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Soccer's Mackenzie Nolte kicks grass and takes names on the field
Pages 12-13

the WEED limit

FLAWS WITH MARIJUANA DUI TESTING CREATE CHALLENGES

THE EVERGREEN SCENE

Kyle Kuhn

news@cwuobserver.com | @CWUObserver

Jacob Pettibone was pulled over for speeding 14 months ago on Highway 2 near Wenatchee.

But what should have been a simple traffic stop turned into a DUI – and many months of legal wrangling – when the officer saw a passenger try to hide his smoking device, and spotted leaf trimmings on him as well.

So the officer asked Pettibone, a recent CWU grad, to perform a standard field sobriety test (SFST).

“I did everything he said perfectly, absolutely perfectly,” Pettibone recalled.

An officer even told him so while he sat in the back of one of the police cruisers as his friend was being ques-

tioned. But the friend wound up admitting under persistent questioning that Pettibone had smoked earlier.

Pettibone was smoking about a gram a day at the time. THC would have been found in his system even if he hadn't smoked any that day.

Pettibone consented to a blood test, hoping his cooperation might reduce any penalties. So an officer took him to the hospital for the test, which Pettibone had to pay for, and he was then released. But now he didn't have a way to get home, as his car had been impounded. So Pettibone also had to pay for a motel in Wenatchee and a bus ticket to a nearby town to get his car out of impound the next morning.

When he finally got the results back a month later, they showed Pettibone had 6.5 nanograms per milliliter of

blood in his system – 1.5 nanograms above the Washington State limit. After six months of legal back and forth, his license was revoked, he was given two years' probation, and he had to pay all legal fees.

Pettibone found it particularly flabbergasting that he could have had his license reinstated in 90 days – but only by having to blow into an alcohol breathalyzer to start the car.

“I could literally be stoned as f--- and start my car,” Pettibone said.

Pettibone will finally get his license back this December.

So it goes for marijuana smokers at a time when DUIs are still based on methods developed for drivers who drink alcohol. See the full report inside.

- See “Weed Limit” pages 8-9

Photo Illustration by Jack Lambert and Taylor Morrell/The Observer

President Gaudino, ASCWU condemn local KKK activities

By Ray Payne

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The Ellensburg community and CWU campus have recently become concerned about the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) fliers that have been found throughout town.

Tomorrow, Oct. 7, there will be a meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the SURC Pit to discuss forming a “Not in Our Town” protest.

CWU President James Gaudino released a statement on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

“Central Washington University is a national leader in welcoming people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world,” Gaudino said. “Recently, however, some people of color have shared with me that they feel less safe in our community today than they did a few months ago. That saddens and shames me greatly.”

Gaudino also stated in his letter that he will be visiting various student groups on campus to deliver his message personally.

Associated Students of CWU also released their own statement on Tuesday addressed to the student body, condemning the expressed KKK beliefs that the pamphlets contained.

“As students of Central Washington University, we must stand together as one and respect people of all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds,” ASCWU said.

So far several students have voiced concerns, one of them being J.R. Siperly, ASCWU's vice president for legislation.

“We must stand together in tough situations like this and support each other,” Siperly said.

- See “Community” page 3

Week protests banned books

By Sarah Hoot

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Throughout history, book burning was one of the ultimate tools for censorship; if someone in power did not like what a book said or depicted they would throw it into the flames.

Nowadays, people don't throw books into fires, they put them on a list: the Banned Books list. There is, however, a way to fight the system and that is by reading a banned book.

Sept. 25 through Oct. 1 was Banned Books Week. It is an event that celebrates a person's right to read and

raises awareness to the fact that First Amendment rights are being taken away when books are banned.

“The American Library Association started keeping track of it, I think, around 15 or 20 years ago,” Maureen Rust, student engagement and community outreach librarian, said. “They were encouraging people that knew of book challenges to contact them so they could keep statistics about what books were being challenged.”

Books can be challenged for many reasons and those reasons change constantly.

- See “Banned” page 6

Wildcats look to cut down Jacks

By Ryan Kinker

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With five games down and five to go, Central Washington University football is at a crossroads. Sitting at a 3-2 overall record, 2-1 in the GNAC, the Wildcats' next opponent is familiar enough and formidable enough to control the fate of the 2016 season, and to determine if the season is doomed to be like the last.

The Humboldt State Lumberjacks, 3-2 overall and 1-2 in GNAC play, are led by a pair of juniors on offense who have helped them lead the conference in points per game (41.6).

Junior quarterback Robert Weber is leading the GNAC in completion percentage (70 percent), passing yards (1,583), passing completions (133) and passing attempts (189). Junior running back Ja'Quan Gardner leads the GNAC in rushing yards (590), yards per rush (6.0) and rushing touchdowns (11). Gardner rushed for a school record of 2,266 yards and 25 touchdowns last season.

Gardner also finished second in voting for the Harlon Hill trophy, which is given to Division II's most valuable player.

- See “Crossroads” page 15

NEWS

EDITOR: KAILAN MANANDIC | news@cwuobserver.com



McKenzie Lakey/The Observer

New regulations require all new vaping products, including mods, go through FDA inspection and approval. Applications can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Crackdown on vaping

By Jonathan Olsen-Koziol
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As of Aug. 8, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeled all vaping products tobacco products as a result of an industry-wide crackdown.

This means all products not on the market before 2007 must pass FDA inspection before being released for consumer use and consumption. Manufacturers

have to apply for a Pre-Market Tobacco Application (PMTA), which can cost anywhere from \$117,000 to \$466,000.

The vaping community is having mixed feelings about the changes because it will no longer be a self-regulated industry.

According to long-time vape enthusiast and CWU Spanish professor, Rodney Bransdorfer, the new regulations and fees will force many in the vaping industry to quit or raise prices to pay for the PMTAs.

"It's a mess," Bransdorfer said.

He believes some regulation is necessary to prevent use among minors, in addition to keeping-

dangerous products from hitting the market. However, he also believes the government is overstepping its boundaries.

"Your entire [vape] system could be tobacco-free, and yet it's listed as a tobacco product," he said.

Additionally, the new rules restrict in-house samples, so vapers can no longer try before they buy. One bottle of juice can cost \$20 and can be a big blow to many consumers without sampling the juice beforehand.

Isabel Casillas, a local vaper, says the lack of a self-service juice bar is what she dislikes the most about the new regulations.

"I think it sucks," Casillas said.

Cameron Thomson, owner and operator of Vape Evolution in downtown Ellensburg, believes that, on the business side, giving away less free juice is saving him money.

"It's kinda here nor there," Thomson said.

Something that won't save Thomson money are the new tax proposals. Thomson doesn't understand why vape kits and

New Regulations

- No one under 18-years-old can purchase vape kits or juice.
- You have to be 18 to even enter a smoke shop.
- Shops can no longer make juices or assemble vapes in-house.
- Employees are no longer allowed to give personal recommendations on vaping accessories.

accessories are now labeled as tobacco products.

"Why tax vaping more than the original tobacco if it's quote-unquote the same thing?" he said.

Manufacturers have until New Year's Eve to register their entire product line with the FDA.

