All Hallows’ events

By Lindsey Powers

Part of what makes Halloween fun is the ambiance created by spooky music; luckily, the CWU music program is providing the tunes as a part of their Halloween Spooktakular on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. The CWU Orchestra will be performing music composed by Mozart, Revueltas, Holst and John Williams.

Ellensburg’s Halloween Haunt

Restaurant Inspections Reveal Local Highs and Lows

How an Inspection Works

Desirable health-inspection scores aren’t comparable to the scores you want in your next Candy Crush game. In fact, it’s just the opposite: the best score an establishment can get is a zero. The higher the number, the more world of hurt a business can find itself in. But it’s not so black and white.

Tristen Lamb, who secondarily introduces herself as “Pizza Colin’s wife,” is one of the few local health inspectors in Ellensburg.

“There’s a big disconnect between the public and what they think we do, and what we actually do. Like what causes food-borne illness versus someone’s dirty bathroom,” Lamb explained. “I don’t care about someone’s dirty bathroom. In fact, I’ve seen really beautiful bathrooms with really disgusting kitchens, so it’s not necessarily a good indicator.”

By Kailan Manandic

Updates on the local Not In Our Kittitas County (NIOKC) movement:

• Movement members hope to have posters, flyers and yard signs ready for distribution by the end of this week.
• NIOKC will have a table at the Ellensburg farmers market to hand out posters, flyers and yard signs ready for distribution by the end of this week.
• NIOKC now has an Instagram page, @notinourkittco, a twitter profile, @notinourkittco1 and a Facebook page labeled Not In Our Kitt Co.

By Ryan Kinker

Finding a new hobby can be a difficult endeavor, especially for an adult. For CWU apparel, textiles and merchandising professor Andrea Eklund, adopting roller derby as a hobby was simple after years of roller skating as a teenager.

“I always loved skating as a kid,” Eklund said. “I still have my roller skates from when I was in the sixth grade. Every time I moved, my husband asked, ‘Can we get rid of these?’ and I’d be like, ‘No!’”

Eklund was introduced to the sport of roller derby by one of her husband’s co-workers while living on the west side of Washington State and, from there, a passion grew.

“I went to a roller derby boot camp in Seattle at Rat City [Rollergirls],” Eklund said. “I wore these skates from sixth grade along with my husband’s dirt bike pads and a bicycle helmet. It was [very]judo-odge-podge.”

After moving to Ellensburg, Eklund yearned to bring derby to the area. She was involved in setting up the first meeting to gauge interest in creating a team in October 2010.

Ricki Towner, who works as a project coordinator in the Publicity Center, was another woman interested in starting roller derby in Ellensburg when the first meeting was held.

“I started it with a couple other women,” Towner said. “We just gained momentum from there. We had about 30 people show up—it was awesome. We had our first bout in June 2011.”

Roller derby brings together women from across the community

By Brielle Rutledge

After recently scouring public records of restaurant health inspections in Ellensburg, it’s safe to say that just because Yelp said a restaurant is a good place to eat doesn’t necessarily mean that the health inspectors agree.

Most places have been deemed “safe” within the last year, but what exactly does that mean for consumers going out for a meal around town?

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While marijuana users are less likely to be linked with violence than other drug users, they're restricted from buying guns.

“The United States v. Carter case established the link between drug use and violence is enough to prohibit marijuana users from owning a gun. The case states that people, prisoners or those on probation who committed violent felonies were 10 times more likely to be linked to violence than other drugs. The court argued that correlation vs. causation doesn’t matter, a simple link between drug use and violence is enough to prohibit marijuana users from owning a gun. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor drugs, a commonly prescribed anti-depressant, are 10 times more likely to be linked to violence than other drugs. People suffering from depression can buy guns.

By Jonathan Olsen-Koziol
news@cwuobserver.com | @JonKoziol

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on Aug. 31 that marijuana users cannot possess or own firearms because it makes them subject to "irrational and unpredictable behavior." Marijuana is still Schedule I drug and is therefore deemed to have no medicinal use. This allows the court to label cannabis users as drug addicts. Drug addicts cannot buy guns under federal law.

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The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse states 86 percent of alcohol-related incidents last year. The New York Times reports that cannabis users cannot possess or own firearms because it makes them subject to "irrational and unpredictable behavior." Marijuana is still Schedule I drug and is therefore deemed to have no medicinal use. This allows the court to label cannabis users as drug addicts. Drug addicts cannot buy guns under federal law.

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Eburg locals push for downtown hotel

By Samuel Beaumonte
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Hotel Realty NW (HRNW) reported on the market feasibility of a proposed hotel downtown Ellensburg last September, sparking interest among members of the city council and local businesses.

“I think realistically it’ll be about two to three years until everything comes together,” said Bruce Tabb, Ellensburg city council member. “But this is another step to make downtown a vital part of this community and the more economically viable downtown becomes the more attractive it is for everyone.”

