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 5:23 p.m. The vehicle prefers to be washed by the rain and was supposedly protesting the waste of water.

A boat was reported as stranded in the Colum- bia River at 12:50 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30. The boat had no children, no alcohol, no drugs, no oars and no fun.

Forgetting that she ordered takeout hours earlier, a woman on Mid- dlecrest Drive in Ellensburg reported that an unknown person was knocking on her door, on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 2:08 a.m. The delivery guy never received his tip.

With friends most likely occupied with preparing to watch the Pro Bowl, an individual on North Chestnut Street had to call the police for a jump start on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 1:54 p.m.

Mistaking her neighbor for a celebrity, a woman reportedly got out of her vehicle and began yelling and taking photos of the reporting person on North Lincoln Street in Ellensburg at 3:20 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Zika virus showing up in the United States
BY OBSERVER STAFF

The first person in the country has been infected with Zika virus in Dallas County, Texas. This is the first recorded case of someone contracting the virus without traveling outside of the United States, according to NBC.

The person was infected via sexual contact instead of a mosquito bite, according to county health officials.

According to officials, the patient was infected with the Zika virus after having sexual intercourse with their partner, who developed symptoms after returning from a trip to Venezuela.

The most common symptoms of the virus are rash, fever, joint pain and conjunctivitis, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The virus can be more harmful to women who are pregnant, according to NBC. This can lead to microcephaly and other birth defects.

There is no medicine or vaccine to treat Zika, according to NBC. The best way is to avoid mosquitoes and sexual contact.

See “Fifth” on P. 5
See “Legal” on P. 3

Additionally, if the bill passes, those who supply tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 will be charged with a gross misdemeanor.

However, underestimated individuals with any tobacco products would not face charges and would only have the tobacco products taken away from them.

The bill would not impact the sale of tobacco products on military bases, according to Ferguson.

If you’re a service member and you’re at your military base, you can walk in and buy your cigarettes at the age of 18 if that’s what you want to do, but I don’t recommend that,” Ferguson said. Ferguson said that some additional roadblocks have been put in place due to the loss of revenue if the smoking age is raised.

The state Office of Financial Management estimated that in the 2015-2017 budget cycle, it would cost the state a $39.6 million because of the loss of tax revenue on the state sales tax on tobacco and cigarettes, according to The Seattle Times.

There is a short-term impact,” Ferguson said. “My response is you can balance your budget on the backs of getting teenagers addicted to nicotine, to cigarettes.”

NEWS
BY PATIENCE COLLIER
Senior history major and former news editor

The demands to fire President Ford, Berkeley, the University of Washington, and it is currently a professor emeritus of literature at Yale. He has been published in the Huffington Post and The New York Times.

Dr. Treat gave his reading from a podium in Dean Hall’s vast room just outside the Museum of Culture and Environment in front of three sad rows of tan metal folding chairs and 14 attendants.

A year ago, the department hosted Phillipp Bourgeois and Jeff Schonberg, co-producers of the marvelous book “Righteous Dopefiend,” in the same foyer outside the museum at bustling high noon for a presentation and a panel discussion. You can imagine how that went. Four PhDs in the middle of trying to say smart stuff about homelessness and inner-city heroin while a gazillion students poured awkwardly around, over and through as they hurried to classes. Chaos.

Bourgeois is a Guggenheim Fellow, by the way, and tenured at U. Penn. Okay, so credentials shenanigans, I get it, but this is not just a little embarrassing? We could bash the museum people I suppose. But how can we blame them for a lame venue if only 14 people show up? In a certain English class I’m in, everybody got a Canvas notification about Wednesday’s reading (albeit earlier Wednesday afternoon), but if any of them showed up I didn’t recognize them, nor did I recognize anyone from the English department faculty.

I know a lot of students are working in the evenings, or doing homework, or trying to score, or getting swole at the gym (I defy homework, or trying to score, or working in the evenings, or doing homework, or trying to score, or getting swole at the gym (I defy

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.

CORRECTIONS:
In “Veteran Memorial Statue concept coming soon,” Hauke Harst’s title was not mentioned. Additionally, the wrong pronoun was used in reference to his name.
In “Upgrading police accountability,” a reference to the House Judiciary Committee should have indicated it was a state committee.
**Over the TOPOpera**

This is not your typical opera; this one has comedy, passion and satire

The music department will be hosting its third Over-the-TOPera, an opera that mixes comedy and satire with dramatic pieces, on Saturday, Feb. 6 in the music building concert hall.

The show is produced by professors and their students who have an impressive background in vocals and performance.

Gayla Blaisdell, associate professor of voice and opera, is the coordinator of the concert.

She produced the concert with the idea that it should be humorous and fun to watch.