"Vapers lose," Bransdorfer said, "and that's where it really starts bugging me. In my experience, [vaping is] helping a lot of people quit smoking."

OBSERVER

In this past week we have found ourselves experiencing firsthand the issues that are normally confined to the scrolling ticker on the bottom of a newscast. Racism, hate speech, threats resulting in school closures across the state—all things that most of us have only witnessed from a safe distance.

But as we discover reports of KKK pamphlets being placed throughout parts of town, the reality of these dangers become all too apparent. There is nothing more disturbing than to hear a fellow classmate provide a vivid description of the racial slurs being thrown at people of color as they walk down the sidewalk.

As journalists we recognize the First Amendment and its all encompassing ability. It protects our right to openly criticize our government without fear of repercussions. It shields our freedom to choose which religious path we follow (or don't) and allows us to assemble in unity for causes that resonate with us.

However, the positives are still capable of being countered by equally protected negative voices, actions and behaviors detrimental to the sanctity of a peaceful and cohesive society. Though we may be journalists and vehemently advocate for First Amendment rights, we are still members of this community.

Whether we have spent our entire lives here or we're only passing through, we have immersed ourselves in the Ellensburg community and feel just as confused, conflicted and angered when a member of our community is threatened.

With that being said, we cannot sit back blaming political figures and talking heads for the actions of an individual—or several for that matter. It is incredibly inappropriate to assume that our nation's deep-seated problems have only begun with this election.

As a society we have continuously shifted the blame of where our country's shortcomings have originated, while in reality it is a culmination of years of oppression and bias that has transcended organizational barriers.

Rather than shielding ourselves from the mess that we have made over the years, we need to

look at our own tolerance levels. And if need be, resort to something that we all should have been taught as children: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

If children can understand this concept, then why on Earth do adults have such a difficult time grasping such a relatively easy concept?

Reports of threats directed at several schools in the South Sound also occurred on Tuesday, Oct. 4 in connection with the so-called "Creepy Clown" situation. One high school in Puyallup was even placed on modified lockdown as two suspects in clown masks were reportedly seen in the woods near the school.

This nightmarish terror swept across the nation after originating in South Carolina in late August. Rumors of a clown-sighting on CWU's campus also occurred around the same time as Puyallup experienced the threats to their schools.

CWU has clearly rallied in order to protect the community that we have all embraced, with several faculty and staff members planning a group meeting on Friday, Oct. 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the SURC to discuss the development of a "Not in Our Town" movement.

The meeting was arranged on the morning of Oct. 5 after psychology professor Marte Fallshore proposed the idea in an e-mail addressed to faculty and staff following Gaudino's statement. After their meeting, those in attendance plan to address ASCWU during their public meeting.

"It's heartening to see such a wide response," Fallshore said in the e-mail.

These issues of hatred and ignorance will only continue to linger if we refuse to look for solutions. Rather than saying, "I'm not the problem," we should take a second to actually formulate a coherent response to the growing issues we face.

We need to move away from the blame and toward solutions. Though it may take time in order to fully see any changes occur, we will begin to see progress and unity, which is something that we all hope for the future.

-Observer Staff

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NEWS

EDITOR: KAILAN MANANDIC | news@cwuobserver.com

CWU sends students to Mexico

By Samuel Beaumonte
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Professors Daniel Beck and Gabrielle Stryker are preparing for their first summer trip to Jalisco, Mexico, after receiving a \$250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for SOBRE México: Student Opportunities for Biological Research in Mexico.

"This is the first year we got NSF funding to pay students to go; it used to be a class during [school] breaks," Beck said. "NSF wants to teach new scientists, but they also want to build connections with international scientists and their students."

The program can send five to six students for eight weeks each year over the next three years to the field station Estación de Biología, Chamela, in Western Mexico.

"The main benefits of [going in the summer] is that everyone is paid for their work and they won't have classes to distract them," Beck said. "And when we get there, we get to see the transition from the dry season to the wet one and how animals and plants handle extreme seasonality."

All expenses of the trip, including travel, residence and meals will be covered by the grant in addition to the student's



Courtesy of Professor Daniel Beck

Students learn about the local avian wildlife in collaboration with SOBRE México in Chamela, Jalisco, in Western Mexico.

wages of about \$500 a week.

The accepted applicants will depart after spring quarter in order to catch the end of the dry season. The students will then learn the variety of positions they can study and work with.

"What we want to do is welcome them in and let them decide what they want to do," Beck said. "They can develop their own ideas and pitch them to us—that way we'll have them ready for the next year if they work out."

Applications for the 2017 trip

are due Oct. 31, and is open to all interested students, but the primary focus is on students pursuing biology, chemistry and climate change majors.

Jazmine Wardman, a freshman who wants to go into biochemistry, considers the program to be a good way to get experience in her field.

"If you really think about it, [an] animal's physiology is pretty similar to a human's, so some effects that happen to them can apply to us as well," Wardman said, reflecting on how studying

animals can apply to the medical field.

Aside from research, Beck and the other professors at the field station stress the importance of building connections between the students while learning from one another in a unique educational environment.

"I think going and being culturally mobile is important because there's just not one culture in the world," Wardman said. "You're only going to learn if you go out and take the time to do so."

"Community" from page 1

In a statement on Facebook, CWU denounced the KKK activity while promoting "a climate that is welcoming, diverse, and respectful — of all people and all opinions."

Kittcom had reports of KKK fliers found in resident driveways on Mount Baker Court.

Ellensburg Police Department (PD) posted a statement on Facebook on Sept. 23, giving details on what they know.

"The City of Ellensburg is appalled by the recent abhorrent behavior exhibited by the Ku Klux Klan," they wrote. "Their random delivery of the organization's fliers left placed in rock-filled bags thrown on to residen lawns and driveways is disruptive and disgraceful."

The post condemns the material, saying that "does not represent us at the City nor our Community."

The distributor of the fliers has not been identified, but Ellensburg PD is looking into it.

"The challenge for any free society, and our community, is balancing free speech versus and hate speech," Ellensburg PD wrote. "The flier's content is objectionable, but the content in and of itself is not criminal. As a City we stand as one community that rejects such extreme views and messaging."



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NEWS

EDITOR: KAILAN MANANDIC | news@cwuobserver.com

Sex crime is up in 2016 crime report

The Observer Staff

news@cwuobserver.com | @cwuobserver

Students who have been at CWU for more than a year should be used to the occasional phone call or e-mail about a recent emergency incident on campus or nearby.