Ellensburg was founded in 1883 and hasn’t had a hotel in its downtown district for awhile. Despite this, it managed to get by with hotels near the interstate and in the surrounding community. “[Visitors] can potentially stay up by the interstate, but there are a lot of people who would prefer not to,” Tabb said. “From my perspective it helps in the unique [hotel] recruiting efforts. I think it helps all the businesses downtown because it brings more people in.”

Munson Hall, which opened to students this year, has a floor typically reserved for conference guests and visitors, which could house nearly 30 individuals. The floor will not be available by with hotels near the interstate and in the surrounding communities.

By April Porter
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Goodbye Old Heat. Hello Brook Lane.

The Allied People Offering Year-Round Outreach (APOYO) food bank, is moving from the Old Heat building to a location on Brook Lane.

Philip Garrison and his wife are the primary owners of APOYO which serves a primarily Latino community. It is a non-profit organization that provides food and clothing to those who need it.

Old Heat is currently being remodeled, according to Kandee Cleary, vice president for inclusivity and diversity. CWU has had an agreement to remodel the building for many years and it was because of the Old Heat remodel that they gave a new agreement for APOYO to move locations.

CWU received funding from the government to remodel Old Heat which will add new offices and a welcome center, said Sarah Swager, CWU Dean of Student Success.

Swager said the new location for APOYO is a free-standing house located on the intersection of Brook Lane and 18th St. “The location is ‘right on the bus route,’” Swager said. “Hopefully it will be helpful to those who use the bus system.”

Additionally, the house will be remodeled to fit the needs of APOYO. A portable storage container will also be provided from CWU to be used at the new location.

All of APOYO’s supplies, including the bigger items like the refrigerators, are still at Old Heat but will be moved with some help from volunteers in the next two to three weeks.

Manuel Rodriguez, a CWU student, started as a volunteer for APOYO and now connects students to the organization as a staff member. Rodriguez works with students to put packages together and run clothing and food drives.

Students hope to also organize fundraisers later this year. Rodriguez said she is excited for the new location to open its doors and work on more outdoor programming.

APOYO “has a significantly positive influence on the community,” Rodriguez said. “I’m glad students are volunteering.”

APOYO will continue to provide internship and volunteer opportunities to students as they move to their larger location.

“It’s kind of a win for everybody,” Cleary said.
Celebrate the Final Leg of the 2016 Presidential Election

Watch history unfold. Enjoy Food and Giveaways!

November 8th
@ 6pm In the SURC Pit

Computers provided for voting, and displays with information about issues on the ballot.

An official ballot box is also available outside of the SURC. Anybody can drop off their ballot; it will be delivered to the county of origin, no stamp is needed.

Watch LIVE Election Coverage All Day

Learn about the issues hosted by ASCWU Office of Legislative Affairs and the Center for Leadership & Community Engagement

8 am - 8 pm | SURC 137

Hosted by ASCWU Student Government and Center for Leadership & Community Engagement

CWU is an AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation: DS@cwu.edu
Leaving your costume-shaming at home this year

By Sarah Hoot
HootS@cwu.edu

Alright class, let me lay down the law for you really quick about my second favorite holiday, Halloween. Because you ask me why I love Thanksgiving because who doesn’t love a holiday centered around food?... Anyways, the reason I love Halloween is because for one day out of the year you get to dress up and act completely different from your usual self.

Costumes are the best part of Halloween, you can get as creative as possible, party so hard and, due to it being 2016, you can find a costume for whatever your little heart desires.

So if you would like to be a bumblebee or a hot dog or a princess or whatever, you can find a costume for whatever your little heart desires.

But some people who just like to be dorks like to throw some hardcore shade at the women (or men) who like to wear “sexy” costumes. This really colors my pencils because even though I personally don’t like wearing costumes that are super short or revealing, there are people who love dressing like that because why the heck not? It’s Halloween.

Halloween, like I said, is a time for people to be someone else, they can act completely different from who they are normally.

Those that are more conservative can dress up like a saucy tart if they want to and those that just like dressing sexy, guess what? THEY CAN TOO! Don’t hate on them because they are confident in who they are and they want to flaunt what they got. SO LEAVE THEM ALONE!

Also another problem that these costume haters have created is the idea, dressing like girls (or guys) who dress a little sexier on Halloween are asking to be raped or assaulted.

WHAT THE ACTUAL CRAP? Like seriously? A person’s costume (or really anything they wear) is an invitation for rape? What grown adult actually thinks this? A costume is a form of expression and people should be able to safely express who they are without fear. COSTUMES ARE NOT CONSENT!

That being said there are times an overly sexy or more mature costume is maybe not a good idea.

For instance, if you are going to an event where there will be lots of families with little kids like Boo Central, your Little Red Riding Hood costume with its short little skirt and top that barely covers your huge tracts of land may be better left at home until a party it’s more suited for.