“Opera is not the stereotypical stuff, old-fashioned, boring kind of thing that a lot of people think it is,” Blaisdell said. “Opera is actually very dramatic and passionate and funny.”

Michael McCormick, senior vocal performance major, has been singing since the age of three and will be performing in the upcoming concert.

“It’s not just geared toward people who love opera… some of the [songs] are very moving, some of them are funny, some of them are serious,” McCormick said.

“People love to see musical theater shows, or operas, or movies. It’s all really relative in my mind… everyone should be able to go and experience a little bit of opera.”

Aly Henniger, senior choral education and vocal performance major, has had years of experience; her first choir performance was in the sixth grade.

“It’s a perfect opportunity for people to get a taste of what opera is, and it’s done in a really good way,” Henniger said.

“There are so many comedic moments in it and it’s short, so for anybody who hasn’t seen an opera before, it’s a good way to introduce them to it.”

The vocal students have been preparing arias, self-contained expressive solos, to perform at Over-the-TOPera with the help of their professors.

“They bring their ideas, we work with it, perfect it and we kind of make it fun,” Blaisdell said.

Bonnie Blanchard, senior vocal performance major, has been performing since she was 12 years old.

“I will be channeling my Sicilian roots, and I’m going to be playing a really sassy Italian lady who is basically like, ‘Love? Eh, whatever,’” Blanchard said.

“Your body is your instrument, so I just love being able to move. I love being able to become a different character and a different person that the music calls for, because in that little three minute slot, you’re a completely different person.”

The concert is a fundraising event that raises money to support larger productions that the music department puts on.

All of the money raised by ticket sales will go towards the opera department, the production of performances by students who have worked to tailor their arias and stage look for this event.

The show will be decorated with stage props and, occasionally, people with whom vocalists will interact with during their performances.

There will be skits that take place between performances courtesy of Over-the-TOPera’s host, Victoria Nightingale.

“Victoria is a character that we invite every year. Victoria is a made up character that one of our voice faculty members plays. This is the third year in a row, so people know who Victoria is,” Blaisdell said.

Some students have an especially long standing relationship with the character.

“Victoria Nightingale and I go way back. I met her when I was 12 years old… even then she was just as encouraging and bombastic and competitive,” Blanchard said.

“Victoria has a big personality and even bigger hair. And her clothes are always on point. She’s basically a comedian in opera form.”

Josh Johnson, senior choral education and vocal major, has been involved in vocal performances since he was in kindergarten after his dad, a music teacher, made Johnson a part of one of his shows.

“Johnson is looking forward to have the opportunity to perform his aria in a scene in the context that he imagined for it and to do it in front of an audience.”

As well as the kind of quality that the music department and the voice performance professors put out and how much they drive for excellence in their students.”
Library to host Manastash readings

BY KAITLYN LANGDALE
Staff Reporter

Manastash Live will showcase the work of students who submitted to the magazine this year and would like the chance to share their work before the magazine itself is published.

With the theme “Mass Incarceration and Racial Justice - Black and Brown Lives Do Matter,” this year’s Manastash Literary Arts Magazine will continue the conversation of social equality and diversity on campus.

“This is a way for every submission to have a voice and a great way to build some pre-excitement for the Manastash publication,” said Xavier Cavazos, head editor of Manastash Literary Arts Magazine.

Every student who has submitted to Manastash Literary Arts Magazine will receive an invitation to participate in the event and is encouraged to share their interpretation of this year’s theme.

Cavazos hopes that this event will help build a stronger community on campus between students and specifically within the creative writing program.

Students were encouraged to break the boundaries of traditional literature with their submissions to the magazine this year.

“This will be a continuation of creative writing happenings that have been changing the literary culture on campus and in the community as well,” Cavazos said.

The goal of this event is to continue the work Manastash has started by getting students talking about and understanding diversity and the role of racism in society through the creative outlet of literature.

With the help of Gerard Hogan, Central’s academic and research commons librarian, this event will be held on the first floor of the library in the Academic and Research Commons, otherwise known as the Library ARC.

Hogan said he was particularly excited for the event because of the voices that will be showcased.

“Like using the library for literary readings because it highlights the students more,” Hogan said.

The library is the perfect venue for an event showcasing a theme like Manastash as Hogan said because, “Libraries should not be censoring or sheltering people. People should speak out.”

Because of the theme of this year’s literary arts magazine, the audience can be sure to expect a great night of readings.

Michelle Metz, senior biology major, is one student who will be attending Manastash Live.

“I am excited to hear everyone’s different take on the theme,” Metz said.

“Since it has been such a big issue in our society today, I think it is good that we are talking about it.”