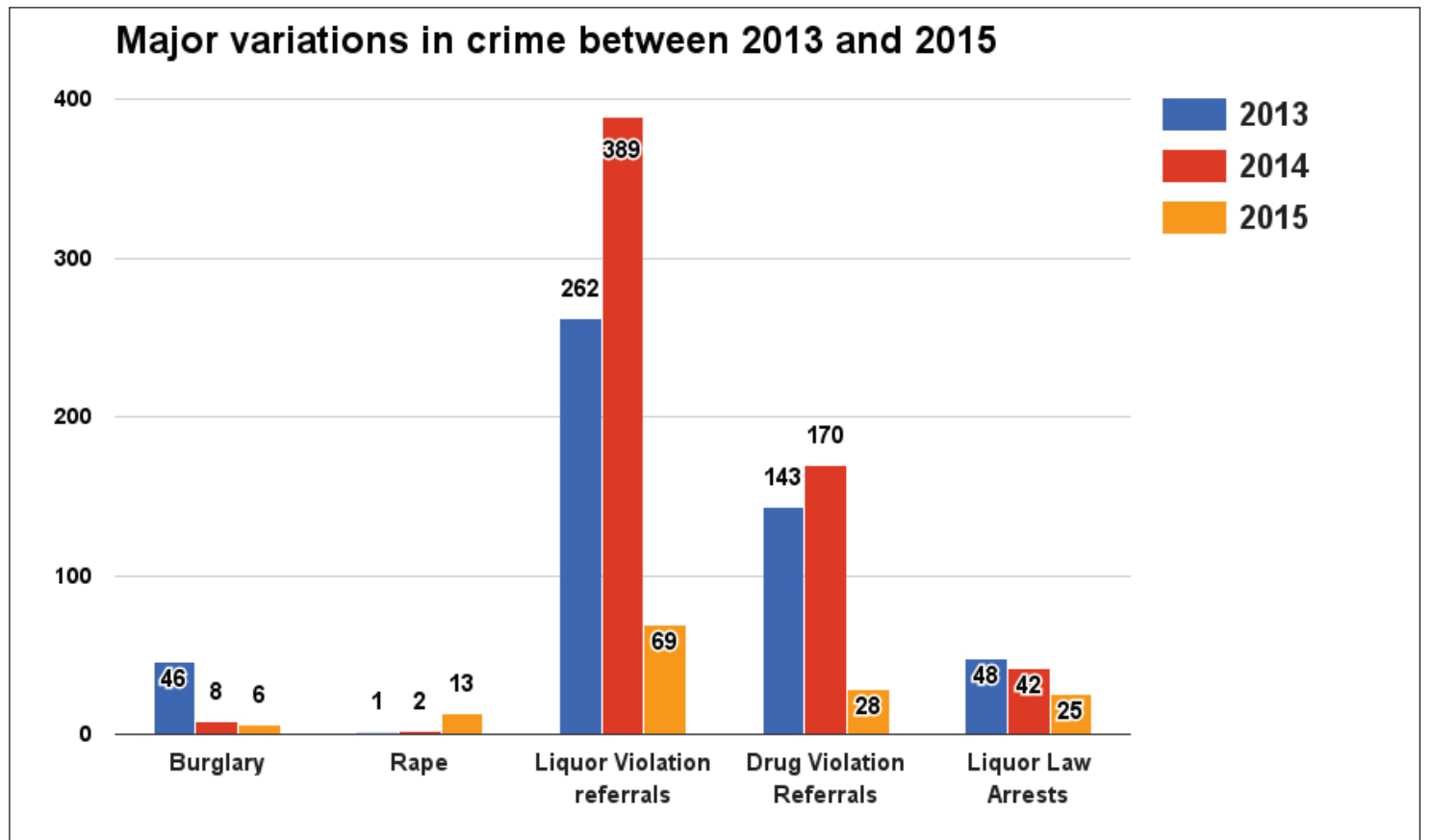
This system is called CWU Alert and fortunately isn't used often. Unfortunately, in the recently released Annual Security & Fire Safety Report, sexual crime—and specifically rape—is on the rise.

The 2016 report covers the crime statistics for 2013 through 2015. According to the report, domestic violence, stalking, rape and fondling are on the rise while other crimes are declining.

Rape increased to 13 reports in 2015—over six times the amount in 2014—eight of which occurred inside of campus residences.

Additionally, domestic violence, stalking and fondling have more than doubled since 2014 at eight, 17 and four reports respectively. While these reported incidents are on the rise, unreported incidents can be just as numerous.

The release of the report was in line with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act which mandates that CWU collect, report and dis-



seminate crime and fire data.

It also mandates that for certain crimes and incidents, a timely warning or notification must be put out.

The CWU Wellness Center oversees many events over the year aimed to inform students on consent, healthy relationships and safe sex. Students can

report any form of violence through the Wellness Center or even on Central's website.

"Personal safety begins with education," President James Guadino wrote in the report. "The Student Wellness Center's education programs reduce high-risk behavior related to alcohol and drug misuse. The

center also provides sexual assault prevention and response services."

While Sexual crimes are on the rise, but other crimes are declining significantly.

Burglary reports dropped from 46 in 2013 to six last year. Drug and liquor law arrests have both declined since 2014,

however drug arrests are slightly up from 2013.

Drug and liquor violation referrals have the largest decrease, from 143 and 262 incidents in 2013, to 28 and 69 incidents in 2015 respectively.

The full report of crimes can be found online at the CWU website.

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Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com

Fight against the system by reading

"Banned" from page 1

According to the ALA's website, from 1990 to 1999 and from 2000 to 2009, the books with the most challenges contain sexually explicit material. According to Rust, the category of religious-based challenges is currently on the rise.

Challenges can come from anywhere: parents, the government, administrators, board members and even just concerned citizens.

However, there are some roadblocks to the book-banning process. Each institution can have its own policy regarding challenges but generally the first step is to fill out a form.

Then the form and book have to go through all of the channels to see if other people agree with the challenge. First the librarians look at it, then the principal, then the superintendent and then finally the school board. Though if the group does not agree with the challenge, then the book can stay in the library collection since it is up to the institution's discretion.

Not only do the types of book challenges change but so does the list of the top 10 most challenged books, which changes each year.



Jack Lambert/The Observer

Two brave students take a stand against book banning by reading some of their favorite banned books in the SURC

These books are the crème de la crème of the banned books, at least for that year, because they receive the most challenges.

Some of the books are obvious choices such as E.L. James' "Fifty Shades of Gray," but others like "Where the Wild Things Are," by Maurice Sendak are tougher to understand.

CWU Brooks Library is just one of the thousands of organizations across the country that aims to spread awareness about the banning of books. To do its part, the Brooks library set up a table at the farmer's market

and in the SURC to show people some of the books on the banned list.

"It's a week of awareness to bring awareness to the public and to give out free buttons and bookmarks," Julie Carmen, a research librarian, said at the table in the SURC.

Even though the official event only lasts a week, there are plenty of other ways that students and community members alike can get involved in Banned Book Week. The simplest way is to just open a book, talk to one of the librarians at the library or

visit the ALA's website for lists of frequently banned books.

For students looking to get involved, the Brooks has an event showcasing one banned book that is a favorite of Aimée Quinn, a government publications librarian. "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian," by Sherman Alexie, is the chosen book for this quarter's book club.

The book club kicked off on Oct. 3 but students can still check out the book in time to finish it before the discussion on Nov. 2.

Top 10 Banned Books 2015

1. "Looking for Alaska," John Green
2. "Fifty Shades of Gray," E.L. James
3. "I am Jazz," Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings
4. "Beyond Magenta: Transgendered Teens Speak Out," Susan Kuklin
5. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," Mark Haddon
6. "The Holy Bible"
7. "Fun Home," Alison Bechdel
8. "Habibi," Craig Thompson
9. "Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan," Jeanette Winter
10. "Two Boys Kissing," David Levithan

Another way to get involved is to help stop challenges. "If you hear of a situation where a book is being challenged, get involved with it if you disagree with the challenge," Rust said.