Now, I am sure that there are people out there like me who are accepting of those who like to wear sexy Halloween costumes but don’t want to wear one themselves. That brings up another problem with the flood of sexy costumes, it is really hard to find one that is normal and doesn’t show every inch of your body. But there is hope for you! With the help of Goodwill, Village, Amazon and other stores it is possible to make your own costume (and those are often cheaper than buying one from the store). Then you can design a costume to your liking and be as sexy or conservative as you like.

So if you see someone who is dressed a little “sexy” on Halloween before hating on the fact that they are dressed like that why don’t you try complimenting them (in an appropriate way) first.

If you see someone who is being harassed about their outfit or just in general, help them out because everyone deserves to have a fun and safe Halloween.

And if you are one of the people who loves to dress a little “sexy” on Halloween, you do you! Don’t let people be a little raincloud of hatred on your Halloween. You go be spooky! I support you!
Inspections are broken down into two different categories: red and blue points. The blue points are typically no big deal and never exceed five points for each violation, ranging from food being correctly labeled to ensuring single-use items are properly stored. The health department considers blue points to be “low-risk factors.” Red points are considered “high-risk factors,” and those are the points that tally up fast. Red points can cause an establishment to require a re-inspection with only a couple of violations, because these factors are considered more serious. The offenses range anywhere from improper hand washing to improper cooling or heating procedures. And it’s not just places that are open year-round that are inspected. The spring, summer and fall months bring the Ellensburg Farmers Market, along with the fair and rodeo, which also require inspections from the health department. Lamb said that makes summer their busiest season for health inspections.

“When it’s nice out people want to fundraise, sell food on the sidewalk, and every single one of those needs a permit and an inspection,” Lamb said. “So May through September it’s really nice to get a weekend off if we get a weekend off.”

Tristen Lamb pulls up to Domino’s at 10:30 in the morning in a white government car that she calls “Food-ella.” The rims are a little dirty. She explains that this inspection is most likely going to be painless and quick as she pulls out her tablet.

Domino’s doesn’t use raw meat, so there’s no cross-contamination potential, and the risk of bare-hand contact is pretty low, because employees are allowed to use their hands while making pizza. “As long as they’re washing their hands during prep, as long as their machinery is working,” Lamb explains, “there’s not a lot of areas for them to mess up. They just have [to have] safety procedures in place.”

Lamb walks in and introduces herself. The owner looks a bit uncertain, but he politely smiles and shows her behind the counter. She asks to see the employees’ health cards and checks the dates to make sure they’re all up to date, and they are.

When the owner admits he doesn’t have his own health card, Lamb insists that he should get one. “This is the first time in seven years anyone has told me that,” the boss says. Lamb smiles. “Well, good. I’m told I’m thorough,” she says, walking over to the sink to wash her hands.

When she first starts any inspection, she washes her hands. One, to make sure that there’s hot water running, and two, “because it sets a good example for the employees,” she says. After washing her hands for the required 20 seconds, she turns the faucet off with a paper towel and walks toward the freezer.

As she steps into the walk-in freezer, there isn’t much to see. It smells like pizza, and bins of dough are neatly stacked and rising around the room. Lamb looks to see that the temperature of the walk-in is 41 degrees or below, and it is. So far so good.

Leaving the walk-in, Lamb peeks into a smaller storage fridge. There are translucent containers filled with pizza toppings such as pineapple, ham and olives. She confirms that all the dates on the pizza toppings are current, and then pulls out her own thermometer and begins to swab it with a single-use alcohol wipe.

Pushing the thermometer into some sliced ham, she explains she’s testing this ingredient because it’s “potentially hazardous.” What makes something potentially hazardous? “Scientifically, the water quantity and the pH, but pretty much [all] meat products, dairy products and produce” need testing, Lamb says.

In the dry-goods area, Lamb says that anything edible needs to be off and away from the floor. She says she’s looking for any sign of rodent or insect infestation, but she finds nothing, noting that it’s a good example of what things should look like.

“They can have traps out; there just can’t be poop out,” Lamb explains. “If they’re working on a problem, and there’s a fly strip or something, that’s fine.”

Lamb walks to the front of the store and checks out the pizza making area, admiring that the oven hood is one of the cleanest she’s ever seen. The floors aren’t slippery, which is important, she mentions, turning around to face the prepping station. And this is where Domino’s gets docked.

Sanitizing her thermometer again, she sticks it an inch into an overflow container of cooked sausage. It temps at 49 degrees, which is over the limit. A “cold-holding violation.”

Oops. Sticking it lower into the container, it temps at 44 degrees, but it needs to be at 41 degrees or colder to be considered “safe.”

Just like that, Domino’s receives 10 red points. Immediately Lamb takes corrective action and has the owner turn up the cold in the refrigeration.

She assesses the rest of the kitchen, temping different containers, opening things and looking at expiration dates. It all checks out. Before leaving, Lamb checks the employee bathroom for hot running water and is ready to go.
While a handful of places around town have had great scores for years, Teriyaki & Wok on Canyon Road in Ellensburg can’t say the same. The restaurant has received scores consistently hitting the re-inspection mark dating as far back as 2012.

