From outer space to CWU

Former NASA astronaut addresses CWU at annual diversity awards

By Bryce Jungquist
Staff Reporter

Soft jazz music played as people sat in the SURC Ballroom. Banquet servers handed out several types of food on small trays to the guests. Exchanges of hugs, smiles and laughs were a common sight. Yet, an appearance from a spaceman really made the audience glow.

This two-hour celebration awarded those who had made a local diverse impact. It was put together by the Office of the President and the Center for Diversity and Equity. Many of the guests were CWU students, faculty, staff and community members. Those were also the prize winners, who were broken into categories. Each award recipient had to be nominated, reviewed, and selected by a committee.

Veronica Gomez-Vilchis, assistant director at the Diversity and Equity Center, said Joe Hernandez, a former NASA astronaut, would speak at the Diversity Awards this year. She said some things Hernandez would talk about included his journey, reasons, struggles and motivation for becoming a rocketman.

Vilchis said Hernandez would also talk about what he’s doing now after finding a groundwork. Vilchis said he planned with Hernandez to converse with students for two days as well.

“This is kind of cool,” she said. “Because if we were going to bring somebody like him, I felt it was really important for students to be able to spend time with him.”

ASCWU Elect looks to students for expansions

By Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

Even if Severino had the opportunity to run for re-election, he said that he wouldn’t.

“You go into an organization and you give your input, [but] you also have to be aware that you can’t hold everything forever,” Severino said.

Rojas was voted into student government last year as vice president of Academic Affairs, which will ease the transition as she prepares for her term as president.

“Having that built up already in advance is only going to benefit me next year as president because I already have those relationships there,” Rojas said.

“If I ever need anything or any type of resources, I can be a phone call away and I know exactly who to look for.”

Student fees are one of the main concerns for Rojas.

“It’s a bittersweet moment for the departure,” Severino said.

“If I ever need anything or any type of resources, I can be a phone call away and I know exactly who to look for.”

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“If I ever need anything or any type of resources, I can be a phone call away and I know exactly who to look for.”

Student fees are one of the main concerns for Rojas.

“I feel really grateful to have the opportunity to come back to my alma mater, to the school that I attended and be the coach,” Rinta said. “I’m looking forward to getting my family here and being a part of the Ellensburg Community and the CWU community again.”

Men’s b-ball selects alum as new coach

By Hanson Lee and Natalie Hyland
Sports Editor and Co-Editor

“"I’m looking forward to getting my family here and being a part of the Ellensburg Community and the CWU Community again.” - Brandon Rinta, men’s basketball coach

CWU officially hired Brandon Rinta as the men’s head basketball coach. Prior to being hired at CWU, Rinta spent seven seasons as the head coach at Lewis-Clark State College (LWSC). There, he accumulated an overall record of 164-62, the highest winning percentage by an LCSC coach in the past 50 years.

Rinta played for two years at YVCC before transferring to CWU, where he had the opportunity to play for the Wildcats from 1999-2001 under former coach Greg Sparling.

"A lot has changed since I’ve been here," Rinta said. "What they’ve done to the campus since I’ve left here 17 years ago is unbelievable. It shows the commitment that they’re making to this university."

Before his time at LCSC, Rinta coached five seasons as the associate head coach at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU). From 2001-06, Rinta served as an assistant coach at Eastern Washington University. There, Rinta helped lead the Eagles to three straight Big Sky championship games.

Rinta, a CWU alumni, started his basketball career playing for Yakima Valley Community College where he had the opportunity to play under legendary coach, Dean Nicholson.

"For [Nicholson] to have the legacy that he did and for me to be able to play under him during his last two years of coaching, it was a pretty cool experience," Rinta said. "I’ve learned a lot from him.

With his new coaching position, Rinta is looking to get acclimated to CWU and begin the process for the upcoming 2018-19 season."

"I feel really grateful to have the opportunity to come back to my alma mater, to the school that I attended and be the coach," Rinta said. “I’m looking forward to getting my family here and being a part of the Ellensburg community and the Central Washington community again.”