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SCENE

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com

OBSERVER HEALTH



Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

I think a classmate of mine is transgender but hasn't come out to the class or me personally. We are in a group project together, and sometimes, I just feel awkward. I've never met someone who is transgender, and I just don't want to offend her by using the wrong pronoun or making assumptions about her sexuality. How do I avoid looking stupid by saying something wrong but also avoid feeling awkward by not saying anything at all?

Great question! So often people wait until after they have offended someone or, like you mention, say something "stupid" to ask for help on how to remedy the situation. Consider yourself one step ahead by wanting to pre-empt any potential hurt feelings. However, feeling awkward in silence doesn't help anyone either, so this might be a great opportunity to reflect on some assumptions we often make about gender identity.

Gender, different than one's sex, is socially constructed. Commonly, we base one's gender identity on how they talk, dress or act. If your classmate talks, dresses or acts differently than what you might expect for the sex you assume them to be, perhaps this is the basis for your conclusion.

But you can't tell someone is transgender just by looking at them. More and more, the traditional gender norms and expectations assigned to the binary options "man" and "women" are simply too rigid to capture people's gender identity. Some people will identify as transgender and others will not. Gender non-conforming, gender fluid, agender and gender non-binary are all ways that people can, and do, identify.

You mention that your classmate hasn't "come out" as trans and that you have never met a trans person. Although we commonly use the term "coming out" when someone who is gay, lesbian or bi-sexual openly discusses their sexual orientation, trans people don't necessarily "come out" in this same manner to disclose their gender identity. Some trans people believe it is disempowering to be perceived as any gender other than the one they identify with, so a formal, "Hi, I was born male, but I identify as a woman" moment

should not be expected from trans folks.

Similarly, it is not appropriate to ask of someone whom you suspect is trans, "But what were you born?" And, although I hope this goes without saying, it is absolutely unacceptable to ask a trans person about their anatomical parts – we don't ask cisgender people about their penises and vaginas, so that remains the rule for trans people.

You use the feminine pronouns "she" and "her," but from your letter, it is difficult to know whether your classmate is a transwoman (someone who was born male but identifies as a woman) and you are, in fact, using the pronouns she uses for herself, or whether your classmate is a transman (someone who was born female but identifies as a man) and you are actually using the pronouns he does not use for himself.

If you are unsure, you can listen to how others refer to your classmate, because perhaps someone else may know better about their gender and use the correct pronoun.

Something more direct – and perhaps quicker to lead you to the correct, non-offensive pronoun choice – is to introduce yourself to your classmate along with the pronouns you prefer people use when referring to you.

Perhaps they will follow suit. This is a great opportunity to broaden our understanding of how gender norms and expectations impact everyone and how assumptions based on talk, dress, or behavior can be damaging and perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

For more information, check out this great resource from GLAAD: www.glaad.org/transgender/allies

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.

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Jack Lambert / The Observer

Ready set go! Central students start their mile-long run around the SURC

It's a bit nipply out

Undie Run has CWU students put on their best sets of undies to raise awareness for domestic abuse

Lindsey Powers

powersli@cwu.edu
[@lindseypowers_](https://twitter.com/lindseypowers_)

CWU students stripped down to raise awareness about domestic violence at the Wellness Center's third annual Undie Run on Oct. 4.

CWU's Jacey Watson, a senior and social services major, was one of the masterminds behind this year's festivities. Watson is a student health education intern at the center, who specializes in sexual violence and power-based relationships, making the message behind the run particularly important to her.

Domestic violence is a subject most prefer to shy away from, but Watson approaches the subject openly and instead turns the considerably taboo topic into a message that can be easily discussed. A huge focus of the Undie Run is to spread awareness on what consent is and what it is not.

"Consent is not what you wear or how you act," Watson said.

Consent is often misinterpreted by those who do not know what to look for, but ignorance is no excuse, which is why the run and subsequent games and talks are all centered around educating attendees.

Wellness Center Health Educator Mallory Morse is also a big supporter of the Undie Run. Morse is also a violence prevention and response coordinator, meaning if someone has fallen victim to abuse and calls the Wellness Center for assistance, she is one of the first responders.

Prior to her arrival at CWU, Morse worked at Montana State University. She said that is where she saw the Undie Run for the first time.

"They did it as a Homecoming event in the winter time," Morse said. She said that she found it was a fun and interac-



Jack Lambert / The Observer

Though labeled the Undie Run, students could wear what they felt comfortable in.

tive way to get people involved and to educate them on what abuse really is. She and Watson agreed that the run is a great way to spread awareness and information to ultimately help prevent domestic abuse altogether.

Though titled "The Undie Run," the runners could show up wearing their normal clothes if they wanted. This helped support the message that clothes do not give consent because one should be able to wear whatever they feel good in, without fear of abuse.

The race started at 5 p.m. sharp, right after the runners had a chance to register and stretch. During the run, stations

were set up with interactive games; all of which focused on domestic violence, in addition to speakers who helped spread awareness as a means of prevention. After all that excitement, students were welcomed to a post-run BBQ.

It was the hope of everyone putting this event together that it was not only educational, but also fun.

Morse also encourages students who are or know someone who is a victim to not stay a victim.

Aspen is a 24-hour abuse support foundation that is co-hosting the run, and they are available to listen and help at (509) 925-9384.



the

Are Marijuana Breathalyzers the Answer?

By Kyle Kuhn
cwuobservernews@gmail.com | @CWUObserver

Breathalyzers may not be the long-term answer to determining if a marijuana smoker is too impaired to drive, but a proven, field-tested breathalyzer would be more accurate as to when marijuana was ingested as well as a much quicker overall process. It would also provide authorities with a more accurate number.

“It’s challenging to know what to do with the measurement of THC in blood,” said Mike Lynn, CEO and co-founder of Hound Labs. “It’s hard to know if someone smoked recently, or if they’re just a heavy smoker and they have a lot in their bloodstream.”

Hound Labs currently has a pending patent on a proprietary technolo-

gy that could give police departments a portable device that does a better job of determining a driver’s level of impairment. (Cannbix Technologies, which is also working on a marijuana breathalyzer, declined to be interviewed for this story.)

Similar to alcohol breathalyzers, it works by detecting the levels of THC in a person’s breath, which Lynn said only stays active for about two to three hours after smoking. That’s a much more accurate process than blood tests, which can still detect marijuana up to a month after ingestion.

Lynn noted these are similar standards to which the alcohol test was made and felt it should be applied to marijuana use as well.

“By measuring it that way, we know

if someone has smoked within that time period and we can correlate that level in breath with their actual driving impairment,” Lynn said.

For Lynn, an ER physician and reserve deputy sheriff, it was important to create something that gives authorities data that could help them make better decisions.

“By adding breath, we know if someone smoked very recently. That helps to set those standards and allows us to start getting people off the road that are truly impaired, rather than the person who smoked yesterday that happens to have THC still in their blood stream,” Lynn said. “Our intent is to identify those who truly shouldn’t be driving and leave everybody else alone.”