The restaurant scored 50 points or more three times during 2012 (most or all violations being red) and continued to require re-inspections throughout 2015. But Teriyaki & Wok turned around, and its last two scores since December 2015 have been 5 and 13, which are considered decent scores.

Carlos Cruz, head manager of Teriyaki & Wok, said he’s been working at the establishment for the last year, and they are making changes to how they do things now.

“The biggest thing was when we pre-cooked the chicken. They said [the containers] couldn’t be more than [than] two inches deep, and we used to use four-inch [containers]. After that, they didn’t say anything,” Cruz explained.

Previously, Teriyaki & Wok participated in something called “par cooking,” where they just sear the outside of the chicken, but they don’t cook it all the way. Internally the chicken doesn’t reach 165 degrees, which by itself is fine, but Lamb says they weren’t then cooling the chicken properly.

“They had frequent improper-cooling violations,” Lamb explained. “They’d stack this partially cooked chicken that was very hot on the outside very high, so above that two-inch [maximum], and these stacks of chicken could potentially be breeding a lot of bacteria in the middle.”

Cruz also said another problem Teriyaki & Wok had was how they used to store the sauces after they were made. At first, they weren’t putting the sauces in the fridge after each time they were prepared, but he said they are now.

Lamb commented that when you read the label on the pre-made teriyaki sauces at the store, they’ll either say “refrigerate after opening” or they won’t. But homemade sauces don’t have the luxury of a food lab explaining whether or not restaurants need to do that.

“Even if you’re putting a bunch of things together that are shelf-stable and don’t need to be refrigerated,” Lamb said, “we have to assume that you’re changing the chemistry, and therefore it’s potentially hazardous. It needs to be temperature controlled.”

Brita Brongl, a senior finance and economics major at CWU, recently bought a teriyaki chicken bowl from Teriyaki & Wok. She said she goes there about twice a month. When Brongl was asked if she knew about the establishment’s consistently poor scores, her nose slightly crinkled. “Eww, I didn’t know that,” Brongl said, now rethinking her dinner situation.

Brongl said that she’s concerned about getting sick. “Poor sanitation is avoidable. If I knew about it, I wouldn’t eat somewhere where there’s been high scores,” she said. “To me, that’s putting my body and health at risk.”

When a restaurant has enough violations to close, (70 red points) Melissa Schumiaer, another health inspector in Ellensburg said, “We make sure all items are addressed before allowing them to open [again].”

Take the Ginkgo Tree, for instance. It’s closed now, but back in 2011 the establishment racked up 133 points during a single inspection—110 of those were red points.

“The Ginkgo Tree was a terrific example of someone who had a whole host of issues and then corrected them,” Schumiaer said.

“We wouldn’t allow them to open with any of the issues that they had at the closure, [and] any outstanding issues would be corrected during that closure time. It’s almost like a pause button or time out, so that everything can be reset before we continue on with regular food production.”

More often than not, places around town have consistently good scores. Take Cornerstone Pie, for instance. Since opening in 2013, they’ve never had to be re-inspected and have had almost perfect scores during every routine inspection.

Mark Halloway, co-owner of Cornerstone Pie, attributes the good scores to the fact that they “keep logs of all of our refrigeration and have a [routine] prep list of things that we go over. We’re also really lucky because we have some great employees who care about food, so that helps a lot.”

Halloway also makes sure that each employee has an updated health card once they’re hired on. But even restaurants who never have issues with health inspections sometimes still struggle with maintenance, and Halloway admitted the summer months bring more bugs.

“We have insect traps that we have in the kitchen,” he said. During the summer season, “we do things like cover everything and spray for insects and just do general cleanings.”

Katie Randall, a family and consumer science major at CWU, was stung at the bar at Cornerstone Pie when she was approached and asked if she would want to know the scores of the places where she has been eating, she replied, “If I like the place, no. If it’s not that great, then yeah, I want to know. Basically, ignorance is bliss.”

She explained that she was sure she had eaten at places with poor scores, but it didn’t bother her because she hadn’t gotten sick. “Having previously worked in the food industry myself, I know sometimes it’s not a big deal,” Randall said. “Sometimes your garbage cans are too close to the food, or your sinks don’t drain like they should. That doesn’t necessarily mean that you shouldn’t eat there, though.”

While that may be true, it might not be a bad idea to check out your favorite restaurant’s most recent inspection. You might be surprised at what you find. But Schumiaer says at the end of the day, “all everyone wants is to keep people happy and healthy eating out in the restaurant world.”

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**Local Restaurant Scores**

- Domino’s
- Pizza Colín
- Teryaki Wok
- Pasta Company
- Cornerstone Pie
- Yellow Church Cafe
- The Porch
- Perkins
- Campus U-Tote-Em
- Buzz Inn Steakhouse
- Wing Central
- Palace Cafe

*Scores from inspections conducted last spring. See the full map and list of scores online @ cwuosbs.com*
Everyone knows that Halloween is the time to put on a costume and act like someone else for a night, but the Cosplay Club takes costuming to a whole new level.