Athletic Director Dennis Francois said he is thrilled to add Rinta to the program.

“He has met a lot of situations and adversity through his life personally as well as coaching, and how he’s responded to those situations speaks highly of his character and integrity.” Athletic Director Dennis Francois said. “He’s an outstanding individual.”
CWU to host Cannabis Caucus

By Miles King
News Editor

The CWU College of Business is hosting a Cannabis Caucus on Friday, April 27. The conference will be the first in Washington devoted to the growing industry. The caucus will take place in Sue Lombard Hall from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will consist of four presentations and two discussion panels.

The caucus is the 18th installment of the College of Business’ annual economic outlook conference, which covers a variety of economic topics.

Economics professor Peter Gray came up with the idea of a cannabis-focused outlook while doing research on marijuana industry economics for his PhD thesis. He believes what makes it such a revolutionary area of study is how the industry has on populations.

This event will be the first of a four-year academic cannabis series and will detail the history of the industry in the last few years and what makes it such a revolutionary area of study. Panel members and presenters include students, retailers, producers, bankers, lawyers and even the WA state Chief Economist Steve Lerch. This variety of sources will be grouped into discussion panels and separate presentations.

“I’ll be a very dynamic presentation between different speakers,” Robertson said. “We want them to communicate together and give a different sort of communication for the audience.”

Of all the presentations and discussion panels, Gray is most excited about the producer/processor panel in the 10:30 a.m. slot. The panel will include cannabis producers and retailers from Evergreen Herbals in Seattle, Stickbudz in the Yakima Valley, NW Grown in Mt. Vernon and Capitol Analysis in Lacey, WA.

Cannabis Caucus

When: Friday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Where: Sue Lombard Hall
How: Register at cwu.edu/business/eoc2018

Hey Wildcats,

Natalie here again. As a very small portion of you know, I’m not just a journalism major. I’m a double major in public relations and digital journalism. I’m probably one of few—if not the only one—who is doing this at CWU right now, but that’s not the point.

In my PR classes, my professors are beginning to stress finding a career instead of a job. The first time I heard this I was like, “uhh, okay, what’s the difference?” I have a job right now—I actually have two—but they both have a time limit and not much room for growth. Here at the Observer, I’ve worked my way from a staff reporter all the way to Co-Editor, which is great. We don’t employ students in the room after they’ve graduated though. So, when I finish my journalism degree, I’m done here. This is a job.

My other job is only part-time and also doesn’t have much room to grow. I work in the administrative office of a car dealership in Yakima doing title work, licensing and inventory, which is pretty cool for a college student.

But if I’m still here a few years after I graduate, I won’t be happy about it. I’m going to school to learn to write articles and press releases, and to learn how to properly represent a company as the public’s first point of contact. That’s a career. Sure, if I may not want to stay at the same place for decades, but I have nowhere to go but up in the fields.
“President” from front page

“We have a couple of expansions and new renovations going on on campus that are going to require student fee increases next year,” Rojas said. “I want to get a list of all those fees. What are some areas that we could potentially cut back on?”

She also wants to focus on student parking and have a series of open forums with faculty, administration and students to deal with the issue.

Rojas was hesitant to run for president because of the standards and responsibility that come with the position.

“I don’t want to let anyone down,” Rojas said. “Students look at you and they know you’re the face of the students. There’s a standard students hold you to.”

Severino is happy with Rojas’ appointment because while the agenda might be tweaked, the core beliefs will remain the same, he said.

Both Severino and Rojas believe in the same purpose. At the end of the day, the students are the priority of ASCWU.

“The expansion of the SURC and the addition of a multicultural center is something both presidents are passionate about. The SURC is student space. We have to make sure the student voice is 100 percent on that,” Rojas said.

She mentioned that surveys will eventually be available to students, asking them what they want out of the expansion.

