Student fashion at CWU

By Mikaila Wilkerson

This year marks Central Washington University's 20th anniversary of the annual spring fashion show. Andrea Eklund, Student Fashion Association advisor, directs 120 students for the spring fashion show. This year's show hosts about 14 student designers, which is the most the association has seen. There are also three men designers this year, with menswear being designed more than usual.

"It's a lot of work," Eklund said. The best part about the show, Eklund said, is seeing the students' satisfaction with their work and all that they accomplished for the completion of the show. Eklund is very proud of all the hard work the students put into the show. According to Eklund, this year's stage for the show is 48 feet long. "It's a real catwalk," Eklund said. Each of the student designers create a minimum of three pieces for the show and can make up to five pieces, according to Eklund. There are two students who are working on lines that they started during winter quarter, and there might even be one student trying to work on six fashion pieces.

Last year's first fashion show was 38 people shy of selling out, Eklund said. But their second show sold out and they had to bring in 20 extra seats to fit everybody. For this year's shows, there are about 297 seats available.

Josh Perez, an apparel, textiles and merchandising junior, is one of the student designers for this year's show and was a model coordinator for last year's fashion show. Perez is currently working on three pieces, all revolving around flannel, which Perez is inspired by due to its versatility.

Athletics unveils new logo, lettering rebrand

Elliott Llera

The Central Washington University athletics department unveiled a collection of new logos and letterings that will be implemented starting next fall as part of a department-wide rebranding campaign.

The rebrand will replace the current primary athletic mark—the side-facing cat head used by the entire university—with a new logo created specifically for CWU's sports teams. Six secondary logos and two new fonts were also announced during last Wednesday's press conference in the SURC Pit. Dennis Francisco, CWU's director of athletics, said the department's top priority with the rebrand was to shift to a forward-facing primary logo.

"A lot of us just liked something that felt more symmetrical and balanced," he said. "That was something with the previous mark that we were using, with the C-W-U off to the side and the cat head, it really made the mark feel heavy on one side."

Spring fashion show

When: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 4
Where: Milo Smith Tower Theatre
Cost: Pre-sale tickets $8 for students w/ ID, $10 GA, available in the SURC tabling area
Tickets at the door $12 for all

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See "Logo" page 13

CWU ATHLETICS BRAND IDENTITY

CWU

See "Logo" page 13

CWU
Yakima will lift ban on marijuana retailers

By Brian Cook
Cochise.edu / @BrianCook

A 4-3 vote on May 17, the Yakima City Council will be lifting the ban on marijuana retailers within city limits.

City Council Member Kathy Coffey surprised the city council with the motion to defeat an act which would overturn the ban back in February. She explained to the Yakima Herald that the loss of her husband to cancer encouraged her to bring up the topic. She also talked about how she had bought black market marijuana in the past for her second husband, former KYVE-TV and KYVE-TV GM Ken Messer, to ease the pain from his radiation therapy.

The Yakima City Council previously voted on a ban for marijuana businesses in January of 2014. Coffey was the only one who voted against the ban.

“I really don’t have much to say besides the fact that I’ve been against it the entire time, and I will continue to be against it,” Yakima Councilwoman Carmen Mendez told KAPP-TV in May.

Mendez was joined by Maureen Adkins and Bill Lover to keep the ban. They were opposed by Coffey, Holly Goumenos, Ana Gutierrez, and Dulce Gutierrez.

Ever since marijuana recreational shops opened in July 2014, the City of Yakima has had a ban which made it against the law to function in city limits.

Because of this ban, the Happy Time marijuana store had to close its doors just three days after opening. Although the store was operating with a state approved license, the business was still in defiance with city code.

“We are excited for our grand reopening,” Happy Time said on their Facebook page, in regards to news of the ban being lifted.

When talking of potentially lifting the marijuana ban, began, owners of The Herbery in Vancouver, Washington, Jim Mullen and Richard Zahler, told the Yakima Herald they looked to expand and bought an old restaurant on Nob Hill Boulevard in December. The state has since granted their company a marijuana retailer’s license which allows them to run in Yakima.

With recreation shops gaining approval, it is now up to the Yakima City Planning Commission to recommend potential locations for marijuana shops.

But I have always missed the West. I had frequently talked about coming back out here after school was done. So when I was given the opportunity to go to school in central Washington, I immediately took it. And I love it. This campus, while it has its share of tradition and school spirit that ISU had, still has a certain sense of orderly that I like. The hodgepodge of students that attend CWU is fascinating. The campus is a living, breathing ecosystem that caters to all kinds of people. Alternative doesn’t mean anything here, which is really cool.

When I first arrived at Central last September, I went into good ol’ Boulion Hall before I even school had even started in order to meet with the adviser to The Observer, Cynthia Mitchell. As luck would have it, she told me there was an open position for assistant news editor. I applied, was hired, and began working under Jonathan Glover during the first quarter and it was a great experience. Jonathan’s drive to always go after a good story is admirable and he motivates me to be a better journalist. Thank you Jonathan for everything you have taught me.

I started working as the news editor during Winter Quarter and it wasn’t easy. But I am so grateful that the lack of windows on the Observ­er office leave a lot to be desired, I found a weird little home in room 222.