PHOTO BY SHALOM AGTARAP
Art walk showcases local artists

BY ANA LAURA LOPES CONTI FERREIRA
Staff Reporter

The First Friday Art Walk, taking place tomorrow, is an opportune time for local artists looking to show off their work. One such artist is Jane Orleman, who graduated from Central 45 years ago.

Orleman loves the art walk because of the opportunity it gives her to show her artwork to the community, which she believes is a very important thing. “It is also fun to show my work to the community,” Orleman said.

The event happens every first Friday of the month inside and outside of galleries in order to honor the local artists and promote their work. An average of 12 companies will be showcasing the work they’ve done. Some of them will have different kinds of attractions.

Ellensburg WineWorks, one of the stores taking part in the art walk, will have wine tasting. Gallery One, who both initiates and participates in the event, is extending their hours to 7 p.m. In addition, a DJ will be playing music from 7 p.m. through 9 p.m., according to Monica Miller, the executive director of Gallery One.

“We love to participate and to introduce new artists. It promotes everything that we do and show it to 300 to 400 people,” Miller said.

Gallery One is located downtown and its mission is to showcase local art, provide after school programs and hold a few quarterly classes on different art forms. Gallery One encourages the community and students to come and participate in the art walk.

“This event is one of the coolest things that we do,” Miller said. “Students will be surprised about the art that they will see.”

Gallery One is not the only gallery participating in the project. Clymer Art Gallery and 420 Loft Art Gallery are also involved.

However, it’s not just galleries that are a part of this event. Some stores, restaurants, coffee shops, and public spaces like the Ellensburg Public Library are involved as well. Participants will meet at Gallery One and then walk all around downtown Ellensburg to visit the different venues. Most of the venues are in the center of downtown but there are a few that are further away such as the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery located in Randall Hall on the Central Campus.

According to the City of Ellensburg website, an average of 40 artists exhibit their work. A list of all the participants can be found in the city’s website, along with a map of the event with all the galleries and exhibitions that are involved.

The event is always a success and it is important for the community, the artists and the galleries.

All students are invited to attend and their participation is also important.

Art Walk
When: Friday, Feb. 5
Where: Gallery One
Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Free admission

The Clymer Museum is one of the venues along the First Friday Art walk.

Dinner
February 9, 2016
4:30 - 7:00 PM
Holmes Dining Room

Menu
Chicken & Sausage Gumbo
Confetti Coleslaw
Crayfish Pasta Salad
Shrimp Crostini
Navalins Corn
Spicy Wilted Green
Dirty Rice
Hushpuppies
Cajun Fried Chicken
Catfish Remoulade

Vegetarian Entrée Available
Mini Corn Muffins
Honey Butter
Beignets
Nutty Truman Ice Cream

$15.20
Meal Plan Discounts Apply

Special Dinner Glass Available While Supplies Last
By Britany Decker
Staff Reporter

For the second consecutive year, the Wellness Center is putting on its annual condom fashion show.

Up to 10 couture high fashion pieces that have been handcrafted by Central students will strut their stuff down the runway. Each of these pieces will be made out of hundreds of condoms provided to the designers, free of charge, by the Wellness Center.

These pieces of condom couture are intended to spark a very important conversation about sex education in a creative way.

“It’s an educational opportunity for students to learn about condom use,” Mallory Morse, a health educator, said. “It’s about where they can go to get the resources to be safe and healthy, and to tear down the stigma around talking about condoms and sex.”

However, according to Sarah Berry, Central’s content and event marketing supervisor, this is more than just an educational event.

“This event is intended to help reduce the amount of stigma that is associated with condoms,” Berry said.

“STIs and embarrassment around sexual health topics in a safe, educational and fun environment.”

In a large way, this fashion show is a reaction to the current conversation, or lack of conversation, about sexual education.

“I see that we are in a culture where sex is viewed as something that people should be ashamed to talk about, and that shouldn’t be the case,” Allie Barbe, stage management major, said.

“Those people who do not wish to acknowledge sex are the ones who will be most uncomfortable.”

According to Morse, the idea for all of this came to Central through Doug Fulp.

Fulp, a health educator at Central, was approached with the idea when working for Montana State University.

One of the local sexual health clinics in that area had brought up the notion of a condom fashion show to Fulp.

Fulp then put together a committee dedicated to researching if there were other places where condom fashion shows were held.

The committee also looked into how these fashion shows took place and where they were performed.

Morse is a condom fashion show veteran as well, having done an internship under Fulp during his time at Montana University.

In fact, Morse was the head of the project for a number of years, working closely with Fulp to achieve the desired combination of fashion and education.

Now that both Fulp and Morse are at Central, they have transferred duties to Central student Kendall Lindberg, who studies sexual health.

Organizing everything from the models to the teams that are going to be working together, Lindberg has followed Morse’s footsteps in creating this fashion show that will help engage the audience.