Cosplay Club is a group where students can work on making costumes from their favorite movies, shows, comics, books and really anything else they can think of.

According to its Facebook page, Cosplay Club provides a way for students interested in cosplay to get together in a friendly and nurturing environment.

Lacey Adams, the club’s current president, helps teach and organize events to cater to helping members learn new skills in costuming.

“She’s crazy,” Holly Roberts said, a super senior majoring in primate behavior and biology with an ecology specialization said. “I love her.”

Kaylee Peckham, a freshman majoring in music education and secretary of the club, agreed.

“She can be very crazy. Like if she has an idea, she’ll get really excited and want to tell everyone, everyone needs to know. If she gets excited about something, she gets really excited.”

Adams is more than just a charismatic leader. She has also been making costumes for a long time and is helpful to the Cosplayers when building an outfit.

“She’s a good person to go to for advice on costumes,” Roberts said. “She has a lot of experience. You just ask her anything and if she thinks of something she’ll come and tell you.”

The weekly club meeting topics vary depending on what Adams and the other officers have planned and what event the club will be a part of next.

“Two weeks ago, we got a whole bunch of new members,” Roberts said. “She went over some basic sewing techniques for people who might not be good sewers or didn’t have any skills to begin with. Another time, we went over how to make certain props.”

Sometimes guest speakers are invited to the meetings, as well. At one meeting, two of the guests brought a suit of armor.

Each piece was ordered from a different place,” Peckham said. “His breastplate was from Ukraine and a couple pieces were from Canada.”

Comic-Con legality and etiquette was one favorite meeting topic for both sources.

“You shouldn’t try to go up to someone in costume and try to hug them randomly at Comic-Con,” Roberts said. “Even if there is a character you really like, you could mess up their costume or maybe they don’t want to be touched.”

While the majority of costumes made by the cosplayers are for fun, some of the members dress up to promote the club as well.

“Our Vice President dressed up as Lady Deadpool and a lot of people wanted pictures with her and that’s what brought a lot of people to our table at the club fair,” Peckham said.

To see some of the club members in action, students can catch some of the cosplayers volunteering in Haunting Ellensburg at the fairgrounds.

“The thing about Cosplay is that in can appeal to anyone,” Roberts said. “It doesn’t matter what your job is or your specialization, if you’re interested in video games and comic books and tv shows and anything really you can be a cosplayer. It just means you want to dress up as the character and meet other people who share your interest.”

Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

How frequently should you get yourself (STI) tested?

Dear Student,

How often do you test?… or as often as you change partners. If you’ve been tested previously and were STI free, if you’ve had unprotected sex with other people since then, you should get tested to confirm your status now. Many STIs are asymptomatic and because STIs are so common, we can’t assume that just because you don’t think something is wrong, it really is the clear. If you had a one-night stand and didn’t use a condom, get tested. If you’ve ended a long relationship where everyone was STI free but you haven’t tested since, get tested. Knowing your status is a great way to feel empowered to check in with potential partners about their status. Testing is available on campus, through the Student Medical and Counseling Center (SMaCC) and at the Ellensburg Planned Parenthood.

The more people that test regularly, the better we can prevent the spread of STIs.

Are threesomes a realistic and safe thing? I’m in a healthy relationship and think of them as more of a fantasy; do you think that’s feasible and safe as long as everyone is interested? (Alternatively, or additionally, what is your opinion on threesomes?)

Dear Student,

Threesomes can be both realistic and safe and a great way to enhance your sexual relationship with your partner… if that’s what you’re both into. You mention that threesomes are “more of a fantasy” and for some people and couples, the fantasy is enough – they can think about it or talk about it as a way to heighten sexual curiosity and play, but they never really intend on having one. For others, the goal is to bring the fantasy to life and I think you have some of the necessary ingredients: the desire to have one (rather than the expectation or pressure from a partner) and a healthy relationship (where the threesome is for fun and not to save a sinking ship). Do you have a willing partner? If so, great! Start looking for them.

If not, please don’t pressure your partner into having a threesome if they don’t want to, but be honest with your partner about the other potential risks and parameters of the threesome. Will this be someone you both know? Will this be with someone you don’t know? What kind of sex is “allowed” in the different combinations of partnering? These things should be considered with your partner beforehand and keep looking for your special someone.

As with any sex, precautions should be taken for STI and pregnancy prevention. If you’re using condoms, different condoms need to be used with different partners and if you’re switching from anal to vaginal sex, a different condom needs to be used. Make sure you and your partner are both STI free and inquire about the status of your partner. This, of course, takes some pre-planning. Since I suggest talking to your partner about the other potential combinations of partnering, this is something you really want to try and your partner isn’t willing, perhaps this is not the relationship for you.