I’m so excited to start my last year at CWU and I’m even more excited to con­tinue working on the school newspaper as an editor. I have met some of the greatest people at this newspaper and I think the crazy long nights and weird work hours have helped us to bond together. I’m super happy about the incoming editorial staff of the Observer. I am also looking forward to all of the new and exciting things we are all going to accomplish next year. We’re going to start working towards a bigger online presence and continue fine-tuning our design and content. We hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

-Julia Moreno
News Editor

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Editorial policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community. The Observer also provides a forum for students to learn skills such as writing, research, and design. We are committed to continuing our tradition of excellence.

We strive to provide accurate, complete, and timely information. If you have questions call 509-963-1075 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com
New ASCWU officers talk about goals, challenges

What is a challenge you expect in your new position?

I expect a lot of pushback on my views of how I think things should be done. I have a very social justice mindset, I’m always fighting for people who aren’t represented and always making sure those people are at the table. There’s a lot of people who don’t think this view should be represented so I think there’s going to be a lot of pushback from administration and other people.

What is a challenge you expect in your new position?

Oh, absolutely, it’s going to be a huge learning curve, I expect Hauke [Harfst] to have a great continuity binder and there’s a lot of resources that I don’t know about. It’s a huge political game and there’s a lot of political processes that make tasks take longer to complete.

What is a challenge you expect in your new position?

Some of my challenges that I will face this upcoming year is getting people from WSA (Washington Student Association) to agree on the organization legislative agenda. I fully believe that the WSA has potential if all schools can come to agreement on one legislative agenda rather than focusing on 10 different ones.

What are your main goals as the incoming ASCWU president?

First, I’m going to meet with everyone that the previous president, Ryan Anderson has made connections with in the community, administration, faculty and staff. As a board, we’ll find a place to provide religious groups places to practice. We’re trying to find and allocate a space for underrepresented student organizations to meet, do homework and things like that. I also want to get the groundwork started on a multicultural resource center for all underrepresented people on campus.

What are your main goals as incoming VP of Academic Affairs?

A lot of them pertain to the Student Academic Senate (SAS) and SEOIs. I want to evaluate them, looking at what SEOIs do for students and faculty and making sure there’s a clear goal. They have really low rates so we try to advertise them, but I think there’s something more fundamentally flawed with them.

What are your main goals as incoming VP of Legislative Affairs?

I plan to make the legislative office visible to the student body. Nina Caldwell did an excellent job by setting the foundation for me, now we just have to build off of it. Additionally I plan to have a Facebook page, Twitter, and even a monthly news snippet with the most up to date information on legislation and the WSA.

What is something you’re looking forward to when you become president?

I’m looking forward to meeting new people and the administration and community members. I’m a very introverted person, so hopefully this new position gets me a lot more outgoing and ambitious and gets me out of my shell to make new connections.

What is something you’re looking forward to when you become VP?

I’ve never really been in a position like this before and I’m excited about the opportunities that it’s going to present. I’m trying to go in with an open mind. I think we have a great board this year and we can do a lot of great stuff.

What is something you’re looking forward to when you become VP?

I’m looking forward to when you become VP? I’m excited to see growth in the student government as a whole and working together as a team. While in office, I want to work with the legislators and make a positive difference in CWU.

*For more on the ASCWU members be sure to check us out online at cwoobserver.com
Need a computer for finals? We got you

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

*start something big*
Breathe easy the trees are here to stay

By Ray Payne
PayneRay@cwu.edu | @TheRayPayne

Recently, concerns have been raised about the fate of several trees that may be threatened by the Samuelson renovation project, but Central Washington University administration is assuring the public that a majority of the trees will be left intact.

According to Linda Schactler, university president Gaudinio's chief of staff, the contractors working on the building have been instructed to leave any trees that are not diseased or compromised alone.

There are several trees in the area that do match that description, however, the majority do not.

According to Schactler, CWU is seeking to put an end to the rumor that all of the trees are going to be removed.

The renovation of Samuelson, which has been vacant for about eight years, is to provide a new computer science technology center.

The north wing of the building will be remodeled and the south wing will be completely demolished and rebuilt.

Currently the project is scheduled to be finished in March of 2018 and ready for occupancy in August of 2018.
Don’t forget the history and headlines of your time at CWU!

Posters will be available at the Wildcat Shop beginning May 25th. All sales benefit student media.

$9.95 for 12”x18” or $14.95 for 19”x28”
By Jonathan Glover
editor@cwuobserver.com I @glovertrain

Well, this is it. Jesus, you know? Like, man, fuck.

After two years on this paper, I'm not quite sure what I accomplished, other than some great clips and a line on a resume. I've pissed off a lot of people off, I know that much.

So, while it's customary to write these sort of "goodbye" opinion pieces when you leave the Observer, I don't really feel like doing that. I don't really feel like the paper deserves that from me, and I don't think I deserve it from the paper.

But before I leave for good, I want the future of this media outlet to be as bright as it ought to be. We have a great student body at this school — one that should be celebrated for its uniqueness.

And while the good of Central Washington University is sometimes overshadowed by the bro tanks, backwoods-facing hats and碧cos that have received hours of longing self-interest in the gym mirror, I do believe we're all better than our reputation.

We may go to the cheapest school in Washington, with the oil of the lowest average SAT scores in the state, and with a campus that looks like a glorified high school, but at least we have the Observer. It's better than I thought it would be. I even how to assign them stories. I helped so much.