“What we’re pushing for is diversity in this university,” said Jonathan Reynolds, administrative assistant in the student government. “If we’re pushing for diversity and inclusion, including everyone and including a multicultural center would be key.”

Reynolds also said Rojas has earned the opportunity to be president. She has dedicated so much of her time in order to be successful in the position she’s in now,” Reynolds said. “I guarantee you within her next position with her presidency she will grind there and put all that she has into the position.”

Local reporters discuss investigative storytelling

By Jack Belcher
Senior News Reporter

Journalists from the Yakima Herald, the Tacoma News Tribune and the Ellensburg Daily Record talked to students for over a half hour Monday, April 23. The discussion took place in the SURC theater, right after the showing of the movie “The Post.”

The discussion detailed the importance of media watchdogs on the government, where to find stories and the dangers of fake news in the modern world.

Kate Martin, a reporter for the Tacoma News Tribune, talked about her dealings with fake news in the past. According to her, a short story about a death in a family over a year ago was subjected to tampering. A fake news website had taken the picture of the paper might print. Troianello told a story about how he worked with a reporter who is now working for the L.A. Times who was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize on a story regarding the black market of body parts.

The next event in the first amendment festival is “Food for Thought” on Friday, April 27.

The goal of the journalism is to serve society while at the same time turning a profit, Renteria said.

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In the fall of 2017, runway 7-25 at Bowers Field Airport in Ellensburg was closed indefinitely. Last month, Kittitas County decided to close the runway permanently.

Bowers Field Airport is used by CWU Aviation. The Aviation Department has 265 students, 165 of which are flight majors and 100 management majors. The program accounts for more than 90 percent of flights at Bowers Field, according to the Daily Record.

Early this year, Kittitas County, the caretaker and owner of the airport, made the decision to temporarily close runway 7-25. The airport has two runways.

According to Andrew McIrvin, Director of Flight Operations, the decision from the county is double-edged. “It is a good decision because the runway served large aircrafts and large aircrafts need to use all the space,” McIrvin said. “There are sections of the runway which are dangerous because they have large potholes. However, for small aircraft like we have, they could still be used because they don’t need all the space.”

This decision has had an impact on aviation program students. “I understand the decision of the county, but they should have found a solution to replace the runway before [they closed it],” freshman aviation major Jon McMillan said.

Like many students, McMillan has cancelled flights due to wind and being limited to a single runway. “[The decision] affects the flight operation. When the wind is strong, we like to use the runway that more favors the wind,” McIrvin explained. “There are times we must cancel flight operations because of too high crosswinds and the fact that the orientation of runway 11-29, the one open, is not safe.”

CWU is currently in contact with the county regarding solutions. Currently, the biggest issue is funding. Repairing the runway will cost millions of dollars, according to McIrvin. Kittitas County doesn’t have this money at the moment.

The county is working with the state and extra funds may be available to repair the runway. “We are working with [Kittitas County], trying to find a solution to reopen runway 7-25 right now,” McIrvin said.

Another solution is to move the program to Yakima Air Terminal. According to Andrew McIrvin, a study involving the county and CWU was completed regarding the logistics of a potential move. “Moving the program to Yakima airport is possible but it is not a good idea. It will be too expensive for us and for the students,” McIrvin said. “Logistically, it will be very hard to have students living in a different city than the airport.”

For Liam Nelson, a sophomore aviation management major, this solution will be too difficult for students to be accepted by the university. “If I have to drive to Yakima every day, it will cost me too much money,” Nelson said. “Also, I know lot of students who don’t have their own car.”
Ellensburg’s hottest new artist
CWU student gains popularity with his music in under two years

BY HENRY CRUMBLISH
SCENE EDITOR

Maybe you’ve seen him at the gym, caught a glimpse of him doing kickflips at the skate park or maybe he’s even in one of your classes.

Gavin Maher is a junior majoring in English studies, but the Wildcat has been building his reputation on campus and around town as Ellensburg’s hottest new artist.