If your partner is game, you have two of the three. Suggest interested parties for a threesome. Interest is just one aspect, however, and for a full feasibility and safety level, you must talk to your partner about the other potential risks and parameters of the threesome. Would this be someone you both know? Would this be with someone you don’t know? What kind of sex is “allowed” in the different combinations of partnering? These things should be considered with your partner beforehand and keep looking for your special someone.

The more people that test regularly, the better we can prevent the spread of STIs.

Dr. Jill Maxmeir is a public health professor at CWU. Send anonymous public health and sex related questions to askdh@cwsobserver.com and have them answered here.

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This is Halloween

"Halloween" from page 1

The event gives kids the chance to trick-or-treat and participate in fun Halloween-themed activities without the worry of getting rained on or having to wear a coat over their costumes.

Denise Janecke, a recreation and tourism major and one of the volunteers in charge of the event, said the event is always a big success and that this year they are, "expecting 400 to 500 children and families to attend."

Not only has Boo Central become a CWU tradition but it has become one for the community as well, with students from Ellensburg, Thorp and Kittitas school districts being invited.

"Everyone who attends should expect to have a great time" Janecke said.

Fear the Walking Dead

Zombie Zone is back from the dead for its 5th annual Halloween, with a few new additions to add extra scares.

Residence Hall Association (RHA), who is in charge of the event, will lend out nerf guns and sign up brave students for a zombie-hunting adventure in the unrecognizably decorated SURC.

The event hosts around 100 hunters and each year there is a new series of challenges they must figure out in order to make their way through the zones.

RA advisor Eric Scott said Zombie Zone is, "one of the most successful Halloween events CWU has to offer."

The Zombie Zone team expects anywhere from 350 to 400 students to come and test themselves against this year’s course.

Come up to the lab

Of course Halloween would not be complete without a scary movie or two, and CWU students will take their turn at making an American classic come to life. 12 students will take the stage to do a live-action rendition of Jim Sharman's Rocky Horror Picture Show while the movie plays behind them.

As is the tradition for any live screening of the movie, goodie bags full of props to be thrown onto the stage will be handed out. For this showing the first 400 students will get a goodie bag.

For those who are not up to date on their Rocky Horror culture, a list explaining the key phrases and when things should be thrown will also be provided.

CWU’s Trent Guzman, a food and nutrition major, is set to play the lead role of Rocky. "I am excited to share the experience of Rocky Horror with students, as well as its liberating message. Plus, who doesn’t love like throwing things at half-naked people?" Gutzman said.

Top 10 Halloween Movies

2. Corpse Bride (2005)
4. Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)
5. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Paranormal Activities

What: CWU Orchestra Spooktakular
When: Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m.
Where: McEwan Music Building (cwu.edu/music/halloween-concert)

What: BOO Central
When: Oct. 31, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Where: SURC Ballroom

What: Zombie Zone
When: Oct. 29, 9:00 p.m. - Midnight
Where: SURC

What: Haunting Ellensburg
When: Oct. 28-29, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Where: Frontier Village at the Kittitas Event Center and Fairgrounds (hauntingellensburg.com)

What: Downtown Trick-or-Treat
When: Oct. 31, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Where: Downtown Ellensburg

What: Huffman Farms Corn Maze and Haunted Forest
When: Oct. 28-29, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Where: Huffman Farms (huffmanfarms.com)
Transfer students reload Wildcats

By Mitchell Johnson

Coming into the 2016-17 season, the CWU men’s basketball team will have large shoes to fill in order to remain one of the better teams in the GNAC.

Last season, CWU (18-14, 13-7 GNAC) placed third in the GNAC in scoring offense at 83.3 points per game, just 1 point behind Western Washington University.

This season the Wildcats will have to do that without their three leading scorers Joseph Stroud, Gary Jacobs and Joey Roppo. Also the team lost their fifth-leading scorer in Devin Mathews who all combined for 51.4 points per game 61 percent of the team’s total.

“That’s why guys graduate: to get the younger guys ready to go,” head Coach Greg Sparling said.

Transfer students will be filling the void for the Wildcats this season.

Alaska Anchorage transfer senior guard Dom Hunter will be the biggest addition to CWU after averaging 13.3 points per game coming off the bench in 17 games during the 2014-15 season.

“He’s proven he can score in this conference; we just got to get him to pick up our defensive concepts a little bit better,” Sparling said.

Junior guard Jawan Stepney, a transfer from Cochise College, averaged 11.9 points and 3.9 rebounds per game.

During the team’s last spring open gym, junior forward Drake Rademacher was injured and had to have season-ending surgery.

Sparling had to go out and recruit junior center Fuquan Niles from North Idaho College to replace him.

“This is a big man,” Sparling said. “We got to use that to our advantage. I think he’s the type of guy that can score around the basket but also to pick up a lot of fouls so we can get to the free-throws line.”

Size will be a problem for the Wildcats, with everyone on the team 6’7 or under besides the 6’11, Niles.

“Everybody is going to put a couple inches on their roster size,” Sparling said.

