Observer

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Central community rallies to support displaced residents at Shady Brook
By Kailan Manandic

Shady Brook mobile home park, commonly known as Shady Acres, is in the process of being purchased by Kittitas County, a move that has created backlash from the community.

Residents of Shady Brook have received a large amount of support from community members and Central faculty and students as they fight against the possibility of eviction.

Over the past three weeks, Mark Auslander, associate professor of anthropology at Central, has helped to unite the community and find legal defense for the residents.

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a purchase agreement for the park on April 18. A Daily Record article, published the next day, was the first time many of the residents had heard of the purchase.

Auslander led a community meeting the following week to inform the residents and form a plan moving forward.

"We're hoping that everybody will work together on this," he said. "We'd love to see the [university] play a creative role in this."

The mobile home park has been part of the long-term plan for the Kittitas Valley Event Center. The landowner and county have been negotiating for the purchase over the past year, said county commissioners.

The purchase agreement will eventually displace nearly 60 adults and 60 children, according to a community census. The mobile home park is located southeast of Central, and houses mainly Latino families.

Additionally, Auslander assisted residents in forming a homeowners association and introduced them to lawyers who will provide free legal support.

Residents received their first official notice of this purchase May 2, via a letter, hand-delivered two weeks after the purchase approval, by County Commissioner Paul Jewell.

See "Homes" page 3

Tennis club serves up tournament
Ryan Kinker

As the academic year reaches its end, sports clubs find their seasons hitting the same point. For Central's Tennis Club, the next two weekends will provide an opportunity for club funding and recruiting for next year.

On May 14 and 15, the Tennis Club will be hosting the Tennis Wildcat Grand Slam, a tournament against other schools from the region, that will be the last competitive match of the school year, and the first tournament Central has hosted this year.

Sophomore Nick Paulay, the club's practice coordinator, knows that the team loves this event for a number of reasons — reasons that aren't just limited to playing.

See "Tennis" page 10

'Captain America: Civil War' review
Kory Hollingsworth

In 1865, the Confederate South surrendered to Union forces, ending the American Civil War. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), the term "Civil War" has a different connotation. On May 6, the highly anticipated "Captain America: Civil War" debuted.

Being a hardcore Marvel buff, I had a difficult time composing myself as the opening Marvel title card engulfed the screen. For any readers who have not yet seen the film, don't worry about any spoilers in this review.

Since the premiere of "Iron Man," the MCU franchise has been structured in "phases," each of which culminates in an Avengers movie. "Civil War" marks the beginning of Phase III, which will conclude in May of 2019 with the premiere of "Avengers: Infinity War Part II."

See "Civil" page 12
A third recreational marijuana shop is set to open in the 1700 block of South Canyon Road in Ellensburg, behind the Comfort Inn and near I-90, as early as July, a third recreational marijuana shop, The Fire House, to open in Ellensburg

By Brian Cook

Lightin’ it up
Third recreational marijuana shop, The Fire House, to open in Ellensburg

On Tuesday, Sean Robinson of the Tacoma News Tribune came to Central to talk to us with the journalism students. He came to inspire. He came to teach. He came to motivate. All good things.

But mostly, he came to scare us. He might claim he didn’t, but he did.

Journalism is a crappy, awe- ful field right now, which makes a lot of us feel grisly. “Losers are winners; we’re a mere four weeks away from graduation. For the third straight year, CareerCast – an online networking company – ranked “Newspaper Reporter” as the worst job in America. And if you’re a broadcast major, now’s the time to stop laughing – your intended career was third worst.

That’s right. We’re worse than a life spent sucking people’s excrement from sep- tic tanks; We’re worse than throwing bagged-up piles of garbage into even larger, mov- ing piles of garbage. We’re worse than anyone. Those poor fools who have to dress up in Chuck E. Cheese costumes. How haven we stooped so low?

Dan DeVries, the owner of The Fire House, said that the loyalty program they are running will be a big draw for customers. The Fire House will be offering dis- counts for Central students, as well as discounts to customers who are attending events at the Gym by showing their tickets. The Fire House will be offering dis- counts for Central students, as well as discounts to customers who are attending events at the Gym by showing their tickets. Bean played college base- ball for Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Wash- ington. From there, he was drafted in the 17th round to the San Francisco Giants. Af- ter playing three years with the Giants, Bean went on to play baseball in both Europe and Australia.