WASH STATE limit

The Problem With Using Blood Tests in Marijuana DUI Cases

By Kyle Kuhn

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Almost four years after legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, Washington law enforcement continues to use blood tests to help determine a driver's level of impairment in marijuana-related DUI cases, because it's all they have.

Not only is it a slow process—for both suspect and police—but it's also inaccurate for determining when marijuana was used and whether or not the driver was even impaired.

"There really is no definitive test for that," said Moe Spencer, a marijuana criminal defense attorney. "It's all a guessing game."

The legal limit for marijuana in the state of Washington has been five nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood since it was first legalized for recreational use. While some argue that the limit is too low, Spencer consistently argues that "it's just going to show how much is in your system" at the time blood was drawn, which is typically long after the traffic stop.

Because of the way marijuana is metabolized in the body, toxicologists can sometimes find traces of it a month after it was ingested, Spencer said.

"If you pumped my stomach and saw that I had a ham and cheese sandwich, and the report verifies that, it won't say that the ham and cheese sandwich affected me or gave me the runs," Spencer said as an example of what the blood tests actually do. "A blood test will never, ever, tell you when it [marijuana] was ingested."

And in no case is the number from the test results ever going to be 100 percent accurate, according to Brianna Peterson, manager of the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory.

"The concentration in the blood was probably much higher at the time of driving," she said.

Lt. Rob Sharpe, section commander of the drug evaluation program for the Washington State Patrol, said the amount and quality of training that drug recognition experts (DREs) go through provides

solid evidence for officers to make an informed decision as to whether or not they should take a driver off the road.

"Your arrest should stand up without a breathe or blood test," said Sgt. Ray Cedeno of the Ellensburg Police Department.

To many officers, the blood-test results are just a number to back up their observations. That's why so many DUI cases—whether from marijuana, alcohol, or controlled substances—are heavily based upon officers' observations from the standard field sobriety test (SFST).

The SFST is the most common way for officers to determine whether a driver is impaired. It includes a series of three tests: following the light with your eyes, the walk-and-turn, and the one-leg stand test.

The American Automobile Association recently released a study comparing the SFST test results of 602 drivers found with only marijuana in their system, against 349 volunteers who were sober. One of the eye-opening findings was that only 55.5 percent of the sober participants passed the walk-and-turn test perfectly. While drivers under the influence of marijuana did do considerably worse at the test, it supports those who contend that the level of THC in the blood should not be a determining factor. The study also notes that some of the 80 percent who failed the SFST were found to be below the five-nanogram marijuana limit, while 30 percent of the people who passed the test were also found to have marijuana in their system of one nanogram or more. Typically, medical marijuana users will frequently test higher than five nanograms, whether or not they've recently ingested.

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission has noticed a spike in deadly crashes where the driver tested positive for marijuana. The commission's data shows that from 2013 to 2014, this

statistic increased by 48 percent. That same year Washington rolled out its "Target Zero" plan, which aims for zero highway traffic deaths by the year 2030.

For the Ellensburg Police Department (EPD), DUIs related to marijuana-impaired driving have not increased since the department started tracking it in 2014, even though it doesn't count marijuana-related DUIs as a separate statistic. It's for that reason—along with Ellensburg's close proximity to a Washington State Patrol office and the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office—that Capt. Dan Hansberry of the EPD doesn't see the need to have a drug recognition expert on staff.

"If Ellensburg needs a DRE we will share any resources," said Sgt. Mark Crandall, DRE/ SFST State Program coordinator. The Kittitas County Sheriff's Department is also mandated to share its resources.

Either way, a DRE is not needed for an officer to make an arrest, because "it's impossible to have a DRE at every arrest," Crandall said, but it does put a heavier burden on the arresting officer.

The DRE program costs about \$3,000 per officer. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission puts out grants to pay for the cost of the classes, Crandall said, but the department sponsoring the officer fronts the cost of living while the officer is training, along with on-duty time, gas, and travel.

A marijuana breathalyzer could change the game, as it would better pinpoint how recently marijuana was ingested. There are such devices on the market, but many authorities, including the WSP, believe they haven't been thoroughly tested. So until that day comes, Washington's public safety officers say they're comfortable continuing to use the blood tests.

Lights, camera, action

Ellensburg Film Festival showcases films from around the world

By Ryan Kinker

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After drifting throughout Ellensburg over the years, the Ellensburg Film Festival hopes to have found its permanent home on campus this fall.

McConnell Hall, home to CWU's theatre arts department, will host the 12th annual Ellensburg Film Festival this Friday through Sunday. Jon Ward, co-director of CWU's film program, believes that the move to McConnell will help the festival draw in more people every year.

"A lot of my favorite film festivals were always the ones that were in a very controlled community, like RiverRun International Film Festival" in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Ward said.

"The [theater] screens are very close to each other. You get caught up in the festive atmosphere. I thought if we could have our screens next to each other, like in McConnell Hall, with a food truck outside, a beer garden as well, you have reason to park and stay for the whole day and see some films you haven't seen."

Rebecca Starkey, a senior film major who also serves as the president of Wildcat Films, be-

lieves McConnell Hall can be a lasting location where students can get to without much stress.

"I think for students it's a lot easier to be in one place because a lot of students don't have cars," Starkey said.

"I don't want to go somewhere else. Or I'll get side tracked and think 'I could watch a show on Netflix,' but these films are only here for a limited time and I should [go to] that."

Ward said the effort to make the move to McConnell Hall was a group decision between all the parties involved in the festival, including Scott Robinson, the theatre department chair, and Ralla Vickers, the Ellensburg Film Festival Coordinator.

"Dr. [Liahna] Armstrong and I were appointed as co-directors of the film program this last year, and as we looked at things that would benefit film students, the Ellensburg Film Festival came up," Ward said.

"The positive atmosphere of a film festival is that our students typically submit films to film festivals, but wouldn't it be good for students to see the other side of the process?"

Part of working to continue our relationship with the festival is we get to see films from all over the world in one condensed

time period."

The festival consists of screenings of over 40 films, including shorts, feature-length films and documentaries. They will be shown in McConnell, the Tower Theatre and Screening Room 119 across the three-day festival.

In addition to the screening of select films, the festival will screen "Show Us Your Shorts," a contest last weekend where groups had just 72 hours to make a 10-minute short film.

On Saturday from noon to 1 p.m., the Hal Holmes Center will have a free showing of the Teenage Film Festival, after which "The Jungle Book" will be shown from 1:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Ellensburg Film Festival will begin Friday at 4 p.m. in the McConnell Auditorium with a free screening of "Projections of America," a documentary by visiting distinguished professor of film, Ian Scott, from the University of Manchester.

Narrated by John Lithgow, the film looks at American propaganda movies from the World War II era that were not shown to the public.

"Dr. Scott is going to introduce the film, and I'm encouraging all of our film students to go," Ward said. "It's a great way to kick off the festival ... [and] sample the festival for free. We have a new projection system [in McConnell]. It's a very nice viewing theater now."