Maher, who does not have a stage name, describes his musical style as “future pop,” and within a year and a half has come from obscurity to gaining thousands of listens and views on SoundCloud each month.

Maher sings, produces his own beats and writes his own songs. In under two years, Maher has learned beat production and honed his craft at songwriting.

“I’ve always wanted to do this type of music, I just didn’t know how until little over a year ago when I started teaching myself,” Maher said.

Maher’s inspiration to hop in the studio came after watching Jon Bellion, a New York based artist, on YouTube. After Bellion posted a behind-the-scenes video on YouTube showing how he created the song “All Time Low,” Maher became enamored with creating his own sound.

“I was so in love with how he made that song sound,” Maher said.

Maher’s current songs and body of work all draw from his early experiences and love affair with melodies and harmonies.

Maher has become a familiar face at the Open Mic Nights in the SURC Pit, where more than a hundred gather bi weekly to watch him sing.

At the last Open Mic Night, Maher performed his original song “Alone,” which reveals deeper emotions hidden just beneath the surface of the artist’s exterior. The song is one of Maher’s most popular on SoundCloud and is split into two parts. The first part deals with how the singer has felt alone for the majority of his life and the second half is related to how he has embraced his solitude to boost his creativity and find his passion.

Maher’s most popular song on SoundCloud is titled “High” and has over 10,000 views. The song is about a girl who cheated on Maher behind his back at a party.

Maher found out about the party and attempted to crash it but got pulled over by a cop for speeding and a hit was born.

“Lot of my music is me adoring a girl or me saying ‘fuck you’ to a girl,” Maher said.

In 2018, it seems like there is a new singer or rapper emerging every day. One thing that has helped Maher emerge at the top of the heap locally has been his unwavering belief in himself.

Maher subscribes to the law of attraction and the power of thought, to bring positivity to his life and work.

“I really want to be a successful singer,” Maher said. “Thinking about that not happening is impossible in my head; it’s like two plus four equals seven.”

For more information
Check out the latest issue of Pulse Magazine
Watch Mahers latest music video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7JrN1lvcpw
By Eric Rosane
Co-Editor

It was one year ago that Kahveh Robinett decided that he had enough. He was getting addicted. Not to trivial things, like a Netflix series or an expensive coffee addiction, but to social media.

According to Robinett, a junior Information Technology and Administrative Management (ITAM) major, the monotonous schedule of checking his social media had become too time consuming, and he was trying to develop a more professional social identity. To him, his life with social media was dull. Checking Facebook posts, replying to Snapchats, keeping up with his Instagram following - something had to change.

“I was, in some form, addicted with social media and I wasn’t happy with that,” Robinett said. “So I just deleted it.”

He then began deleting accounts and replacing them with more private, professional accounts. Even today, Robinett said that he still doesn’t have an active Facebook, although he claims he’ll go back one day.

Robinett said that he watched both of Mark Zuckerberg’s testimonies during the wake of the Cambridge Analytica debacle, in which information from more than 50 million people on Facebook was obtained by a company that had ties with the Trump campaign. He said that instance did worry him and that his information might be compromised.

“Eventually what’s hidden will be public. It’s going to happen, just watch what you post.”
-James Brown, ITAM lecturer

Social media, regardless if you love it or hate it, has become a large presence in today’s culture and society. It’s convenient, socially-enabling and connects billions of people every day to each other. Facebook alone has more than a billion active users, or a little under one-sixth of the world’s population.

“Eventually what’s hidden will be public. It’s going to happen, just watch what you post.”
-James Brown, ITAM lecturer

Humanity has historically never been more connected. But that doesn’t mean that our information is that much safer.

We live in an age where it’s never been more easy to get people’s personal information, such as banking info, general location, or social security numbers. This is worrisome to James Brown, ITAM lecturer, who has had experience with getting his private information stolen.

While on a public wifi-hotspot in July 2015 at an airport, someone was able to access his browser history through the network. His laptop was not encrypted and, according to Brown, he luckily didn’t lose any information that was dire.