“We are very lucky to have her,” Morse said, speaking about Lindberg’s contributions to the project.

This event is being put on as part of sexual health week and to reduce the stigma and discomfort of discussing condoms.

With the help of Lindberg, Fulp and Morse are using this creative outlet to spread the word of sexual health like the gospel.

The plan is to continue to do it for many years to come.

Student designers pair up into teams to create unique fashion show pieces that are made out of condoms.

PHOTO BY BRI YOUNG

Fashion Show

When: Feb. 11
Where: SURC Ballroom
Time: 7 p.m.
Free admission

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<td>SURC Theater at 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Nicholson Pavilion at 7 p.m. (Free with Student ID)</td>
<td>SURC Theater at 7 p.m. &amp; 9:30 p.m. (Free with Student ID)</td>
<td>2nd Floor at 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Open Mic Night</td>
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**WOMEN’S RUGBY RISE**

**STORIES BY EVAN THOMPSON**

When women’s rugby became a varsity sport, its success may have been an afterthought to what the men were projected to accomplish. The program never had the history of dominance or the nationally televised championship tournament games the men’s team had.

They never even had the solid coaching foundation the men’s team had.

“They were a lot like many of our other sports clubs,” said Corey Sinclair, coordinator of collegiate sports clubs. “There was a student coach kind of serving in that role.”

The men’s team joined a league full of California teams to seek greater competition that would give them a real test. At the same time, the women were still content with playing regional matchups in the Northwest.

“Every competition they went to they were just driving,” Sinclair said. “They weren’t flying like the men were.”

According to Sinclair, the team was still a bit of “middle of the pack.”

“There were a few years there where we had hopes of making the playoffs,” Sinclair said.

But after becoming a varsity sport, the women finished runner-up for a national championship in both 7s and 15s play, losing both times to national powerhouse Penn State University.

To many, this showed that women’s sports shouldn’t just be an afterthought.

“I think that’s great for women’s athletics…[they’re] still beating down the stereotypes,” Athletics Director Dennis Francois said. “But I think if [doubters] watch one rugby match, that changes their perception really quick.”

That success could be partially attributed to the hiring of Mel Denham, a member of the USA Women’s Rugby National Team, as their head coach in May of 2014.

“We’re very excited about hiring her,” said Central Director of Rugby Tony Pacheco in a press release at the time of the hire. “We believe her coaching and playing experience will help us build the women’s program here into one that will become regionally and nationally prominent over the next several years.”

Denham’s hiring helped not only on the field, but also on the recruiting trail. In fact, she was on a recruiting trip this past week and was unavailable for an interview.

“She is one of the best coaches in the nation…and that’s a great selling point,” Francois said.

According to Sinclair, the $172,538 budgeted to the women’s team for the 2014-15 school year was much more than the team had as a club.

He said their budget as a club sport was probably only about 1 percent of that. While that wouldn’t pay much of the $56,784 salary Denham received last school year, the investment has proven beneficial so far.

Money aside, Denham was excited to take over as Central’s head coach.

“I think it’s really important for more programs to make this move” into inter-collegiate athletics, Denham said in a press release after being hired. “I’m hoping the success of this [Central’s] program—as a varsity program—will inspire more teams to make the move.”

After the team’s run at a national title last year, they have been named college team of the year by ThisIsAmericanRugby.com in just their first year as a varsity sport.

“They are doing everything the guys do and sometimes better,” Francois said.

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**Rugby squeezes space in Nicholson**

Though the decision to elevate Central’s rugby program to the varsity level may have seemed like a no-brainer, there were some issues in terms of facility space in Nicholson Pavilion.

Central’s Athletics Director Dennis Francois said that when Central hired the consulting firm Ice Miller LLP in 2012 to evaluate the state of its athletics department and collegiate sports clubs, the investigators concluded that the Wildcats’ limited facilities and amount of resources for sustaining surrounding programs were the main concerns.

The addition of the rugby program added around 90 new student-athletes, increasing the overall number of athletes to 440—a 25 percent increase.

With 13 athletic teams sharing the Pavilion’s gym and indoor facilities, Francois was aware that the addition of rugby might detract from the experience of other athletes.

“I didn’t want [rugby] to negatively impact any of our current student-athletes and their experience,” Francois said. “There’s a few things that we aren’t going to be able to change in terms of making all of our athletic rooms bigger. We’ve got some facility challenges and [they] are probably exacerbated with the addition of rugby.”

Though most were pleased with the promotion of rugby to varsity, former Central rugby standout Patrick Blair felt a tad left out at first.

“When I heard about the news initially, I was bummed because I was graduating and wouldn’t get the satisfaction of playing as a varsity athlete,” Blair said in an email. “But that wore off rather quickly because I was beyond excited for the the program and my friends that got to be part of the varsity experience.”