This will be extremely important for guys like senior Ter- ry Dawn, who has been playing the stretch forward position for a couple years now.

“Having to guard bigger guys, you just have to be more physical,” Dawn said.

Dawn started in 25 of 26 games, averaging 6.6 points and 4.2 rebounds per game for CWU, and was the only return- ing starter from last season.

Sophomore guard Naim Ladd will be the highest leading scorer from last year’s team, av- eraging 10.2 points and 3.3 rebounds per game.

“If I feel like, with my team- mates, I have to get everyone else involved,” Ladd said. “I’m going to try to do more this year by assisting more and getting ev- eryone else involved.”

Even with the team lack- ing size, Dawn believes that this team will be armed with a strong defense, which will help other areas of the game.

“We’re going to be really good defensively,” Dawn said. “It’ll be able to spark our offense and we have a lot of good shoot- ers, lot of good scorers. I think we’ll be able to get up and down the floor pretty well this year.”

Marc Rodgers

Number: 1
Position: Guard
Year: Junior
Points per game: 4.2 (2014-15)
Rebounds per game: 2.3

Naim Ladd

Number: 2
Position: Guard
Year: Sophomore
Points per game: 10.2
Three point percentage: 42

Terry Dawn

Number: 4
Position: Guard
Year: Senior
Points per game: 6.6
Three point percentage: 39.6

Jawan Stepney

Number: 5
Position: Guard
Year: Junior
Points per game: 11.9
Transfer from Cochise College

Important players to watch for CWU

The basketball team is preparing for their first home game of the season Nov. 4.

The Wildcats are ranked third in the GNAC preseason poll, while receiving one vote for first place. Alaska Anchor- age and Western Washington ranked above the Wildcats in the preseason poll.

“We’re aiming for first [place], of course,” Ladd said. “We should be ranked [first], in my opinion, but we’re the underdog—we’re coming for everybody.”

Sparling noted some tough challenges early in their noncon- ference schedule, including two games against California State San Bernardino and Monterey Bay.

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Number: 5
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Year: Junior
Points per game: 11.9
Transfer from Cochise College

Notable Players

Dom Hunter
Number: 3
Position: Guard
Year: Senior
Points per game: 13.3 (2014-15)
Transfer from Alaska Anchorage

Fuquan Niles
Number: 42
Position: Center
Year: Junior
Points per game: 4.3
Transfer from North Idaho College

All photos on page by Xander Fu/The Observer

You have options.

Pregnant? You have options.

Call us:
Visitation Center: (509)223-2273
Safe Haven: (509)223-2273

Visit us: CareNetEllensburg.org

Find us:

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Call us:
Visit us:

Visit us:
“Rollin’” from page 1

After a few years of going through a number of different teams and names and a fluctuating number of skaters, Rodeo City Rollergirls now has a consistent schedule of practices and bouts.

“Practice is typically three times a week, two hours each at Ellensburg High School,” Towner said. “We have a ‘fresh meat program’ for new people. If you’re interested just show up and we’ll get you going. The team is super supportive and friendly.”

Eklund now serves as the team’s head coach, after having ankle surgery requiring pins to be placed to heal the injury. She believes that roller derby is different than most team sports, and that is the appeal to most women who give it a try.

“A lot of the players have never done team sports before,” Eklund said. “I do research on body image and roller derby and the skaters are a variety of sizes. From short to tall, tiny to heavier, different shapes. But the awesome thing about derby is that whatever your shape is, there is a place for you out there. From short to tall, tiny to heavier, different shapes. But the awesome thing about derby is that whatever your shape is, there is a place for you out there. I think that’s something exclusive to roller derby and why a lot of women are drawn to it. You don’t have to look a certain way or be a certain build, or even have any experience.”

Chappelle played as a senior nutrition major at CWU and also serves as the Rollergirls’ secretary. She joined the team three years ago after seeing a display Eklund put together in the SURC.

“I saw one of Andrea Eklund’s display cases in the SURC filled with skate and stuff,” Chappelle said. “My friend and I thought it looked cool and super fun to try so we joined together. It just drew my eye to it and it was different unique thing I’d never heard of.”

Chappelle played through her life and did not find the type of connection she has with derby with other sports.

“The sisterhood and the friendships that you build that are unique,” Chappelle said. “If you were to see these girls on the side of the road, you probably wouldn’t talk to them at all. Derby brings all different types of personalities together and we have [an] amazing connection. On and off the track, they’re always there for me. It makes the connection on the track that much stronger when we care for each other.”

Rodeo City Rollergirls were scheduled to host their second bout of the year Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. at Ellensburg High School’s gymnasium, but Ellensburg High School’s volleyball team won the CWAC title, and will be hosting the district tournament Saturday night. The bout is yet to be rescheduled.
Runner Gomez hits stride at CWU

By Natalie Hyland
Natalie.Hyland@cwu.edu | @NatalieRene13

When senior Elena Gomez first came to CWU two years ago, she knew one thing for sure: she wanted to run. A swimmer in high school, Gomez first started running by herself during her freshman year of college at University of Colorado Boulder. Since then, she has conquered many miles and has no intention of stopping any time soon.