2016 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE				
VENUE	McConnell	Tower	Screening Room 119	
FRIDAY	4 PM			
	5 PM	Opening Night Cocktails 420 Gallery 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Boone Abandoned Generations 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	
	7 PM		Dugma: The Button Home 8:00 pm - 9:20 pm	
	8 PM	Embrace of the Serpent Another Empty Space 7:30 pm - 9:45 pm		
	10 PM			
SATURDAY	11 AM	The Burden The Story of the Friends 11:00 am - 12:00 noon	Zona Intangible Corazon Salvaje - Children and War 10:30 am - 12:05 pm	
	NOON		I Wish I Was That Bird Thunderstorm in My Brain 12:30 pm - 1:40 pm	
	1 PM	Promised Land Lamp - A Ghost Story 1:00 pm - 2:55 pm	Daddy Don't Go Eleven 2:00 pm - 3:35 pm	
	2 PM		The Messenger Moon of a Sleepless Night 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm	
	3 PM			
	4 PM			
	5 PM			
	6 PM	SEARCHDOG Starry Night 5:30 pm - 7:20 pm	Show Us Your Shorts 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	
	7 PM		Occupants Dreamkeeper 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	
	8 PM	Secret Film 48 Hour Friends 8:00 pm - 9:40 pm		
	9 PM			
	12 PM			
SUNDAY	11 AM		Children of the Arctic Rust 11:00 am - 12:25 pm	Failed Sprint to the Past - Pan Zhong 11:00 am - 11:55 am
	NOON	Boone Abandoned Generations 11:30 am - 12:55 pm	The Ability Exchange The Autumn Waltz 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Ceiling Fan - Carbon This Pretty Face - The Call 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
	1 PM	The Brand New Testament The Bus Stop 1:30 pm - 3:40 pm	The Unknown Sea Dead Mall - The Ethermalt 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	
	2 PM		Dark Horse Balls and Hooks 4:30 pm - 6:05 pm	
	3 PM			
	4 PM			
	5 PM	Sonita Micah J - Live From McConnell Hall 4:30 pm - 6:15 pm		
	6 PM			
	7 PM	Hunt for the Wilderpeople A Gentleman's Hold-Up 7:00 pm - 8:50 pm		
8 PM				
9 PM				

You get very caught up in the festive atmosphere.

-Jon Ward, co-director of CWU's Film program

Festival Ticket Prices

STUDENTS:

Each movie: \$3

3-Day pass: \$10

PUBLIC:

Each movie: \$6

SixTIX Deal: \$30

3-day Pass & T-shirt: \$50

Float the river to help clean the canyon

Jacob Quinn

jocularjakoby@gmail.com

While many students slept in Saturday morning, a few decided that floating down the Yakima River Canyon was more fun. The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) partnered with Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to bring back the Yakima River Canyon Float for the third year in a row to help clean the canyon and give freshmen a fun opportunity to gain community service hours. CLCE program manager Kim Jellison said the event was "open to all students."

"It's fun," said Jasmine Bustamante, a senior accounting major and one of the event's leaders, "floating with different international students, getting to know them, getting to know new students I've never met before."

The Yakima River Canyon Float is just one of the many programs the CLCE puts on every weekend with the exception of Homecoming. The ultimate goal of these projects is to cultivate leadership opportunities for students of all walks of life, even those who have little to no desire to lead anyone.

"I don't really like putting myself on the spot much, but these events help me gain more experience to do so," Bustamante said.

The Yakima River Canyon Float ran from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers were driven to Umtanum Canyon trailhead, where they met the OPR assigned guides, picked up supplies, blew up their rafts and began the float downstream.

The initial float was the most relaxing aspect of the day, where students enjoyed the countryside and snatched up any litter they spotted along the way. The group was then shuttled off to Big Pines, the biggest recreation site out of the four rec sites in Yakima Canyon.

The students trail-brushed (helping clear the trail of debris), picked up litter, stained the kiosk boards along the trail, and pulled weeds such as Russian Thistle for two hours. Afterwards, the volunteers broke for lunch and continued on to Roza, another rec site, where they worked in the canyon until they finally headed back to campus.

"Companies look for this [volunteer experiences] on resumes — how much you've given back to your communities," Jellison



Courtesy of CLCE / The Observer

Volunteers grab their tools and trek out into the canyon to begin their long day of community service

said.

The event is not just a win for the students and nature, it also takes a load off the BLM, the organization responsible for the care and cultivation of the Yakima River Canyon parks and river. The BLM only has two park rangers allotted for all the care and upkeep of the 214-mile-

long river and the rec sites surrounding it.

The rangers maintain the multitude of campsites, picnic tables and fire rings, as well as the nearby dumpsters and vault toilets, and give information to visitors and guide hikers. They also provide first aid to visitors in the event of rattlesnake bites

and bee stings.

"It's a big canyon and we help them out," Jellison said. "There are gonna be students that are here on campus for four years who have never been out and looked at what this area has to offer. It's a beautiful countryside and a great way to bridge students with their community."

SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Wakeboard places fourth in nationals

By Natalie Hyland

Neither CWU junior Cole Osborn nor CWU Wake Team President Tyler Starks had much wakeboarding experienced before joining the group in college.

Osborn, a snowboarder, grew to feel right at home on a wakeboard, while Starks grew up on the water, surfing. However, both can agree that the speed they felt on a wakeboard played a large part in joining the Wake Club.

While the rest of CWU students settled in for the new school year, Osborn, Kelsey Anderson, Teagan Wylie, Shane Armstrong, Devin Carlisle and Tyler Ziemek were in Florida competing in the USA Water Ski Nationals. According to the 2016 Collegiate Wakeboard Nationals results, Anderson won the Women's B division and Wylie placed second in Women's A.

Overall, CWU placed fourth with 293 points, only a mere two points behind Michigan State's score of 295. CWU competed against 12 Division I schools and one Division II school.

Osborn won the Wakeskate event with a score of 56.67.

"It was pretty crazy... Everyone was going nuts," Osborn said.

Although the 2016 USA Water Ski Nationals are the most recent major accomplishment for the CWU Wake Club, they are definitely no strangers to the

Wake Club meetings

When: Thursdays

Where: SURC 201

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

limelight. The team has been consecutively recognized as a force to be reckoned with for the better part of the last decade, including winning Collegiate Wakeboard Nationals in 2013.

The wake season runs from early spring to late fall through both the USA Waterski and Empire Wake Leagues, but the team practices most of the year either in the water at the Selah pit or on trampolines.

"If you've never stepped on a wakeboard [or] you've ridden your entire life, anyone is welcome," Starks said.

Students can expect a CWU Wake Team video announcing their next fundraiser. Fundraisers in the past have included raffles and symposiums, but a big help to the CWU Wake Club are their sponsors, including Northwest Riders, Ronix, Elevated Clothing, Findlay Hats and Hyperlite.

The next big event for the CWU Wake Team is the USA Waterski Regionals on Oct. 22 in Sacramento, California, which could qualify CWU for next year's Collegiate Wakeboard Nationals.



Courtesy of CWU Wake Team

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MACKENZIE NOLTE



By Mitchell Johnson
johnsomitc@cwu.edu | @SportsWithMitch

When junior outside midfielder Mackenzie Nolte's mom suggested she should try soccer after gymnastics became too expensive, a very young Nolte did not like the idea very much.

"I'm like, 'No I don't think I'll like it,'" Nolte said.