In addition to having many new products, Bean and DeVries said they will be com- peting with the other two shops by keeping prices lower.

“Our area is being serviced by a reporter’s license,

The Fire House will be offering dis- counts for Central students, as well as discounts to customers who are attending events at the Gym by showing their tickets. Bean played college base- ball for Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Wash- ington. From there, he was drafted in the 17th round to the San Francisco Giants. Af- ter playing three years with the Giants, Bean went on to play baseball in both Europe and Australia.

In addition to having many new products, Bean and DeVries said they will be com- peting with the other two shops by keeping prices lower.

“They will have a large vari- ety of products from dozens of producers across the state,” said Dan DeVries, sales manag- er for The Fire House.

In addition to having many new products, Bean and DeVries said they will be com- peting with the other two shops by keeping prices lower.

Bean went from throwing fire to dealing fire and decided to join the marijuana business.

The Fire House

The Fire House is set to open in the 1700 block of South Canyon Road in Ellensburg, behind the Comfort Inn and near I-90, as early as July

The Fire House now hiring

Where: Anyone interested in applying is welcome to apply. The Fire House will be offering dis- counts for Central students, as well as discounts to customers who are attending events at the Gym by showing their tickets.

What: Must be 21 or older in order to apply for a position. For more information, you can visit www.FirehouseNW.com

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ASCWU Election Results

By Elliott Llera
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Nothing signifies the end of the quarter within the department of education like the sudden influx of students visiting the LiveText help center on the second floor of Black Hall.

LiveText is an online platform where students upload select assignments from each of their classes, resulting in a web-based electronic portfolio of their coursework.

A four-year subscription to LiveText costs $115 and is required of all students in the department of education.

The extra work involved with getting the various assignments on LiveText frustrates students who are already pressed for time in the weeks leading up to finals. “It’s basically just a fancy Canvas, only we have to pay for it,” Kelsey Shilby, junior elementary education major, said. “There’s all of this pressure to get everything uploaded because it’s required for graduation, but it’s so annoying that it always has to be done at the end of the quarter. It just ends up creating more busy-work for us.”

Kiley Dunn, junior family studies major, works at the LiveText help center, which opened about a year after the program was first implemented at Central. She said that most of the students who come to the office for assistance are having troubles with uploading. “Students become so accustomed to Canvas that any other user interface becomes very confusing,” Dunn said. “LiveText doesn’t look exactly like Canvas and it takes a couple more steps.”

According to Ian Loverro, chair of the department of educational foundations and curriculum, LiveText is necessary for Central to maintain its status as an accredited program. “In the old days it used to be sufficient for us to submit a stack of syllabi saying ‘this is what our students do,’” Loverro said. “Somewhere along the line they realized that just because you say something, or teach something, doesn’t mean your students learn it.”

Even though the assignments submitted to LiveText are intended to prove to the accreditation committee that Central is satisfying all requirements, Loverro doesn’t think that the program adequately depicts everything his students are learning. “One of the things that faculty are not thrilled about is that one assignment, one snapshot, is not always representative of an entire course,” Loverro said.

While the professors in the education programs still use Canvas for grading and providing students with immediate feedback, Loverro said that LiveText is beneficial because of it’s ability to compile data and analyze student progress on a department-wide scale. “What the students don’t see is that when we score things and we click on rubrics, that data gets aggregated into tables and those tables turn that data into information which is helpful for us,” Loverro said. “Not just any product off the shelf that does portfolios would do that.”

Complaints about LiveText being tedious aren’t restricted solely to students. According to Keith Salyer, chair of the teaching elementary, adolescent and young children department, LiveText makes professors grade things that have already been graded. “The artifact that goes into LiveText is meant to actually illustrate a particular standard or standards that are tied to the course. I’m teaching,” Salyer said. “When I grade it in LiveText, I’m just grading for that one thing, but when they submit it for the class I’m looking for that as well as a lot of other things, so that means I do double grading on everything that is submitted as a LiveText artifact and I absolutely detest it.”
Brother 2 Brother celebrates one year

Central Brothers band together to achieve academic excellence

By Joey Castonguay
Castonguaj@cwu.edu
By Joey Castonguay

The Central Brother 2 Brother club teaches young men of all backgrounds to develop good study habits in school and professional demeanors outside of it. The club aims for all members to achieve at least a 3.0 GPA, according to Armando Ortiz, club president and sociology major with a minor in ethics.