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**Central’s Varsity Sports**

- M/W Rugby
- M/W Basketball
- M/W Track & Field
- M/W Cross Country
- Baseball
- Football
- Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball

**Central’s contract with the ‘Nike of Rugby,’ Serevi Rugby**

Another perk of rugby’s elevation to varsity status came in the form of a partnership between Central and Serevi Rugby, the “Nike of Rugby.”

Serevi Rugby, now known as ATAVUS, is a partner of the U.S. Rugby Academy and helped train the Seattle Seahawks to tackle rugby-style last season. Serevi officially partnered with Central on April 2, 2015.

See “Rugby” on P. 13
Central hosts Western
Wildcats rivalry matchup with Vikings has big implications in GNAC standings

BY NATHAN BREWSTER
Staff Reporter

The second act of the heated rivalry between the Wildcats and Vikings women's basketball teams commences tonight at Nicholson Pavilion.

Central pulled out the win at Western Washington University (WWU) earlier this season—its first since 2008.

The Wildcats are currently on a five-game winning streak, and the team has been playing well while averaging to beat their opponents by 16 points per game during that stretch.

Senior guard Melanie Valdez said the team has played well through this stretch and improved since the start of the season.

“We are a really young team. We just had to get freshmen used to the tempo from high school to Division II basketball,” Valdez said. “Now we have learned to finish games.”

Senior forward Jasmine Parker, who had 15 points, seven rebounds, five blocks and four assists, assisted the last time the two teams met, playing in the game to be a tough test.

“I knew I was good, but I didn’t know I was at that level,” Diffée said. “I’ll be here to celebrate with them. It took us 13 years to build this program, so I’ll be here to celebrate with them. It took us 13 years to build this program, so I’ll be here to celebrate with them.”

“If Diffée were to be drafted or not because he puts it in the net, no one bats an eye.”

The scarcity of long snappers in the NFL might turn into one of the spots for new players to really pull through and give the team a big win to add to their resume.

“Having leaders on our team like Parker certainly helps us,” Valdez said.

With the end of the year in sight, four members of the team will never play WWU again in their collegiate careers. However, Parker made it clear that they only care about the win.

“We have to defend our home court,” Parker said. “We got to stay focused.”

Wildcat longsnapper enters NFL draft

BY RYAN KINKER
Staff Reporter

While Super Bowl parties will be going on next weekend, Central senior Jason Diffée will have his focus on the NFL draft April 28-30.

Diffée, Central’s long snapper for the past three seasons, has signed with an NFL agent and has been declared eligible for the 2016 NFL draft.

If Diffée were to be drafted or sign with a team, he would join Jon Kimma as the only Central student-athletes to play in the NFL.

Diffée, who played at Liberty High School in Bakersfield, Calif., was an offensive lineman for most of high school. He learned to long snap his senior year from his teammate at the time, Cole Mazza.

Mazza is currently the long snapper at University of Alabama, who won the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship.

Diffée didn’t get the opportunity to long snap until he went to college, at the College of Sequoias in Visalia, Calif., and then here at Central.

Having scouts from multiple professional teams come watch him this season, including the Seattle Seahawks, helped Diffée realize he could be a professional long snapper.

“I knew I was good, but I didn’t know I was at that level,” Diffée said. “They said I had what it took to snap at the next level.

Diffée is excited for the opportunity to try and join the most elite group of football players in the world.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I’ve dreamed of playing in the NFL, it’d be a dream come true,” Diffée said. “It’d be an honor.”

Diffée has worked hard throughout his career at Central and has been noticed by Benny Boyd, Central’s special teams and defensive backs coach.

“He is the most diligent special teams player I have ever worked with,” Boyd said. “He is so conscious of his performance, he wants every detail to be precise.”

This sentiment is also shared by Jonny Kuhn, who is the punter that has received Diffée’s snaps the past two seasons.

“Of course I’m excited for him. On the field, it’s just work, work, work,” Kuhn said. “He’s always got that grind mentality.”

Kuhn noticed the difference between his long snapper from high school and Diffée almost immediately.

“The hardest part was having my hands hurt for the first couple months of working with him,” Kuhn said. “But it’s nice to not have to worry about if it’s a bad snap or not because he puts it in the same spot every single time.”

Diffée’s position is one that is not acknowledged often except by football’s cheerleaders, as most teams only carry one long snapper on their roster.

“There’s about 32 guys who are employed doing what he does. It’s such an unusual position, nobody ever notices the long snapper unless they screw up, even more so than the kicker or punter,” Boyd said.

“With a perfect long snap, a perfect short snap, no one bats an eye.”

The scarcity of long snappers in the NFL might turn into one of the spots for new players to really pull through and give the team a big win to add to their resume.