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And while the good of Central Washington University is sometimes overshadowed by the bro tanks, backwoods-facing hats and碧cos that have received hours of longing self-interest in the gym mirror, I do believe we're all better than our reputation.

So let's begin:

1. Tweeting about the lack of parking on campus, even though there are hundreds of spots in a lot about a 10 minute walk from campus

2. Getting so drunk on Taco Tuesday at the Palace that you finally come to consciousness three hours later, just as you're finishing up grilling a bar stool at 301 to Fatty Wag's pathetic excuse for music

3. Eating a beef and bean burrito at the SURA and regretting it for the next two days as you fart uncontrollably in class and blame it on the poor soul who sits behind you

4. Googleing "Things Millennial-nials find funny" and using the first advertised link to find "LOL, material" to post on Yik Yak

5. Staring at your phone in complete disbelief as your funny post on Yik Yak is killed in

6. Wanting to tell all your friends about your funny post on Yik Yak, but deciding not to, since they’ll give you shit for using Yik Yak, even though you're pretty sure they also use Yik Yak

7. Checking CWU Snaps and Wild CWU hours on Snapchat and getting depressed because your colleagues aren't nearly that interesting, nor does it contain that much boob

8. Wondering what in the hell happened to CWU Snaps and Wild CWU

9. Withdrawing $500 in $20 bills from your parent's bank account, just so you can take a picture and post it as your Snapchat story, hoping girls will finally notice how crusty you are

10. Walking into class out of breath because you had to walk directly against the 40-mile-per-hour wind every step of the way

I could go on and on, but I hear that millennials are often too tired to get out of bed, want coffee delivered to their house and are addicted to "Grey's Anatomy," despite that show being on for 11 years, so I should probably get to it.

Cheers.

By Victoria Shamrell
scene@cwuobserver.com I @vshamrell

It seems like so long ago that I first started working for the Observer. It was spring quarter of last year that I first began my journey. I admit, at first I didn't know what I was thinking trying to write for a student newspaper after only one quarter of journalism writing under my belt, but I learned so much from it.

It was nerve-wracking at first, having only a week to do a story for the newspaper. In my intro to writing and reporting class, we worked on a story for about two weeks and did multiple drafts, but I adjusted. I loved doing all kinds of different stories and meeting so many new people while doing interviews. My favorite stories I did that quarter were the two I did about the spring fashion show, both of which made the front cover of the paper.

This past fall, I ended up being the assistant scene editor and it helped me grow even more. Going into the position, all I knew was how to do was write stories. I had no clue how to design a newspaper layout on InDesign, how to edit reporters stories, or even how to assign them stories. I was so clueless at first, but all the other editors, especially Maria, the editor-in-chief at the time, helped me so much.

Stepping up to being scene editor winter quarter was easier than I thought it would be. I was confident in my experience and I was able to successfully manage a team of reporters and do all the newspaper layout for my section.

Now that spring quarter is coming to an end, it seems weird to have to say goodbye to the Observer. I’ll truly miss all the randomness that happens in the newsroom, from spontaneous cat video viewings to impromptu Pictionary contests between Zac and Elliott. I’ll always remember my time at the Observer and how it changed me so much.

I won’t lie to you—sticking with the Observer has been hard. There have been times when I have felt insane for taking on any editorial position at all.

At one point, I was juggling the photo editor with being the photo editor with being the media director of an and being a double-major with the million other things that just come with living life in general. Days felt like weeks and deadlines felt like they were immediate and never-ending.

But I’m glad the Observer was such a big part of my college career.

I started writing as a scene reporter fall of 2014 and slowly transitioned from writing on an all-female staff to working on a photo staff of all guys by spring of 2015. In fall of 2015, I started my job as photo editor and since then I have mostly still been the one girl in a group of guys.

I mention this because at first it was intimidating for me—though most people would never have guessed. My experience leading and teaching people only extended as far as instructing swim lessons for kids aged 4 through 13. It’s easy to demand respect from toddlers and tweens, but not quite as easy when your “students” are your peers, and it is sometimes made more difficult if they are of the opposite sex.

I was happy to find that the issues I expected never came up and I ended up with two photographers and friends who would stick with me for my entire last year Georgia was the Observer staff.

Then, at the beginning of this quarter, I had the pleasure of working with three very strong women as their copy desk chief.

From day one, I never claimed to be an expert in what I'm doing, though I knew that I had at least a good amount more than the guys who came into the first photo staff meeting in fall asking what a DSLR was and if they could use a point-and-shoot camera for assignments.

And I still don’t consider myself one. But I do feel like I have learned some things from this past year—and as much as I know I don’t want to be a “teacher”—I hope to one day make some kind of impact doing just this.

Though I’m not a news major, I am, by occupation, a journalist. And meeting new people and learning and sharing their stories is great incentive for me. In my time at the Observer, I have loved getting to know my fellow editors, staffers, and those whom I have had the pleasure to interview or photograph.

This has been a great experience and I hope my next job will be even half as fulfilling as these past two years.

2. Getting so drunk on Taco Tuesday at the Palace that you finally come to consciousness three hours later, just as you're finishing up grilling a bar stool at 301 to Fatty Wag's pathetic excuse for music

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Cheers.

By Brittany Allen
photo@cwuobserver.com I @britannahayes

Well, guys, it's been kind of fun.