Armando Ortiz, club president

The B2B club is celebrating its one-year anniversary, and according to Ortiz, this year they have increased attendance at weekly meetings from eight members to over 20. This year, Ortiz wants the club to participate in more community outreach and service.

The club aims to get their members GPA up to a 3.0 or higher, they also strive to contribute to the local community. Additionally, he said, there was one student who came in with a 1.6 GPA who now is getting over a 3.0.

Brother 2 Brother at Central is the first collegiate chapter in the Northwest. It is part of the university’s Male Success Initiative, which aims to improve male students’ satisfaction, academic performance, campus engagement, retention and graduation rates, according to a press release written by Central’s public affairs office.

In terms of a campus climate, the club has had an impact in that men of color and men of all backgrounds who are coming to Central, we have gotten them to move beyond that ‘cool pose’ who believe that it is uncool to be academically talented and engaged in academic excellence,” Champagne said.

The club meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in SURC 301 and is open to all young men of all backgrounds.

“Shady Acres is not just a property it’s not just land, it’s a community,” she said. “This is not only costly but degrading, and not something anyone should experience.”

Central students and professors have gotten to know the Shady Brook community through exhibition of Mexican folk art at Central’s Museum of Culture & Environment, Auslander said.

Auslander said he may bring this issue to the Faculty Senate and call for support.

“The university has to be careful and not get involved in [an] internal political dispute,” he said, “I think everybody would be thrilled to offer our services, but ultimately it’s a presidential decision.”
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The safest hands are still our own

The movie had a great blend of action, emotional content and even humor that I think anyone who is not familiar with the Marvel movies would enjoy. -- Ronnie Hindman, Freshman Public Relations Major

"Civil" from page 1

Similar to the comic series of the same name, "Civil War" explores the ramifications superheroes have had on the world. As destruction and civilian deaths mount, politicians of the world move to regulate superheroes and their actions. In the film, Tony Stark is still dealing with the guilt of all the lives he destroyed from his years as a weapons manufacturer.

Meanwhile, Steve Rodgers struggles to save his companion, Bucky Barnes (aka The Winter Soldier), from enemies who would exploit his malcontent, brainwashed mind.

Interactions between Stark and Rodgers as seen in previous films such as "The Avengers" and "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" have set the political stage that separates these hard-hitting heroes.

My favorite part about Black Panther's debut was the portrayal of his agility and combat experience. It was a great scene, Captain America is seen crashing down from rooftops and clumsily jump ing in front of moving vehicles.

Meanwhile, Black Panther spews ahaed, making little sound when landing from great heights. These details really brought the character justice.

Black Panther was not the only character to be introduced during the film. Spiderman/Peter Parker was also reintroduced into the MCU continuity. For first year public relations major Ronnie Hindman, Spiderman was the highlight of the film. The movie had a great blend of action, emotional content and even humor that I think anyone who is not familiar with the Marvel movies would enjoy.

Dear Dr. H.,

What are the current rates of sexually transmitted infections? I feel like they have increased. As I've been in college, I've known people who have had "MANY" partners, but they don't have any diseases. Either they practice "protected" sex or they may have just been a bit.

Dear anonymous,

Sexually transmitted infections run rampant in our country and yet no one we know has ever had one – at least not that they've told you.

Nearly half of the 20 million new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed each year are among young people aged 15-24 years, "reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while about one in four new cases of HIV infections occurs in youth 13-24 years.

That's quite a bit of STIs for people in the college-age range. Of course, this doesn't specifically speak to the STI rates among students at Central, but it does shed light on the millions of young people in our country affected by infections that are easily prevented. Currently, there is no population-level data for STIs among the Central students – truth be told, I cannot make a specific, evidence-based assessment on the trends of STIs among students at Central.

That being said, STIs are very common among college students at the national level, and, for some STIs, appear to be rising – not using any preventative methods, getting tested, or talking to partners about STI history all increase the risk for getting an STI. Many STIs like HPV, chlamydia and gonorrhea are asymptomatic – meaning people who are infected don't experience any symptoms.

So, unless people who are sexually active get routinely tested, they may not even know they have an STI. When left untreated, these STIs can lead to further health complications and even infertility.