“That’s my key warning... the moment I open my Gmail, it’s broadcasted for the world to see,” Brown said, referring to the open network that he had connected to.

He said that he now uses a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that encrypts the information that’s in transit between his computer and the public network. He said that they’re extremely useful for people who, for example, use public wifi frequently and are fairly inexpensive.

Brown said that there are two simple things that students can do to help privatize their social media:

- keep their security settings up-to-date, and enable two-step verification logins.
- “If you’re not careful and you don’t have your security systems set up, then [people on] Facebook can pull a lot of information,” Brown said.

Despite keeping basic security measures up to date on social media, Brown still worries that some people are putting too much online. Social media accounts can link a lot of information publicly, and many people just aren’t aware what specific information is shared from the get-go.

“Eventually what’s hidden will be public. It’s going to hap-
pen, just watch out what you post,” Brown said.
With regards to social media usage in higher education, Brown said that he hopes more programs will be developed to educate students in college.
Brown said that when it comes to passwords, he uses a program called Keepass to randomly generate and apply passwords to keep his accounts secure. This is to ensure that his passwords between accounts aren’t the same.
“Like I said, it’s ‘daisy-chained.’ Once you have access to one, you have access to all,” Brown said.
Even though dangers can arise from our laxed social media habits, Martin Bagaya, assistant professor in ITAM, believes that using social media as a tool can impose a more positive impact than a negative one.
Bagaya is currently administering a study that will look into how CWU students perceive the usefulness of social media based on their internet habits and how the university can use this tool for positive things, such as boosting post-grad employability.
He’s been conducting this research for over a year now and Bagaya said that he’s in the process of concluding his research. Bagaya said that it all started with a sense of curiosity about whether students’ social media habits affected their employability outside of college.
“The goal is how can we help our students to find value in that social media space,” Bagaya said. “I’m looking at [their] trends, what sites they’re going to… and frequency of use.”
Bagaya said that he believes that the results of his study could help leverage some more education on social media within higher education. He thinks that we should view these platforms as more of a tool, but he doesn’t deny their precarious byproduct.
“Until it happens, nobody really thinks about it,” Bagaya said. “They think that they’re protected, when they really have to take action to privatize [themselves].”
When it comes to dealing with private information, Bagaya said that he believes social media conglomerates will stay progressive with protecting it.
Delta Force Veteran speaks at CWU

By Anakaren Garcia
Staff Reporter

He went from holding a gun to his face on the verge of committing suicide, to giving life lessons about failure and resilience. Retired Command Sergeant Major Tom Satterly of Delta Force spoke about his life experiences and how he likes to help others on April 19 in the SURC Theater.

Talking briefly about his life, Satterly let people know that he grew up being bullied every day by girls smaller than him and by two bigger boys. Satterly let these people bully him for years until he finally got the confidence to stand up to them.

Satterly’s experiences with bullies at a young age taught him how to treat people and how not to treat people. He learned the importance of treating people with respect and dignity.

Satterly wanted students to realize that everything they do is for themselves.

“Our greatest failure is the ability to let go. The ability to give up,” Satterly said. “My hope is that you will surpass the standards your parents have set for you, make your own and then blow those out of the water as well.”

Wanting to be realistic, Satterly let CWU students know that “You’re not going to get rich overnight, you’re not going to get rich in a year.” He said that some people get lucky and they do get rich, but the odds aren’t likely for everyone. So, people have to work hard for it.

“If you enter into whatever you’re doing in life, for the money or for the benefit, people can smell it, they know what you’re doing and you’re not going to succeed,” Satterly said. “If you do it because it’s in your heart, and you do it because it’s what you want to do, you want to succeed, you will succeed, and the money will follow.”

“Life is what you make it, life is a sum of everything you put into it, you’ll get it back,” Satterly said.

“Mentorship is a two-way street, never forget that,” Satterly said, when he talked about becoming a leader.

To be a good leader, you have to be willing to learn from others to get a better handle on things and improve.