The Observer has been an experience for me. I've learned a lot, I've been pissed off a lot, I've been ignorant while trying to set up interviews and there isn't much I could change about it.

Getting to know my fellow staff members has been a blast. I guess if you put a bunch of weirdos in a room together, they are bound to get along a bit.

I'd like to thank my former assistant editor Austin Bennett for helping me quite a bit when I took this job. Both were too close to our positions, but we figured stuff out pretty quick.

It was weird to think that something that has been such a big part of my life this past year will soon be a footnote on my career-path, well, hopefully it's not the highlight of my career, but it's been an experience anyone that wants to be a journalist should take advantage of.

My advisors suggested that I apply for this job, and I almost didn't.

Eventually decided I'd apply for the job. Take it from me, a classic underachiever who was just about to give up on going back to school after a two-year break, that sometimes you just need to step up to the plate to realize what you are truly capable of.
The well is dry but at least the lawn is green

By Hunter Ventoza
ventozah@cwu.edu | @ventozah

After moving away from home for the first time, the sound of rain makes me reminiscent. Walking back to my room in the middle of a rare desert rainfall, the frogs around the bridge croak louder than ever before.

Despite the pouring rain, I still manage to see damaged sprinklers spewing all over Central Washington University's sidewalk instead of its grass.

It's worse than trying to walk a car in the rain, so why do we use so much water on our grass?

We see official reports less than a year old concerning drought in our region, yet we still manage to keep large expansions of grass a certain shade of dark green. And even the higher-upers have noticed; "The Governor declared drought on March 13, 2015, for three regions of the state - the Olympic Peninsula, the east slopes of the central Cascades and the Walla Walla Basin."

By staying here, she probably wouldn't have realized that if we let them go, maybe, just maybe, they won't come back. I've always been caught in the middle of this, especially after I graduated from community college. All of us were planning to go different ways and yet, not one of us wanted to accept that.

I was the one person in my group of friends that actually realized we would no longer see each other every day, make the same weird faces at each other or just randomly talk about life together. It's incredibly upsetting for me when one of my closest friends planned on moving a few states away, and I'd be lying if I didn't try to persuade her to come to Central Washington University. I did try several times in fact, and I failed.

Today, we still talk to each other frequently and the foundation of our friendship will likely always be there. But how different would our lives be if I had actually been able to make the choice for her?

Sure, we'd both be on the same campus, grabbing coffee every day and hanging out in the Bistro (which is incredibly overpriced, but I'll save that for a different opinion.) But would either of us be in the same place in our lives that we are today?

By staying here, she probably wouldn't have realized that she actually hated journalism and didn't want to pursue it as a career. She also knew she'd never met the guy that she's head-over-heels in love with now.

And I certainly wouldn't have started working at the Publicity Center my first quarter here, the place where I made my first friends at CWU and ended up meeting my future editor-in-chief.

So when I start wishing that everything will be okay, I realize it's not my choice if I actually would have been able to make the choice for her.

You can't hold back someone you care about in order to simply make yourself feel safe and secure. If you do that, you're not only hurting them, but you're hurting yourself.

People need room to breathe, a chance to step out of their comfort zone — perhaps way out of their comfort zone — in order to accomplish things that they've always dreamed of.

Sometimes we believe that the tighter you hold onto someone, the more it shows them just how much you really care.

However, are we really expressing how much we care for that person or are we simply holding on because we're terrified that they'll probably be stuck dealing with you forever.

Don't be a ball’ and chain when you could be ballin’ off the chain

By McKenzie Lakey
lakeymc@cwu.edu | @Lakey_McKenzie

Sometimes we believe that the tighter you hold onto someone, the more it shows them just how much you really care.

However, are we really expressing how much we care for that person or are we simply holding on because we're terrified that if we let them go, maybe, just maybe, they won't come back?

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I was the one person in my group of friends that actually realized we would no longer see each other every day, make the same weird faces at each other or just randomly talk about life together. It's incredibly upsetting for me when one of my closest friends planned on moving a few states away, and I'd be lying if I didn't try to persuade her to come to Central Washington University. I did try several times in fact, and I failed.

Today, we still talk to each other frequently and the foundation of our friendship will likely always be there. But how different would our lives be if I had actually been able to make the choice for her?

Sure, we'd both be on the same campus, grabbing coffee every day and hanging out in the Bistro (which is incredibly overpriced, but I'll save that for a different opinion.) But would either of us be in the same place in our lives that we are today?

By staying here, she probably wouldn't have realized that she actually hated journalism and didn't want to pursue it as a career. She also knew she'd never met the guy that she's head-over-heels in love with now.

And I certainly wouldn't have started working at the Publicity Center my first quarter here, the place where I made my first friends at CWU and ended up meeting my future editor-in-chief.

So when I start wishing that most of these people that I have grown so close to weren't graduating and leaving this town (in what I'm sure will seem like seconds after they grab their diploma and hop off stage,) I stop myself.

I realize it's not my choice to make. And when it comes to your friends—or your partner or even your spouse—it's not necessarily your choice either. It's theirs.
By Kory Hollingsworth
Kory Hollingsworth@cwu.edu

By day, Denise Shaw teaches at Central Washington University as a professor of educational foundations and curriculum, but by night, she co-owns and operates a store with her husband, Jason Shaw.