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“Rugby” from P. 12

Serevi Rugby is name after Waisale Serevi. His daughter Asinate Serevi is a sophomore on the women’s rugby team at Central.

Waisale Serevi is considered to be one of the greatest rugby 7s players of all-time. Some may even call him the best.

According to Central Athletics, Central pays an annual service fee of $50,000, which is split into quarterly payments of $12,500.

In addition, there is also a transportation rate of 60 cents per mile, which is based on actual mileage accrued.

In return, Serevi supplies recruitment support, on-field coaching analysis of Central games and off-field coaching support in both the 15s and 7s programs.

“We couldn’t afford to pay those guys full-bore out of our pockets,” said Robert Ford, previous head coach of the rugby team and current senior director of alumni and constituent relations.

Support from Serevi is split into two portions: fall and spring.

The fall support lasts from September to December and mainly consists of consultation and planning.

Spring support features more of the technical aspects of the game, such as scrums, lineouts and fly half development, according to Central Athletics.

“It took us 13 years to build the program to where it is now,” Ford said. “I think it’s in tune with the rugby environment as well. The United States is starting to capitalize on the sport.”

Senior center Alexis Berrymsmith takes a jumper in the post in practice.

PHOTOGRAPHER NAME/OBSERVER

JOHN WHITTELE-OBSERVER

Key Matchup

Central
Alexia Berrymsmith, Sr.
Center
FPG: 8.4
RPG: 6.0
BPG: 1.2

Western Washington
Kayla Bernsen, Sr.
Center
FPG: 11.6
RPG: 7.8
BPG: 2.7

Give Central a big win to add to their resume.

“Having leaders on our team like Parker certainly helps us,” Valdez said.

With the end of the year in sight, four members of the team will never play WWU again in their collegiate careers. However, Parker made it clear that they only care about the win.

“We have to defend our home court,” Parker said. “We got to stay focused.”

Central’s longsnapper Jason Diffée signs papers to get an NFL agent.
Wildcats ready to claw back to top

Coming off a season riddled with injuries, Central’s baseball team has set its eyes on one goal—a GNAC title.

BY ZAC KIRKOTH
Sports Editor

After winning the GNAC tournament in 2014, Central was picked to dethrone Western Oregon University (WOU) from their reign of dominance as GNAC regular season champs last season, but it didn’t happen.

The Wildcats lost 2014 GNAC Pitcher of the Year Brandon Williams early in the season due to injury, which was the beginning of a couple of big losses for the Central pitching staff.

But this year’s group of Wildcats isn’t going to think about what could have been.

“Just flush it. Forget about last season,” junior pitcher Mitch Yada said. “We got a new staff [and a] new team. We gotta go out there and not think about the mistakes we made last year, but think about what we can do this year.”

The Wildcats received one first place vote in the GNAC preseason coaches’ poll, and are picked to finish tied for third in the six-team GNAC baseball conference. Montana State University Billings (MSUB), last year’s regular season champions, and WOU are picked in front of Central.

Central isn’t paying attention to the rankings though. Last year, MSUB proved everybody wrong by becoming the first team other than WOU to win the GNAC regular season title ever. They were picked to finish last in the conference.

“We wanna go all the way and win the conference,” senior outfielder Darren Honeysett said. “I feel like we have the team to do it. The teams are all very even in this conference.”

Central will have to do that while replenishing big pieces from last year’s staff. Williams, team ERA leader Zach Johnson and Corey Welch, who took on double-duty as a closer and starter last season, all graduated. The three combined to throw just under half of the Wildcat’s total innings pitched last season.

“We don’t necessarily have a guy like Brandon Williams on the staff, but I think we’re pretty good all the way through the staff,” head coach Desi Storey said. “And I think we’ve got some guys that have a chance to be really good.”

One man the team knows it can lean on is Yada. He is the leading returner in innings pitched, complete games and strikeouts for Central, and is ready to be the ace of Central’s staff.

However, Yada knows he can’t shoulder the load on his own.

“I’ve felt that since day one in the fall,” Yada said. “But once we started surviving guys out and figuring what our staff is gonna look like, it gave me more confidence in myself and the staff that we’ll have guys to fill those gaps position in the spring.”

Central was second to last in the GNAC in ERA in 2015, and will look to retool with guys who may not have a lot of innings thrown at the Division II level, but have experience throwing at a lower college level.

“We’ve got a lot of transfer guys,” Yada said. “They know what it’s like.”

Central’s roster is filled with transfer students, even though that’s not necessarily the team’s focus in recruiting.

“We’re a small state school, so we’re gonna get a lot of transfers,” Storey said. “If we can get some quality kids, that’s our thing—if we can get the quality freshman that can be a four-year guy for us, then so be it.”