“Learn something different than what you’re used to,” Satterly said.

On the topic of friendship, Satterly stressed the importance of surrounding yourself with positive people.

“You become like the five people you hang around the most”, Satterly said. There was a time in his life where he hung around the wrong people. At the time, he thought those people were friends “he couldn’t live without.”

He was later exposed to another world filled with different types of people like his wife, Jen Satterly.

“[Tom] is a totally different man than he was when I met him,” Jen said. She saw deeper into Satterly and she knew that the man he was before his trauma was still in him somewhere.

“My love for him really took over and I felt like I was worth saving,” Jen said.

CWU recognizes community diversity

“Diversity” from page 1

“Central really tries to be the face, the claim to fame [for] diversity. They’ve got all the numbers, they’ve got the stats to prove it,” Tahkeal said. “But, is that always shown after those recruitment stages are over?”

Tahkeal said that it’s vital for students to know that CWU takes pleasure in highlighting diversity in positive manners. She said it’s significant that this event allows students an opportunity to nominate people who are doing great comprehensive and diverse things.

Justin Francisco, lead programmer at the Diversity and Equity Center, said what’s great about the event is that you’re able to see people who care about diversity. He said when someone’s working in diversity they don’t really get to witness those who are making changes in their society.

“But [they] are actually present because they do a lot of work or they support a lot of diversity initiatives,” Francisco said. “I think it’s really cool for me [because] it shows the big deal of our campus.”

Francisco said he would like to see increased collaboration in the future with different departments instead of having more diversity events. He said while he’s worked for the Diversity and Equity Center for several years, he feels like they are the only ones putting events together.

“I think we could do more partnering with different students [and] different organizations to promote diversity events,” she said. “I think that would be really beneficial to the events are not just centralized.”
When Celine Fowler and Taelor Griffin signed their National Letter of Intent in 2014, they had no idea that just two years later they would also find their best friend.

Fowler, a senior outfielder from North Bend, Washington, has been a four-year starter for the Wildcats and has always had a vibrant personality, making her presence known everywhere she goes.

In their time on the team both Griffin and Fowler have seen the team go through many changes. Fowler has played under both former head coach, Mallory Hollman-Fletcher, and current head coach, Mike Larabee. Earning herself conference and regional honors in both the 2016 and 2017 seasons, Fowler has always been a vocal leader from day one.

“I remember the first time I took pictures for the team, they were out front of Shaw, and Celine was posing and making faces. She is so outgoing,” said Sammy Henderson, sports information director.

Griffin, a senior catcher and pinch hitter from Ellensburg, is quieter and more reserved when it comes to her day-to-day personality but that doesn’t stop her from making jokes.

“I have known of Griff since she was in high school, being an Ellensburg girl, I knew the name, she was local,” Henderson said. “She just seemed a lot quieter. But she is one of the funniest people I have ever met.”

Henderson described Griffin as calm in intense situations. He said one of his favorite things about Griffin when she is on the field is that she takes on each at bat as if she was the leadoff hitter without letting the stress take over her when it comes time to do her job.

“She is the perfect pinch hitter,” Henderson said. “She approaches as if she was a lead off batter or a starter. It didn’t change the way she approached the situation.”

Fowler and Griffin never expected to be friends when first joining the team in September 2014.

“I thought she was weird,” Fowler said. “And I’m pretty sure she thought I was a brat.”

It wasn’t until the 2015 season, their sophomore year, that the two girls really became friends. Their sophomore year, that the two girls really became friends. Their sophomore year, that the two girls really became friends. Their sophomore year, that the two girls really became friends.

“I remember I got a Snapchat with them saying that they were locked in Celine’s room,” said sophomore outfielder Paige Liikala.

The two not only play softball and hang out together, but also work as sports information assistants, making their friendship just that more unique.

“They are both so fun and are always having so much fun together, I have never heard either of them say they were tired of being around the other and I think that is so unique about their friendship,” Henderson said.