The Shaw’s store, Nerdcore, first opened its doors last Labor Day weekend and sells a number of products ranging from collectable figures, board games and cards.

“We have items for kids from 4 to 104,” Denise Shaw said.

While Nerdcore has only been open for around nine months, Denise Shaw has taught at CWU for two years. Balancing teaching duties and business ownership requires a lot of responsibility, but Denise Shaw is up to the challenge.

Being a “professor comes first, and Jason is here everyday running the shop,” Denise Shaw said.

The Shaws have had an online presence in collectables for a while, but the brick and mortar version of their store is a relative new venture. The two have both owned businesses in the past, while living in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Tuscon, Arizona.

“Instead of hobbies, I own businesses. These are my hobbies,” Denise Shaw said.

Any kind of business requires passion and drive. “We’ve been newly at heart long before we met and came from collectable backgrounds together,” Denise Shaw said. When they first considered opening their downtown store, they had to answer one question.

“Is it viable to open a collectable shop in brick and mortar when a lot of times online will undercut costs?” Denise Shaw said.

For Denise Shaw, opening a physical store was a matter of convenience and practicality. “We got tired of driving two hours to the Westside, taking up a large chunk of time,” Denise Shaw said.

Shipping costs, possible damage to items during transit and fluctuating weather conditions is what lead the Shaws to open their own store.

Denise and Jason Shaw have their own nerdy preferences. “I’m on the collectable side while Denise is on the gaming side,” Jason Shaw said. Jason Shaw claims Batman, Venom, Spawn and Ghost Rider as his favorite superheros, while Denise Shaw has always been a Spiderman fan.

“I actually had tears well up when I saw Spiderman in the new Captain America movie,” Denise Shaw said.

On special days in the shop, the Shaws host International Table-Top Day, Free Comic Book Day and other weekly events as well. The Shaws welcome patrons to reserve times to come into the store to play board and card games in addition to renting games by the hour.

“We’ve hosted game nights at Brooks Library,” Jason Shaw said.

The Shaws try to hold game nights at the Brooks Library once or twice a quarter. In the future, sanctioned Yu-Gi-Oh and Pokemon card play will also be offered at the Nerdcore store.

Opening Nerdcore has given the Shaws unique challenges. “Last year there was over 900 new board games released” Jason Shaw said.

The Shaws explained how difficult it is to market different products when there simply is not enough space in their store to hold all of the products they wish they could sell. Other frustrations stem from a lack of public knowledge of their shop.

“We’ve been here nine months and we get people every week who go, ‘Oh, how long have you been here?’” Denise Shaw said.

Above all, the Shaws take pride in their store. “We try to carry things that the big box stores cannot. They can certainly buy bigger volume, they can certainly buy more variety,” Denise Shaw said. “There are a lot of places even on the Westside that are ‘Toy Stores,’ but they are selling their collectables not at retail price, but at collectors price,” Jason Shaw said.

With multi-conglomerates like Amazon selling products at lower prices than typical ‘mom and pop’ stores, small business ownership can be difficult, but according to Denise Shaw, “it’s swinging back the other way.”

Above all, the Shaws welcome everyone to come visit their store, but be sure to wear a nerdy shirt to special discounts. A special insider phrase, “I know what my inner nerd wants,” will also earn patrons unique discounts at the store.

“The questions is, are there going to be patrons to support it?” Denise Shaw said.

The Shaws welcome every one to come visit their store, but be sure to wear a nerdy shirt for special discounts. A special inside phrase, “I know what my inner nerd wants,” will also earn patrons unique discounts at the store.

By Kory Hollingsworth

A relatively new venture. The Shaws now have an online presence in collectables, a new Captain America movie, and small business ownership.

The Shaws try to host international game nights by the hour.

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By Sarah Hoot
Hoots@cwu.edu

From humble beginnings in the town of Monroe, North Carolina, Julie Brooks made her way here to Ellensburg to become an interim professor of metalsmithing while Professor Keith Lewis, the resident jewelry and metals professor, is on sabbatical.

"I actually didn't meet Julie in person until I approached her about the possibility of replacing me this quarter. I had known and liked her work for some time, and when I was asking colleagues who in Seattle was a good teacher and might be interested in the position, Julie's name came up several times," Lewis said. "Since meeting her I have been impressed by her seriousness, her rigor and her knowledge of the field."

While she was growing up, Brooks spent a lot of her time exploring the woods and lake in her backyard. She also had several experiences with art from the people around her.

"My favorite experiences at school are of art with Mrs. Trudy, and my babysitter who taught my sister and I how to draw, paint and even make our own silly putty," Brooks said.

Though she did enjoy art as a child, her dream job was to be a zoologist since she also loved animals. It wasn't until she began her undergraduate studies at North Carolina State University that she wanted to become an artist.

"I was enrolled for several years at NC University in the zoology and veterinary program and struggled with the structure of the laboratory," Brooks said.

These struggles led Brooks to seek out a new and more engaging community in the arts and music. The inspiration for her to become an artist came from her childhood teachers and her uncle who worked in wood.

"I felt inspired by the fact that there are no rules," Brooks said. "This freedom allows growth in unexpected ways. You create something based on your sources and viewpoints, this becomes your story."

After only one class of metalworking, Brooks fell in love with the medium. Her desire came from the material itself, the challenges involved with working in metal, and the professors who taught her at East Carolina University.