Mostly recently, Gomez competed with the Villains at Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham.

“That was a little tough. But, we’re racing [Oct. 22] at the same course so hopefully I’ll do better,” Gomez said.

She can even though she was injured, a definite display of her passion and determination for running with CWU.

“I know 100 percent I could do better,” Gomez said of her first performance at WWU.

“When we run, we are very susceptible to injuries. It is hard mentally to back off from training [when injured],” Gomez said.

Gomez has gained and before long, he was traveling, the more attention he received, because it seemed a little too good to be true.

“At first my dad didn’t like it,” Vili said, laughing. “He didn’t believe it was true until I got my first tour with the high school All-Americans to Las Vegas.”

Vili’s travelling tours stint did not stop there. The more Vili travelled, the more attention he gained and before long, he was playing everywhere.

“After the Vegas 7’s Tournament, the high school All-American team chose him to play in England for another tournament.”

After traveling to England, at 18-years-old, the all-American team took Vili on a South American tour where they played in Chile, Uruguay and Argentina.

“It was hard,” Vili said.

“I had to balance all of these things with school, work and the other sports I was playing.”

Although it was a struggle, Vili graduated from Baldwin High School in Maui before landing in Minnesota to play for Metropolis at Spearhead Academy, where he played from 2012-2013.

After a year in Minnesota, the All-American U20 (under 20 years old) team called Vili to join them for a tour in France for the junior world rugby cup.

This is where Vili met Tony Pacheco who, at the time, was the head coach for Central Washington University’s rugby team.

Before each race, Gomez has a few rituals; eating whole wheat pasta with vegetables and fish the night before. For breakfast, Gomez eats oatmeal with peanut butter and bananas while drinking her routine cup of coffee.

“But the rituals don’t stop there; before each race Gomez makes sure to wear the same Colorado socks, jump up and down three times, kiss her necklace and touch her wrist tattoo. Gomez must be getting something right, because she has already made her mark on CWU running.”

Gomez, a double major in food science and nutrition and Spanish, holds the school record in the 10k for Central Washington Track and Field. Her goal this season is no surprise; she wants to do it again.

Head Coach Kevin Adkins believes she can do just that. “He and rest of the cross country and track and field coaching staff are excited to see what Gomez accomplishes this season.”

“(Running) is my passion, nobody ever asked me to do it. I love the adrenaline,” Gomez said.

Some of Gomez’s biggest inspirations are Olympic marathoner Shalane Flanagan and teammate Alexa Schindruk.

“She’s one of mine too, she’s been a great teammate and role model, her love for running is evident and she always works hard,” sophomore Alexa Schindruk said.

Both girls can attest that the team is like one big family, where everyone supports and motivates each other. This support makes all the difference for Gomez whose family is home in Colorado and cannot be with her.

“I want to make them proud,” Gomez said of both her team and family.

The small, tight-knit family unit is a major reason that Gomez chose to transfer to CWU after taking a year off to travel through South America.

“I didn’t like [Colorado, Boulder], it was too big,” Gomez said.

The University of Colorado-Boulder has a student body of over 31,000 over three times larger than CWU’s enrollment of 10,000 making it easy to get lost in the crowd there.

“One of the biggest challenges of a student athlete is finding the time for everything. A single day has to be planned out from start to finish. There must be a certain time set aside for classes, homework, workouts and eating. “It is tough being an athlete, but I think it is totally worth it in the end,” Gomez said.

World-traveler ends up at CWU

By Glendal Tautua
Glendal.Tautua@cwu.edu | @GTautua59

Vili Tolutau’s, born and raised in Maui, Hawaii has spent most of his life playing rugby.

For some it is a hobby, other’s is a career but for Vili, rugby was his passion and determination for running with CWU.

“It made me take notice of things with school, work and the other sports I was playing.”

Although it was a struggle, Vili said, “I was excited to play here, but I was also excited to be a flight attendant.”

“I offered me a scholarship and I said yes,” Vili said. “I was excited to play here, but I was also excited to be a flight attendant.”

While traveling, touring and playing the game he loves were great experiences, Vili acknowledged that it’s not always the easiest occupation.

“The hardest part was calling home while out of the country. I had to use Facebook and it didn’t work often,” Vili said. “I miss the family and the food back home.”

While being on the road to pursue his athletic dream was hard working, Vili appreciates the platform and opportunities rugby has provided him.

“Rugby is what’s giving me the opportunity to get my education,” said Vili. “I’ll stick to rugby until I can’t play anymore, but when the time comes, I’ll have my degree.”

Teams played for

Maui Warriors
High School All-Americans
Spearhead Academy
All-American U20

“Vili Tolutau’s played in countries all over the world playing the game he loves.”

Vili Tolutau’s has played in countries all over the world playing the game he loves.