HIV, or the Human Papilloma Virus, is the most common STI – the CDC estimates that nearly all sexually active men and women will get it at some point in their life.

You mention people you know have "MANY" partners but no "diseases." Something very important to consider is that, especially in the case of HPV, an initial infection does not "clear out." HPV can be spread through vaginal, anal, and oral sex, and high-risk strains cause most cervical cancers, in addition to cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, and throat.

The CDC estimates 33,000 new cases of cancer each year in parts of the body where HPV is also found – presumably from HPV infection acquired years or even decades prior. Even if people use condoms for pen-is-and-vagina-sex, but not for oral or anal sex, they are still at risk for HPV. Someone can have HPV, not know they have it because they don't have symptoms, spread it to others, who then may or may not occur symptoms themselves until years later when cancer develops.

The current line is if you're sexually active, regular STI testing is highly recommended once per year and even more frequently if you have sex with multiple partners. If you're sharing sex with someone you don't know very well – or aren't sure if they are having sex with other people – always use condoms for vaginal, oral, and anal sex.

If you're in a relationship, talk about your testing history and, better yet, get tested together to know your partners' STI status. Many STIs can be cured with antibiotics. Even those that cannot – like genital warts, HPV and HIV – can be healthfully managed.

Consider talking to your healthcare provider (shout out to Planned Parenthood and Central's Counseling) about the HPV vaccine as well, which protects against certain strains of HPV most commonly linked to cancer and genital infections.

People don't always know they have an STI when they get it, and people don't always feel comfortable sharing their STI status because of stigma. I would highly advise against basing your personal risk for getting an STI on your perception of how uncommon they are among your peers.

Even if you believe that people at Central just don't have STIs, the truth is rates are probably higher than you think, and at some point, your pool for sexual partners will get larger. If you're not in the habit of making healthy and safe decisions around sexual activity now, then you are putting yourself and any future partners at risk later down the road.

Dr. Jill Hoxmeir is a public health professor at CWU.

Send anonymous public health and sex related questions to askdhh@cwuobserver.com and have them answered here.

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113 N. Pine Street, Ellensburg
SOURCE opens doors for students

By Mikaila Wilkerson

SOURCE opens doors for students

The SURC Ballroom is filled with posters and students presenting their work in front of other students and judges. Models strut their stuff down the runway set up in the middle of the second floor.

This is the scene set by the Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE), an annual forum for Central students to showcase and present their creative work, scholarships and research. It helps students with their communication, public speaking and job interviewing skills through judges' feedback during the presentations.

"SOURCE has been around for two years," Jamie Gilbert, SOURCE chair and program coordinator, said. Jamie, who is also the program coordinator for the Office of Undergraduate Research, is a Central alumni who attended, and even won, SOURCE and now has a doctorate. She gives SOURCE the credit for her great success.

"The best part is that SOURCE isn't threatening," Jamie Gilbert said. "We do offer two judges for every presentation, but they get positive feedback— it's not to sit there and criticize. It's to sit there and say, 'You did this right and maybe you can work on this.' [They'll] give you advice that's going to help you into your career."

This year, the organizing committee has approved about 385 student presenters. Everyone in the club has been in SOURCE and has been involved with it. The club goes into classes and explains to students what SOURCE is and why students should attend.

According to Jamie Gilbert, this year, the organizers of SOURCE are arranging to have models walking through the SURC to represent the dance, theater and fashion departments.

"The fashion show's going to be in the SURC pit before so we're really taking it to the students who are presenting in front of the Wildcat Shop which will be about Black Lives Matter," Jamie Gilbert said. "There will be a live performance by the trombone choir, which just recently performed in Washington D.C."

Everyone in the club in the past has been in SOURCE and has been involved with it. The club goes into classes and explains to students what SOURCE is and why students should attend.

According to Jamie Gilbert, this year, the organizers of SOURCE are arranging to have models walking through the SURC to represent the dance, theater and fashion departments.

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There will also be a group of students performing a sonnet as a SOURCE opening performance in front of the Wildcat Shop which will be about Black Lives Matter, Jamie Gilbert said. There will be a live performance by the trombone choir, which just recently performed in Washington D.C.

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Students have few opportunities to interact with the natural world if they are not in any of the science departments, but Central’s Garden Club is here to help students get their hands dirty.