"The professors taught me artistic passion through the metals medium and are part of the reason I pursued an MFA, as well as become an educator," Brooks said.

Now, as a working artist, Brooks draws her inspiration from everything around her.

"My sources and inspirations are cumulative, from narratives based on life experiences, to the imagery of the life sciences I used to study or hike in nature," Brooks said.

According to Brooks, her ideas come to her in the form of questions, and are not instantaneous. The process itself builds from dialogues and the desire for new perspectives. She also uses written words to help develop her concepts.

"I read theory for research and do a lot of investigating. I also write a lot when I think of new bodies of work. This directs what avenue and processes the work will follow," Brooks said.

Along with teaching this quarter, Brooks is working on her own projects outside of school. Currently, she is researching and experimenting with pinhole cameras.

"I'm looking forward to what this project reveals about the many meanings of home," Brooks said.

The whole project will consist of her experiences with cameras, both building them and traveling to seven states and the 23 places that she has lived in.

Her work became an inspiration to a lot of people, including Lewis and the art department, who hosted her as a visiting artist on May 25.

"The work is extremely well-crafted. Her jewelry shows good design and a great deal of restraint, while still addressing conceptual and narrative issues," Lewis said.

"Her sculptural work shows a wider range of metalsmithing skills, wider than my own in fact, as well as an exuberant and even violent quality that is an interesting contrast to her jewelry."
The wildcat walk

"Fashion" from page 1

"It just shows how creative you can be with flannel," Perez said as he described his pieces. "At the end, you just feel that all that time and effort is worth it."

Perez hopes to one day have his own clothing line. He wants to start at a women's wear line and move up from there.

"Hopefully it just blows up," Perez said. "I've got to take leaps."

Alissa Leach, another student designer, is an apparel, textiles and merchandising senior minoring in fashion design.

Leach is working on five pieces for the show, all inspired by the culture of the Maasai tribe dwelling in Kenya and Somalia, which Leach really admires.

"I really loved the textures and tones," Leach said, describing her use of blues, browns, and black mixed together in her pieces.

For last year's fashion show, Leach put together a line consisting of four pieces that were inspired by women of the Middle East, along with designs of mosques.

"They were really powerful and beautiful and I took inspiration from that," Leach said.

The best part about the fashion show for Leach, personally, is being able to meet so many different people and being able to see everyone's fashion ideas come alive on the stage.

"That whole process is really fun," Leach said.

Perez said that the spring fashion show is a really great show to go to and see all the sweat and hard work that the student designers put into making the show happen each and every year.

"Our effort needs to be seen," Perez said.

Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

Why are some people more susceptible to pregnancy than others? Example: unprotected sex — do people do it but only some get pregnant?

Dear anonymous,

As with most things, when it comes to conception, timing is everything. Parents, some sex-negative educators and the media want young people to believe that you will get pregnant each and every time you have unprotected sex. But, for anyone who knows a couple who is "trying" to get pregnant, sometimes it just isn't that easy.

Let's assume that the people you refer to are not on birth control and are not using condoms — sex that is 0 percent unprotected from pregnancy. Pregnancy can only occur when a woman is ovulating, and it is not unusual for ovulation to be irregular, especially for adolescents. Also, sperm can only survive for a couple of days once ejaculated, so if there's no egg to fertilize, no pregnancy will occur.

However, even when egg and sperm are both present, some people are just more fertile than others. Fertility issues can affect both men and women: Low sperm count and an in-hospitable uterus can challenge pregnancy.

Other than people who are actively trying to get pregnant, I don't know many people who have a ton of unprotected sex. According to the NCHA study in 2015, about 8 percent of CWU students reported not to have used any birth control method the last time they had sex, 13 percent of students reported to have used emergency contraception in the last year, and 1 percent of students reported to have gotten pregnant unintentionally in the last year.

I don't want to go on record saying that people can get away with unprotected sex (because pregnancy isn't the only thing sexually transmitted) but in reality, pregnancy does not always occur as a result of unprotected sex. At the same time, condoms and birth control are so widely available that it doesn't make much sense not to use it.

If you don't want to get pregnant or contract an STI, I highly encourage condoms, birth control, and talking about both with your partner. If you happen to have unprotected sex and do not want to get pregnant, emergency contraception may be an option, but it is only effective when used within 72 hours of unprotected sex. For more information on pregnancy prevention options, please visit the wonderful people at CWU Student Medical and Counseling Clinic or Planned Parenthood.

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

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

This column sponsored by:
**Wildcats eye improved offense, defense**

By Ryan Kinker

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Change is a constant variable in everyone's lives, for better or worse. After an offseason of changes for the Central Washington University football team, the Wildcats are looking to compete in the GNAC in 2016 and beyond.

Greg Sparling had slipped overall last season and 3-3 in GNAC play, putting it behind the pace set by conference winner, Humboldt State (10-2, 6-0 GNAC).

One of the biggest storylines for the Wildcats last season was the midseason departure of incumbent starting quarterback Jake Nelson, after being moved into a co-starter role with Justin Lane.

Lane, who transferred from Illinois State University in 2013, is now the unquestioned starter for the Wildcats this season. This comes after having a 58 percent completion percentage, 2,001 passing yards, and 12 passing touchdowns to 16 interceptions in nine games played while leading the GNAC in total offensive yards per game (233.1).