Luckily, Nolte listened to her mom because she's been playing soccer since she was 6 years old.

Like most kids starting out, she played recreational soccer for the first three seasons before making the not-so-easy transition to club soccer. Nolte joined her first club soccer team when she was 9 years old, and did not play very much and the head coach did not even know her name.

Nolte then joined another select team when she was 14 years old. She really liked the coach, but he could not help her grow any more as a player.

Her friend encouraged Nolte to join Snohomish United soccer team, where the same problem occurred.

Nolte joined Northwest Nationals Premier Soccer Club for her final year before college soccer. She felt like she grew a lot as a soccer player under head coach Scott Newman. Their team won the state championship and lost in the semi-finals of regionals.

Newman has also coached three other CWU soccer players:

junior midfielder Alyssa Navlet, junior defender Shaina Mitchell and sophomore defender Emily Minogue.

"Our team only had one sub every game, so everyone on the team, we all had to do

everything we could every game," Mitchell said. "Mackenzie I don't think ever got subbed out of the game."

Nolte played for Marysville-Pilchuck High School, where she called it "sort of competitive." She worked well with Amanda Klep, who was a striker for Concordia University, before injuries eventually barred Klep from playing.

"We were always encouraging each other and pushing each other to do better and I grew a lot because of her," Nolte said. "I looked up to her as a player, I wanted to be just as good as Amanda, I wanted to keep up with her."

In Nolte's junior year of high school, she began to find her true spot on the soccer field as an

**"I definitely had to rise to the occasion. I'm still doing that everyday."
-Mackenzie Nolte**

outside midfielder with an emphasis in attacking. "The goals started coming and I found my love for attacking," Nolte said.

Nolte played all four years on the varsity soccer team, making the second team all league as a junior and first team as a senior.

While Nolte considered Seattle Pacific University and Western Washington University, she knew exactly where she wanted to go.

"I didn't have any strong interest to go anywhere else" besides CWU, Nolte said.

She liked how Ellensburg was centrally located in the state, not too far from her hometown of Marysville.

When head coach Michael Farrand talked to Nolte about joining the Wildcats, he was honest about what she would have to do.

"One of the first things we told her, if she came to us she'd have to work harder because her technical skills didn't match our game," Farrand said. "Mackenzie's physical attributes far outweigh most the girls she matches up with, so that part of the game is pretty easy for her. Here...possession-counterattack requires more thinking and a lot more play off the ball, which is something she didn't have to do at the club level."

Nolte agrees that her freshman year was rough because she had to adjust to being on such a technical team.

"I had to work really hard and it

almost felt like I was learning a whole new language in a whole different sport because the way he plays and teaches us is different than any kind of coaching I've ever had. It's a whole new world," Nolte said. "The positioning, the way the spacing works and how the passing works is unlike anything you'll see in the Northwest."

In her first season Nolte played in all 19 games for the Wildcats and started in 15 games, leading the team with eight goals and coming in second on the team with four assists. In Nolte's sophomore year, she felt like the expectations were much higher because now she should know what to do.

"I felt like I had the knowledge to be successful," Nolte said.

Nolte played in every game last season, and started in three games. She scored four goals, tied for second-highest on the team, while she led in assists with six.

"I definitely had to rise to the occasion; I'm still doing that everyday," Nolte said.

After Tuesday's 1-1 draw with SPU, Nolte has played in all 11 games, starting in five, and leading the team with three goals.

Mitchell acknowledges some improvements Nolte has made.

"This past year her first touch has been insane. I've seen her work on that outside of practice on her own to extreme lengths," Mitchell said.

Nolte majors in psychology and leans towards sociology as a minor. She wants to be a sports psychologist.

"That parallels a lot with what I go through everyday," Nolte said.

"And I believe in it wholeheartedly that your mental game is everything."

**"There's no doubt, Mackenzie's one of the best athletes we've had here."
-Head Coach Michael Farrand**

SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Hawks quarterly review

By Ryan Kinker

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Russell Wilson is clearly superhuman. Playing with an MCL sprain against the New York Jets and its "human turn-over machine" known as Ryan Fitzpatrick, Wilson went out and played a perfect game without the full use of his legs, giving Seattle a 27-17 victory.

Wilson's ability to play through pain, as well as being effective without his trademark mobility, is single handedly the reason the Seattle Seahawks sit at a 3-1 record a quarter of the way through the 2016 NFL season.

It would be remiss to not mention that the defense is currently first in third-down percentage allowed (30.4 percent), second in yards allowed per game (264), and third in points allowed (13.5) behind two undefeated teams, Minnesota (4-0) and Philadelphia (3-0). The defense has given up the least amount of points the last three seasons and it hopes to continue that streak this year.

While the defense is obviously the strength of Seattle's team, a defense cannot win games alone. Christine Michael appears to be a real contributor and C.J. Spiller has only been in town for a week after being cut by the New Orleans Saints, but the stable of running backs is

What's on tap for the Seahawks

Week 5: Bye Week

Week 6: Falcons

Week 7: At Cardinals

averaging a combined paltry 3.7 yards per carry. Thomas Rawls is out for an extended period of time for the second-straight season, and no one is sure if he truly is the heir to former running back Marshawn Lynch.

Rookie backup quarterback Trevone Boykin isn't ready to be a quality starter in this league and he might not ever be. Not re-signing former backup quarterback Tarvaris Jackson was clearly a cap decision, but Boykin has an uphill climb to relevance in the NFL, even as a backup.

Wilson's pass catchers have done their jobs, primarily Doug Baldwin, Paul Richardson and Jimmy Graham. On a side note, I ruptured my patellar tendon in 2006 playing youth football and it took me seven months to be able to fully extend my knee and walk. The fact that Graham has come back at such an elite level, less than a year after rupturing his patellar tendon, both amazes and terrifies me. There's nothing this man can't do.

The offensive line is just as much of a mess as it has been since the departure of the Super Bowl XLVIII winning line of, center Max Unger, tackle Russell Okung, guard J.R. Sweezy, tackle Breno Giacomini and guard James Carpenter. Young high-draft picks such as Justin Britt and Germain Ife-di look like they can become top-level contributors one day (especially with Britt's success since moving to center), but the rest of the line is held together by the NFL's equivalent of super glue: late-round draft picks and lower-tier free agents.

Not investing in more talent for the offensive line is not a sustainable practice for the team and Wilson is too valuable of an asset to have on the ground losing yards and risking injury. Cam Newton and Andrew Luck have proved repeatedly that they can endure 20 or more hits a game, but they are both half a foot taller than Wilson. That half foot in height means Newton and Luck match the size of most of the defensive linemen bringing them to the ground, not like the smaller Wilson.

Despite issues in the backfield and along the offensive line, Wilson and the defense have kept the team on track to make it to the playoffs, and their efforts illustrate why the Seahawks are still among the elite teams in the league.