Getting transfer students with experience past the high school level can help fill holes quickly though, as Honeysett did for the offense last year.

After hitting .350 last season, ninth in the GNAC, with seven home runs and 37 RBIs, Honeysett was named co-newcomer of the year in the conference.

“It was a great moment for me,” Honeysett said. “It’s something I worked hard for.”

Honeysett headlines what, on paper, looks like the team’s strongest returning piece—the offense.

Central lost All-American and GNAC batting average leader Kasey Bielec, but returned four of the conference’s top-19 hitters in that category.

Storey said that all-around it was a down hitting year for the conference, but believes this year’s lineup offers more balance than last season.

Snow has forced the team to practice indoors, but that hasn’t stopped the Wildcats from preparing for their first game.

Central will travel to Idaho to square off with defending NAIA national champions Lewis-Clark State University.

Storey is ready to see improvements in all three aspects of the game when the Wildcats take the field.

“When you comeback, whether you win a championship or not, you don’t wanna be stagnant,” Storey said. “So we wanna improve in every area, and I think we have.”

Junior pitcher Mitch Yada, Central’s returning leader in innings pitched, works on his pitches in practice.
Season of redemption

Central softball looks to bounce back from a disappointing season under a new head coach

BY MITCHELL JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

After failing to reach the playoffs in 2015, the Central softball team hopes to turn things around this season.

Central went to the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2014 and entered the 2015 season as the preseason favorite for a GNAC title, but the Wildcats failed to meet those expectations with a record of 20-23.

“Last season we had a lot of talent, but we didn’t reach our full potential,” senior pitcher Brielle Copodonna said.

This season Central is ranked fifth in the 2016 GNAC Preseason Softball Coaches Poll. Rival Western Washington University is picked to win the conference.

Junior first baseman Kaylyn Campbell, a First Team All-GNAC selection, thought being picked first last season inflated their heads.

“I think we have really high expectations this year. Just from last year to this year, was kind of, I’d say, a little unsatisfied with what happened,” Campbell said. “But I think this year we have a different mindset for the season.”

Central went to the NCAA Tournament last season, thought being second to last in the GNAC in offensive percentage this season. Central ranked 10th in the GNAC in fielding percentage.

Part of the reason for the defensive struggle was losing junior shortstop Taylor Ferleman to a broken wrist 16 games in. This forced the coaching staff to move around players into different positions.

According to head coach Mike Larabee, the infield is pretty set, but the outfield is very competitive with six outfielders competing for three spots.

“We don’t necessarily have players in the outfield, we’re gonna have an awesome outfield,” junior utility player Sammy Morris said. “We’re gonna have a lot of speed and a lot of talent.”

Larabee said they made defense a priority in their program.

 “[Two weeks ago was] a really good week for us, we’ve kinda modified our practice a little bit and spent a couple days just focusing on defense,” Larabee said.

“Should you see a lot higher field percentage this season.”

First Team All-GNAC selection senior Austin Willkerson will be doing much of the catching duties this season.

Larabee said he likes that she can stop the running game, but she just needs to stay healthy.

Pitching wise, the Wildcats are bringing their number one starter, junior Kiana Wood, back.

Wood had a 6-9 record with a 2.99 ERA, which was fourth in the GNAC.

She averaged 5.91 strikeouts per game in 2015 and will share the bulk of the pitching duties with Copodonna.

“If Kiana [Wood] starts the game and gets into a little trouble we can bring Brielle [Copodonna] in to close it out and vice-versa,” Larabee said.

Copodonna had to make an adjustment to a new role last season. She had to become comfortable in the role of closer after spending most of her career as a starter.

“When you start a game there’s a different energy, when you close a game you really have to be on top your game, no mistakes, your closing to shut the other team down,” Copodonna said.

Some of the changes Larabee made to his team are on the pitching side where he believes a good team begins.

“Coming into the season, I had spent a couple days just narrowing it down to a riseball, changeup and dropball, and we’re just focusing on those three pitches and perfecting them,” Copodonna said.

Wood agrees with Larabee’s approach to pitching. She said he focuses on the main pitches he feels like they can throw better against their opponents.

Offensively, the Wildcats thrived last season with a .328 batting average—third in the GNAC.

”Some of their key returning offensive players are Morris, a Second Team All-GNAC selection, Campbell, Wilkerson and Taylor Ferleman. Larabee said that Morris, who hit .388 with 11 stolen bases, would probably be hitting leadoff.

Campbell had a .395 batting average that ranked fourth in the GNAC. She is projected to be hitting third in the lineup.

Wilkerson hit .366 last season with 34 RBIs is projected to bat cleanup.

Before breaking her wrist, Ferleman hit .47 in the 16 games she played.

“I feel very good one through nine right now,” Larabee said. “We got a really good combination of power and speed and kids that can bunt and slap.”