One of Central’s smaller clubs, the club is made up of just a few members, but their number grows in the Spring and Summer quarters—the ideal growing time for plants here in Ellensburg.

“We have a little hard core of people that do stuff here over the winter,” said David Sturgell, senior technology and education major. “But in the summer, this place will really take off.”

The garden has existed for four years, but the club only recently became official with the ASCWU.

Before being a garden, it used to be a gravel lot, then it was a park. Some of the remnants of its past are still present; there is a small basketball court and hoop, some picnic tables and a swinging bench, and even a wild Italian plum tree that the club is taking care of.

Right now the garden has around 20 separate plots, most of which were built by Sturgell and other members of the club. A lot of the materials that the club receives are donated by local businesses around town.

“They also get some resources and help from Central’s facilities department, but other than that, most of the tools and supplies are purchased by the members themselves.” When you do a community thing, people want to give you stuff," said Rebecca Pearson, associate professor from the department of health, educational administration and movement studies.

The club also has various composting projects that anyone who uses the garden can pitch in for. Even local restaurants chip in by donating food scraps.

The club uses multiple methods of composting. Pearson, while trying to avoid a nipping bulldog puppy, demonstrated trench composting and Sturgell presented worm tower composting, which uses PVC pipe, food scraps, and a species of worms called red wigglers.

Students from all over campus can come to the garden and contribute. According to Sturgell, there have been several Asian students that have come in and planted vegetables from their home countries. The garden is not just for individual students, classes as a whole can utilize the garden as well.

“Three years ago, we just thought that there would be just a bunch of weirdos here, like us, and we would be off in the corner and nobody would bother us. But as people have discovered the garden, there have been so many different organizations,” Sturgell said. “These [small planters] were put in by the Science Education group and they ran a program for biosciences for junior high students and they made miniature archaeological digs. They called it CSI.”

The Garden Club has big dreams for the future of their club. They would like to further expand into the space around the garden to include a greenhouse and possibly even a small classroom. The members are also hoping to make the garden more ADA accessible for those with disabilities, which is very important since Sturgell’s wife, Katie, is in a wheelchair.

The club is open to all and all projects are welcome. The only rule is no pesticides are allowed.
Junior takes a swing at school records

By Mitchell Johnson

The only other offer Campbell got was from Pacific Lutheran University. “I wanted to stay close to home but also go away,” Campbell said. “I really like this area. [It’s] a lot like my hometown.”

During her freshman year at Central, Campbell led the team with a .356 batting average and had 53 hits and 41 RBIs, good for second on the team. “She said I would have a chance to play a lot, long as I kept working,” Campbell said.

In the four regional games Central played in 2014, Campbell hit .500, scored three runs and had nine RBIs. Campbell’s best game of the tournament was the third game against University of California-San Diego, when she went three-for-four with six RBIs. The Wildcats won that game 10-1.

The Wildcats struggled overall in 2015, going 20-23 and missing the GNAC tournament. Campbell led Central with a .356 batting average, 11 doubles and 53 RBIs.

After the season, Holtman-Fletcher resigned from the team to spend more time with her family. “I was completely shocked,” Campbell said. “It was fun. It was competitive and a lot more fun.”

Campbell has lots of time to extend her school record. Going into Wednesday’s game, Campbell is four hits away from breaking Holtman-Fletcher’s hits record which stands at 206. Like most baseball and softball players, Campbell started young in T-ball.

“Tennis” from page 1

“We just got these courts replaced a couple years ago,” Paulay said. “It’s really nice to use the facilities and bring in other teams.”

Paulay added that hosting tournaments serve as fundraisers for the team. This allows them to travel to meets at other colleges and universities, as well as replace team equipment.

Of the confirmed teams travelling to the tournament, there are two teams from Portland State University, two teams from Eastern Washington University and one from Oregon State University.

Senior Megan Graham, club president, says the team also likes the challenge of facing clubs from schools across Oregon and Washington.

“We only usually do two meets per quarter, so bringing teams here is a neat occurrence,” Graham said.

On May 20 and 21, the weekend after the Tennis Wildcat Grand Slam, the club will then host the Annual Alumni Doubles Tournament. “We call it an alumni tournament, but anyone’s invited to play,” Paulay said. “If you sign up with a doubles partner, you can play in it.”