Courtesy of Wikipedia



Special DINNER

Wednesday, October 12

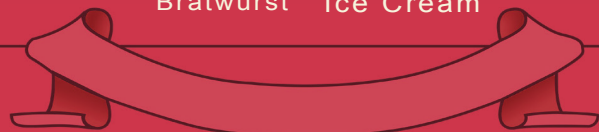
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MENU

Meat & Cheese Platter	Grilled Onions
Kale & Pear Salad	Sauerkraut
German Vegetable Soup	Pork & Beer Stew
German Harvest Salad	Quinoa Stuffed Squash
Roasted Root Vegetables	Pretzel Bread & Butter
Potato Pancakes	German Chocolate Cake
German Sausage	Spiced Cider
Bratwurst	Ice Cream



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2016 ELLENSBURG FILM FESTIVAL KICK-OFF

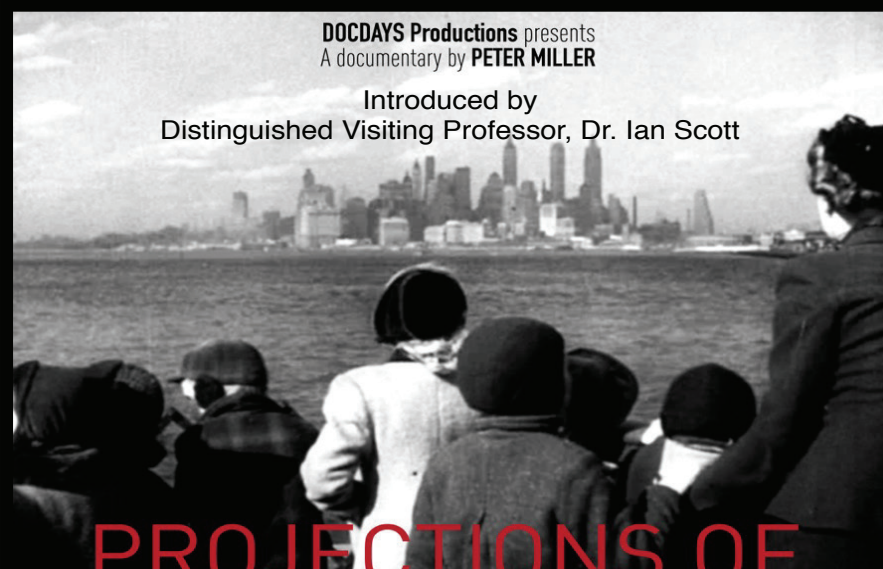
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4 p.m.

Friday, October 7th, 2016

McConnell Hall Theatre

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PROJECTIONS OF AMERICA



SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Thornley hired as new rugby coach

CWU Graduate Assistant replaces Tony Pacheco in top job

By Glendal Tautua

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The diaspora of professional and collegiate rugby players is a widespread net that stretches over multiple continents, countries and tiny islands scattered in the South Pacific. Since it is an international sport, the love for the game of rugby takes players all over the world to chase their dreams. The same goes for new head rugby coach Todd Thornley.

Thornley, a New Zealand native, has been playing rugby since he was four-years old and hasn't missed a beat since. He spent time interning as a coach for the men's rugby team in Samoa and before becoming an assistant coach here at CWU for the last two years, Thornley was an assistant coach for Dartmouth College.

After Tony Pacheco stepped down as the head coach in May, Thornley was named CWU's head rugby coach in July. He is looking forward to the opportunity and is excited for the opportunity to focus on mentoring young men and students.

For Thornley, the opportunity to impact young men's lives and watch them develop into better



Courtesy of CWU Athletics

people are his favorite parts of coaching.

Flanker and junior Captain Vili Toluta'u attests to these attributes as he explained some of the new core values that Thornley has implemented since becoming head coach.

Thornley "set up core values which are brotherhood, growth and discipline," Toluta'u said. "He has a motto which we are expected to live up to which is, 'a great

Todd Thornley

Hometown: Blenheim, New Zealand

Coaching Career:

-Assistant Coach at Dartmouth College

-Graduate Assistant at CWU

Fun Fact: Played and coached the Calgary Saints in 2015



Courtesy of CWU

player when it's rugby time, a great student when it's academic time, a great person all the time."

Toluta'u, who was born and raised in Maui, is one of many players who have traveled a long way from home to play for CWU and believes Thornley has the ability to lead them to the long-time sought after Rugby College National Championship.

On the field, players agree that Thornley's approach and ideologies set the tone for their upcoming

season. Second-year flanker Simone Ratukalou, says the way Thornley has taught the players to represent themselves on and off the field will help them win games.

"It shows in our attitude. The way we represent ourselves outside of the field will automatically help us on the field," Ratukalou said. "The kind of mentality Todd teaches will help us grow as a team, having one mind and unity

to win nationals."

As the offseason workouts and team meetings begin, there is no denying the feeling of excitement and optimism flowing around the future of the CWU men's rugby team. Thornley's approaches have influenced the team to learn and grow as a unit.

"At the end of the day, it is for our young men to become mature and better people," Thornley said.

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In Gardner's record-setting season, the Lumberjacks went an unblemished 6-0 in GNAC play and 10-2 overall. The team advanced to the second round of the Division II Football Championship before being beaten by eventual Division II champion Northwest Missouri State.

Junior defensive back Jackson Huerta said the entire defense is looking forward to facing the top offense in the GNAC.

"We're always up for a big challenge," Huerta

said. "We consider ourselves one of the better defenses in the GNAC, so the only way to prove that is to go against the best. They have two great players in their quarterback and running back, but it'll be a good test.

Head coach Ian Shoemaker, who is now in his third season at CWU, knows that stopping Gardner from gaining steam early in games is key to pulling out a road win.

"You obviously have to plan for where [Humboldt State's] strengths are," Shoemaker said. "[Humboldt State's strength] is their two backs [Gardner and Weber]. They're the focal points of their offensive system. We need to stop the run and con-

trol that first and foremost the best we can."

After a rough start to the season on the defensive side, the Wildcats are putting it together. They gave up 30 points per game and 394 offensive yards per game over the first three games of the season, but CWU has locked down in the past two weeks, only allowing 12 points per game and 300 offensive yards.

While CWU's last two opponents hold a combined 2-8 record, Huerta believes that

the recent success on the defensive side of the ball is about more than the talent level they face.

"We're defining ourselves in the last couple of weeks defensively, so we're excited to show that off again this week," Huerta said. "This is going to be a tougher opponent and we want to prove that the last two weeks weren't because of the opponent. We want to show that we're the real deal this year."

For some of the upperclassmen, however, a game against Humboldt State isn't just about proving their worth on the defensive side of the ball. CWU is 3-5 against Humboldt State since 2011, and senior linebacker Blake Williams-Miller wants to see another victory against one of the perennial contenders of the GNAC.

"We haven't beaten



Xander Yu/The Observer

Defensive back Tristan Wedington coming out of the smoke filled tunnel pregame.

Humboldt in a while," Williams-Miller said. "So we definitely want to go out there and change that streak."

The fact that Humboldt State has the best offense in the conference (averaging 41.6 points per game and 503 yards per game) doesn't seem to concern Williams-Miller more than any other opponent does.

"We don't pay attention to who's leading what. We know that every game we have to go out and win," Williams-Miller said. "We don't care if we're facing the top offense in the GNAC or the bottom offense, we're going to go out and win every down and every game."

'Cats vs. 'Jacks

Date: October 8

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Arcata, California

Stream: Wildcatsports.com