Overall, the offense was a major problem for the Wildcats, as they were second in the GNAC in interceptions thrown, fifth in rushing offense and allowed the most sacks. CWU hired a new offensive-line coach, Chris Fisk, to help bring the sack total down, but everything else comes down to execution by players throughout the game.

"There's no such thing as a 10-point play or a 20-point play," said wide receiver Jesse Zalk. "If you're down in a game or just had a turnover, we have to just come back as strong as you can to try and make a play. We're gonna have a sack, or a tackle for a loss, you just have to come back and not give up."

Zalk believes every facet of the defense being on the same page is key for execution. Special teams should continue to rank high with the conference with the presence of Zalk, who ranked first in the GNAC in total kickoff returns with 813. Zalk was also second in the conference in receptions and receiving yards per game, with 4.8 receptions per game and 75 receiving yards per game.

After the departure of defensive coordinator Payam Saa­dat for California Polytechnic University, head coach Ian Shoemaker brought in Scott Power to run a new-look defense that hopes to fare better than last year. Coach Power inherits a defense that gave up 376.2 yards and 31.1 points per game, good for third and fourth in the GNAC, respectively. CWU did not succeed at stopping the run, giving up 201.8 rushing yards per game (fourth in GNAC). However, the Wildcats' pass defense was successful. They were second in both passing yards allowed per game (174.4) and interceptions (12) and first in passing completion percentage allowed (47.2).

Power served as the defensive coordinator at Marian University for three seasons, including winning the NAIA National Championship in 2015, running a 4-2 nickel defense that has proven successful in recent years against the passing and running games.

"I think we have talented players," Power said. "We just need to establish a standard of play that is very high."

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See "Football" page 14

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**Players to Watch**

Jesse Zalk- WR

Receiving Yards: 675

Yards Per Catch: 15.7

Receiving Touchdowns: 4

Punt Return Yards: 178

Kick Return Yards: 813

Kick Return Touchdowns: 1

All-Purpose Yards: 1676

Kevin Haynes- LB

Tackles: 73

Tackles For Loss: 5.5

Sacks: 4

Pass Deflections: 2

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After a 5-5 record last season, the Wildcats added defensive coordinator Scott Power and offensive line coach Chris Fisk.

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**Former player shines on the sideline**

By Zac Hereth

Sports@cwuobserver.com | @ZacHereth

On Jan. 2, the first round of preseason shoot around started just like any other for the Central Washington University's men's basketball team, but then some shocking news would make the first game of the new year anything but normal for the Wildcats.

Greg Sparling had slipped and fell on ice outside of his house, which resulted in the long-time head coach needing ankle surgery. That effectively sidelined Sparling, leaving assistant head coach Drew Harris with the head coaching duties.

"I was confident in him," Sparling said. "I mean he was probably 75-80 percent. I talk to him multiple times when I was in the hospital, and when I finally got home I was new to that now." The Wildcats were coming off their biggest win of the season so far, an 81-77 home-victory over no. 3 Western Oregon, and the team didn't miss a beat under Harris, coming away with an 83-80 victory in his first game as a head coach.

"I feel like Coach Spar has prepared me and gave me a lot of flexibility to prepare for something like that," Harris said. "But obviously it's the real thing when you get thrown out in the fire, so no matter how much you prep for it... It's gonna be something new as far as being in that head coaching position."

The coaching styles of Harris and Sparling differ a bit—anyone's been to a Wildcat basketball game has heard Sparling's booming voice echo throughout the gym—but the players adjusted with ease.

"The only change was not having Spar yelling on the bench," said senior forward Joseph Strex with a chuckle.

CWU continued to play well under Harris, winning five of six games and averaging 81.5 points per game in Sparling's absence.

"I think that speaks to the maturity that Drew has as a young coach, and the potential he has," said athletics director Dennis Francois.

Members of the team rallied around Harris, and also played for their head coach who was forced to watch from home.

"It was real cool. We jokingly around a bit and called [Harris] Luke Walton," said senior guard Devin Matthews. "It was kind of like that situation when Steve Kerr was out, and Luke took over and you didn't even notice it with the Warriors. You definitely don't take anything away from Kerr or Spar, but it was nice to have somebody to be able to fill his shoes like that."

Harris' success wasn't too much of a surprise to Sparling, who coached Harris' when he spent his senior year in a Wildcat uniform.

"He was a leader on the floor. He ran the club on that team where there were a lot of different guys from different areas and different egos and all that," Sparling said. "You could tell when he played for me he was a coach on the floor, and I think that carried over when he decided to become a coach."

After playing three years at Division I Seattle University, Harris transferred to CWU after Joe Callero, the coach who had recruited Harris, left to coach at California Polytechnic State University.

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See "Coach" page 14
Fresh faces set to take court
After losing three key seniors, Wildcats hope to use fifth-straight playoff appearance

By Mitchell Johnson
mjohnson@cwu.edu @SportsWithMitch

With all these significant losses, who will be stepping in for these long-time players?

A front-runner for replacing Fry is redshirt sophomore setter Kelly McClung, who was the backup setter playing in one game last season.

"She's been doing a nice job and being very studious. This will fall in that role as the leader," head coach Mario Andaya said.