The event is open to all students, and acts as a great way to recruit for the upcoming fall season. In addition to current students, Ellenburg locals enjoy competing, and Western Washington University brings students as well.

“It’s really a community tournament,” Paulay said.

During the final series of the regular season, Campbell passed her former head coach’s school record of 129 career RBIs. “She texted me and put something on Facebook about it, that she was really proud of me,” Campbell said. “She wouldn’t want anybody else to break it, and she’s been telling me [since] the first year I got here, ‘You’re going to break my records, they’re not going to stand.’”

With a year of eligibility left, Campbell has lots of time to extend her school record. Going into Wednesday’s game, Campbell is four hits away from breaking Holtman-Fletcher’s hits record which stands at 206.

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“Tennis” from page 1

“We just got these courts replaced a couple years ago,” Paulay said. “It’s really nice to use the facilities and bring in other teams.”

Paulay added that hosting tournaments serve as fundraisers for the team. This allows them to travel to meets at other colleges and universities, as well as replace team equipment.

Of the confirmed teams travelling to the tournament, there are two teams from Portland State University, two teams from Eastern Washington University and one from Oregon State University.

Senior Megan Graham, club president, says the team also likes the challenge of facing clubs from schools across Oregon and Washington.

“We only usually do two meets per quarter, so bringing teams here is a neat occurrence,” Graham said.

On May 20 and 21, the weekend after the Tennis Wildcat Grand Slam, the club will then host the Annual Alumni Doubles Tournament. “We call it an alumni tournament, but anyone’s invited to play,” Paulay said. “If you sign up with a doubles partner, you can play in it.”

The event is open to all students, and acts as a great way to recruit for the upcoming fall season. In addition to current students, Ellenburg locals enjoy competing, and Western Washington University brings students as well.

“It’s really a community tournament,” Paulay said.
Baseball

Cano leads Mariners to early success

By Zac Hereth
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The Mariners are winning baseball games, and I hardly know what to think of it. Could it be true? Are they a quality team?

The starting rotation has lived up to the preseason hype, the bullpen has been surprisingly stellar and the offense is scoring runs.

Even with the offseason additions of Nori Aoki, Leonys Martin and Chris Iannetta all failing to hit .230, Seattle is third in the American League in scoring.

The team can really thank Robinson Cano.

After just over a month of the season, Cano is the clear leader in the MVP race. This comes on the heels of one of the worst seasons in his career.

He had his worst season in almost every single major hitting category since 2008. It’s hard to call a .287/334/446 with 21 home runs a bad year, but $24 million warrants more than 79 RBIs and only six home runs, and 30 RBI at the All-Star Break.

Cano passed those All-Star Break totals from last year on April 26 and his RBI total on May 7.

After Cano’s disappointing first half of the season last year, he finished last season on a tear; Cano hit .331 after the All-Star Break with 15 home runs and 49 RBI, but it was too little too late.

The Mariners were dead in the water by the end of July.

The team missed the playoffs, and general manager Jack Zduriencik was fired. He was replaced by Jerry Dipoto, and most of the staff under the Zduriencik regime were fired.

That lead former first base and outfields coach Andy Van Slyke to tell CBS Sports 920 AM in St. Louis some interesting thoughts on Cano.

“In Seattle, we had [Nelson] Cruz, who was probably the most dominant hitter that I’ve ever personally seen for four months and Cano hitting in front of him. So you would think that Cano would have had a terrific year. But he had probably the worst single year of an everyday player that I’ve ever seen in 20 years at the big league level,” Van Slyke said in the radio interview. “He was just the most awful player I’ve ever seen.”

He blamed Cano for the firing of the staff, questioned his work ethic and even discredit the hiring of hitting coach Edgar Martinez.

This coming from a guy who watched Dustin Ackley and Justin Smoak on a daily basis. He was a disgruntled employee and let the world know what he thought.

Cano didn’t have much to say in response.

“Honestly it didn’t hurt me,” Cano told the AP. “I’m not going to waste my time and say anything back.”

The Mariners should thank Van Slyke. Not for the coaching he did, but for the fire he possibly lit under Cano this offseason.

If he keeps up his hot hitting, he could win his first career MVP award.

Cano is not going to stay on the 60-plus home run pace he is on right now, but the .301 batting average he had going into Wednesday is maintainable. As a matter of fact, he could be hitting much higher than that by the end of the season.