One player that Central will be without is junior pitcher and infielder Alyssa Egan. She is out for the season with a torn ACL and had some meniscus damage.

Even after the struggles of last season, Larabee and his staff have changed his players outlook on softball.

Morris feels that the team has been the most prepared since she has been in the program.

The view the coaches “take on softball is so different than I’ve been taught my entire life,” Copodonna said. “I think we’ve reached our potential and gone beyond what I thought we’d be.”

Central’s softball hitters hit the batting cages to work on their swings.

Kenna Wood

Kailyn Campbell

Position: First Baseman

2015 Stats

W-L: 6-9
IP: 105 1/3
ERA: 3.84
BB: 8
SO: 89
OBA: .288

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In the hunt for nationals

BY SAMUEL BEAUMONT
Staff Reporter

Seniors Dani Eggleston and Luke Plummer started the indoor track and field season with marks that hit the provisional mark for the NCAA Nationals meet on March 11.

“That doesn’t guarantee national competition. If they don’t hit the automatic, it’s up to the top 16 in the provisions,” head coach Kevin Adkisson said.

Eggleston is competing in long distance events, such as the 3k and 5k runs, while Plummer is focusing on the triple jump.

“They’re both veteran All-Americans so it isn’t very unusual for them to hit provisions so early. Once they hit it, their goal is to get to nationals,” Adkisson said. “It’s about shooting for the national competition. If they don’t make the year before can be motivating, but it’s up to the individual to set their personal goals and know their limitations.

“I think automatic [qualifying time] is a bit unrealistic, but I want to hit the top 20s to get to nationals,” Eggleston said. “I’ll be running the Central Provisional Qualifiers: Sr. Dani Eggleston (Distance) Sr. Luke Plummer (Jumper) 9:53.32.

“Looking to hit All-American again,” Eggleston said. “It’s hard to get to that point, and if I get eighth in nationals I’d be happy, but I’d like to get higher.”

In addition to her performance in the 3,000 meter run, Eggleston is looking forward to the invitational this past weekend.

“There’s not many 5k’s for indoors, so I have to wait for University of Washington invites and conferences,” Eggleston said. “I’ll be running the 3k and the mile while I wait since it helps with speed work. I’d like to make it to nationals in the 3k, and hopefully be able to earn All-American again.”

Plummer, on the other hand, is focusing on the 5,000 meter run.

He was embarrassed two seasons ago, and now he’s back coming off an injury. But he isn’t back healthier and younger, he’s back coming off an injury, and he’s older. (And falls down under pressure. Literally.)

None of that spells dominance. Denver is going to have some resilience, as they have all year, but I just don’t see them going all 12 rounds against the Panthers’ offense.

Congrats, Carolina Panthers, you’ll no longer be a part of the NFL teams to never win a Super Bowl. And it only took 20 years.

Austin Bennett, Assistant Sports Editor

Final Score: Broncos 23, Panthers 26

Even when the Panthers were 14-0, I still didn’t buy their success.

However, this time, I’m all in on the Panthers. Their offense soared against two formidable defenses and their defense put the Cardinals and Seahawks in a choke hold.

Cam Newton has had tremendous success as of late, but enough of Newton for now. I want to give credit to their offensive line.

They have kept at bay Michael Bennett, Cliff Avril, Calais Campbell and Frostee Rucker just to name a few.

I don’t think the Panthers are in the position they are today without that offensive line. We’ll see how good the Broncos defensive line really is on Sunday.

Editor’s Super Bowl Picks

Zac Hereth, Sports Editor

Final Score: Broncos 22, Panthers 20

This is a real matchup strength versus strength. Von Miller and the Broncos stingy defense against Luke Kuechly and the unmatchable defense of the Panthers.

The Panthers may be the favorite, but I’m going to give this to the team that’s been there before. It’s Peyton Manning’s season to prove everyone wrong.

Jonathan Glover Editor-in Chief

Final Score: Broncos 23, Panthers 31

This pains me to say. No, really, it does.

I can’t stand the Panthers. I can’t stand Cam Newton and his over-the-top celebrations for so little as a first down. I can’t stand Ron Rivera and his bullish attitude. I can’t stand the fan base, which has exploded to “12s since 12” proportions from just one season. I can’t stand it, but I can also see the writing in the sand.

The Panthers are having one of those years, and we’ve all seen how prolific Peyton Manning is in the postseason spotlight.

He was embarrassed two seasons ago, and now he’s back. But he isn’t back healthier and younger, he’s back coming off an injury, and he’s older. (And falls down under pressure. Literally.)

None of that spells dominance. Denver is going to have some resilience, as they have all year, but I just don’t see them going all 12 rounds against the Panthers’ offense.

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