Replacing Firethorne, Quirk and Mann at the middle blocker will be senior Erin Little and redshirt sophomore Sarah Jolfs. "We had such good middles [blockers] and we can only play two middles at a time," senior outside hitter Bios said. "So we've had really good backups, they've just never had their time to shine.

Little has played 24 games total for the Wildcats, getting 43 kills, with a career high of 63 kills in a season of 14 games played and 28 blocks. Jolfs has played in two games in her first season of volleyball career.

"It is a kind of a question mark on paper, but to us we've seen these guys train the last couple years and it's their time," Andaya said. "They've been training hard. They're buying into the things we need to do to prove ourselves again.

With Little being the only Wildcat with in-game experience, all of the future starters have been playing against the top players on the team over the last few seasons. "I think they're game ready, but only time will tell and see where it takes us," Andaya said.

CWU is bringing back junior GNAC first-team middle blocker Sabrina Wheelhouse. She was ninth in the country in blocks per set with 1.35. She had 182 kills and 2.54 points per set.

"When I look at us playing those teams that beat us, I don't think that they are better than us," Jones said. "Playoff-wise, in 2015 CWU lost in five sets to California State University-San Bernardino, a team CWU is familiar with. Since 2002, CWU has a 2-6 overall record against them, with five of the losses eliminating the Wildcats from the playoffs.

"You're going all the way from Hawaii to southern California—those are hotbeds in volleyball," Andaya said.

Players to Watch

Sasribina Wheelhouse - Junior
Kills: 182
Blocks: 138
Points: 259.5

Eliott Jones - Senior
Kills: 265
Blocks: 138
Points: 259.5

Head coach Mario Andaya is in his 21st season. Last season his team was second in the nation in blocks per set.

"If you look at different organizations, you'll see that logos are constantly evolving," Francois said. "In athletics it's taken a different turn, in that logos are more simplistic than they were years ago and I think you can see that with this redesign."
"Football" from page 12

Junior linebacker Kevin Haynes, CWU's leading tackler the past two seasons, is excited to play in Power's system and become a more disruptive defense.

"I thought we had a good spring," Haynes said. "We were installing a whole new system, but I thought we picked it up fairly quickly. Coach [Power] is an extremely smart man. He knows football really well."

Power and the defense are expected to have a major turn-around against the run as well as create more turnovers.

"If you look at any great defense in the history of football, they all have one thing in common," Haynes said. "It's stopping the run, which is a thing we want to do, and I feel like we have the personnel to do that."

Harris says he's excited to play in Power's system and become a more disruptive defense.

"A whole new system and coaching staff," Harris said. "It was just a different system that I'm used too. I left on good terms, and me and Cameron Dollar still speak to this day."

Harris, native of Yakima, came to CWU partially because of its proximity to home and also to play with his friend Humber-to Perez, who was about to start his senior year as a Wildcat.

"Transferring as a senior is always tough," Harris said. "You've got to assimilate quickly, and I thought it'd be a lot easier going somewhere closer to home."

The challenge for CWU, starts immediately in week one of the season, when the team travels to Portland to take on Portland State University, a Division II school and the worst thing you can worry about is guys that come down and think they're bigger the program—and they weren't," Sparling said. "He came in, and all he wanted to do was win."

After finishing his playing career at CWU, Harris signed and agent to pursue basketball overseas, but nagging injuries kept Harris from following that dream.

Harris would go on to coach basketball at Eisenhower High School, where he played before going to college and holds career records in assists and steals, for one season alongside Perez.

"After that season, Harris came back to CWU and joined the staff as a volunteer. Harris then finished up his degree in sociology, which gave him the opportunity to take a graduate assistant role with the team."

"He's a local kid, he was apart of our program, we like to try to give former players an opportunity that want to get into coaching," Harris said. "It was a great fit for him and the program," Sparling said.

Since coming back to CWU to coach, Harris has quickly carved out a big role on the team. He spends a lot of time on the recruiting trail, instilling defenses and working on guard development.

"Drew does an excellent job of teaching fundamentals, and I think our guys really buy into all the drills he puts in and all the individual workouts he puts in," Sparling said.

Harris has also decided to continue his schooling since his return to the Wildcats. He will receive his masters in athletic administration at the end of this quarter.

Off the court Harris considers himself to be a family man.

"I go back home a lot to try and spend some time with my niece," Harris said. "I'm really close with her."

Harris holds the CWU record most assists in a season and a career.

Harris says he had also had positive coaching role models throughout his playing career, including when he played under legendary coach Pat Fitterer at Eisenhower, who won over 700 games as a high school coach.

After his performance this season, Harris was promoted to associate head coach of the Wildcats men's basketball team.

"Drew is building his resume," Sparling said. "He's young in this business and if he keeps building it the way he potentially could, he could move up in this business real quick."
A year in review: A peek at CWU sports through the Observer’s eyes

This year, Central Washington University sports saw a conference champion, the departure of quarterback Jake Nelson, some domination on the rugby pitch and the resignation of one of CWU’s most prominent coaches.

CWU’s softball team highlighted the year in sports with its run to a Super Regional.

The Wildcats came close to winning a second GNAC title, but the baseball team fell just short on the final weekend.

Tony Pacheco, CWU’s head coach for men’s rugby unexpectedly resigned just before the season ended, and the women’s team was named National Team of the Year by ThisIsAmericanRugby.com.

-Zac Hereth, Sports Editor
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