Even with Nelson Cruz’s unreal start to last season, the Mariners couldn’t get off the ground without Cano producing.

This year, Cruz isn’t hitting the cover off the ball, and until recently Seager had been pretty abysmal at the plate, but somehow the offense is still scoring runs—thanks to Cano.

Cruz and Seager are great, but Cano is the straw that stirs the drink in the Mariners’ lineup.
Five hikes to scale in Kittitas Valley

By Hunter Ventoza
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If you’re looking to get out this weekend, don’t feel the need to drive hours for a good hike. The local area is full of trails through the diverse landscapes of Central Washington. Here are five hikes for your next weekend adventure that are all located less than 25 miles from Central’s campus. Don’t forget to bring some sunscreen, plenty of water and good friends.

Umtanum Creek Falls

Umtanum Creek Falls offers a cool getaway from the spring heat. The trail that follows Umtanum Creek is relatively flat, and runs through a shaded valley for about 1.5 miles until reaching the peak of the falls. As summer nears, the water level decreases, allowing better access to the bottom of the falls.

Travel along the western side of the falls on a narrow trail and be careful with your footing on the steeper inclines as unmaintained and tiring. However, steep spur trails work their way to the canyon rim and give panoramic views of the area.

This hike is short, but rewarding, which makes it perfect for an after school adventure. To find the trailhead, drive west on Umtanum Road for just under 10 miles and turn into a gravel parking lot.

Rattlesnake Dance Ridge Trail

You might wonder how this trail got its name. “Rattlesnakes I’ve seen a couple,” said Tabitha Hardy, senior global affairs major. Don’t let this hike deceive you. It may only be slightly over two miles round trip, but the elevation gain of over 1,000 feet will be sure to get your heart pumping. Be sure of your footing on the steeper inclines of the trail, as there can be rocky places.

“There are a couple spots on your way down to watch for slipping,” Hardy said.

From start to end, this trail gives hikers views across the Yakima River Canyon. Choose this hike for a quick weekend workout to get a short distance from Central.

The trailhead is located seven miles from where the Canyon Road passes under the I-90 overpass. After Canyon Road makes a large, sweeping left turn, park your car in the gravel parking lot alongside the road. You will see a standalone dirt path heading up the hill.

Manastash Ridge

This trail shares some of the same characteristics as the previous trail. It’s short, but it’s steep,” said Walter Lakey, trip leader at Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals. “Definitely a 3 on a scale of 5.”

This trail provides hikers with views of Mount Stuart and Thor Mountain in the distance. Over the course of this hike, you will encounter blooming wildflowers alongside the mostly exposed trail. Hikers who reach the top of the ridge will be rewarded with a cool breeze after their quick ascent.

This trail can be accessed by heading west on Umtanum Road for 1.7 miles and turning right onto Manastash Road. Travel along Manastash Road for 3.6 miles, then take a left turn onto Cove Road. The trailhead can be found on the right side of the road.

Umtanum Canyon

Umtanum Canyon is a local hotspot in the Yakima River Canyon, just minutes from Central.

Follow the gentle flowing Umtanum Creek as it carves its way through the canyon floor, a 6.5 mile round trip.

This hike is relatively flat and doesn't provide much of a breathtaking end destination. However, steep spur trails work their way to the canyon rim and give panoramic views of the area.

This hike is perfect for a summer day. Hikers can rest their feet in the creek, and find some shade under a tree.

The trailhead is located eight miles from the start of the Yakima River Canyon out of Ellensburg, then turn right and park at the Umtanum Recreation Area. Start your hike by crossing the bridge over the Yakima River, walk under the train tracks and follow the dirt path back into the canyon.

Baldy Mountain

This trail can be described as unmaintained and tiring, but rewarding in every sense of the word.

Baldy is no different than other hikes in the area, and is short and steep. Your climb along this steady grade is surrounded by the Yakima River's winding valley. Being one of the highest "mountains" in the canyon, a 360-degree view awaits at the top. Mt. Rainier and Mt. Stuart will make appearances on a sunny day. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife; deer can be seen wandering among the grass, and sheep are found in the high rock fields.

For access to this trail, hikers can park at Big Pines Campground, about 20 miles from Central on Canyon Road. The trailhead is located directly across the road from the campground, where a gap in the fence can be found at the start.

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