With their friendship, they bring a lot to the team, on and off the field.

“They really make the dugout fun,” Liikala said.

With the loud chants and cheering culture softball brings, it helps that Griffin and Fowler build their energy off one another making the dugout even louder and more fun.

“I think our chemistry in the dugout makes it more fun and exciting,” Fowler said.

With the season nearing the end and their time at CWU coming to a close, Griffin and Fowler both agreed that the worst part of graduating will be that they won’t be able to see one another each day.

“She’s moving to Spokane and I’m student teaching in Issaquah,” Fowler said. “Now we’re going to have to plan to see each other.” Griffin added.

Although the season is coming to an end, the two still have two more guaranteed weeks together.

The Wildcats look to finish their regular season against Saint Martin’s University for the first and only time this season, with a four-game series played both in Lacey and Ellensburg on April 28-29.

GNAC conference play begins just days later on May 3.

The Wildcats are sitting second in conference and are looking to make their fourth appearance in the GNAC tournament in a five-year span.

The Wildcats have a very senior-heavy roster this year with four seniors graduating, including transfer catcher Jacie Daniels and outfielder Samantha Gottham.
Tennis tournament opens up at CWU

By Micah Chen
Staff Reporter

The CWU Recreation Center is partnering with a tennis tournament on Saturday April 28 from noon to 6 p.m. This is the only time of the year that CWU Recreation puts together an organized tennis competition.

CWU has been hosting an annual intramural tennis tournament for several years now. According to organizer Jordan Bishop, there’s good reason why they keep bringing it back.

Bishop said that there’s definitely a significant number of students interested in competing in racket sports, but there’s not enough students to do a full league, so a tournament fills the demand.

“We try to meet the needs of all our students,” Bishop said.

Participants of all skill levels are welcome to compete in this tournament. Bishop explained that in prior years they’ve had first-time players, active players and former players as well.

“There’s a variety of skill levels to participate to determine this. It’s always great to see the former players come out and showcase what they’re good at,” Bishop said.

Several competitions are making their return for the CWU Tennis tournament including sophomore Shanna Chua.

“It’s an awesome experience to play against people of different skill levels,” Chua said. “It’s a competitive atmosphere, but at the same time, it’s all about having fun.”

Should the skill levels of participants be greatly different, the plan is to split participants into competitive brackets. One bracket will be filled with recreational players, and the other bracket filled with the more competitive players.

Participants that lose the first game shouldn’t be worried as there will be a chance at redemption.

“We’re going to do our best to make sure there is a three-match guarantee,” Bishop said.

“Depending on the number of participants, we’ll either do a pool play format, or double elimination with an extra game.”

According to Chua, line judges and official scorekeepers are not projected to be at the tournament. Rather participants should be expected to keep score, demonstrate good sportsmanship and play the game fairly.

The CWU Tennis Club is a place to practice your skills, and compete against other universities in tournaments.

The president of the CWU Tennis Club, Nick Paulay had words for anyone that may be interested in participating in the tournament.

“There’s a lot of people that won’t have a lot of experience in this tournament,” Paulay said.

“The best way to get better at something is to play against other people of similar ability. This tournament will be a good way to get into some live action.”

Wearing lightweight clothing is recommended, along with comfortable athletic footwear. Racquets and tennis balls will be provided.

You can sign up for the CWU Tennis tournament by going to imleagues.com/cwu and clicking on the tennis tournament sign up tab. For more information, or any questions you may have on the CWU Tennis tournament, send an email to organizer Jordan Bishop, at jordan.bishop2@cwu.edu.

CWU prepares to tackle spring football

By Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

As the month comes to an end, all that’s left for CWU Football is two practices and their spring game.

Special teams and defensive backs coach Benny Boyd, who’s currently interim defensive coordinator, thinks the most important part of spring practice is about “being able to get as a football team.”

“Every year you lose football players—good, bad, but the thing is being able to develop your identity as a football program and a football team,” Boyd said.

“This 2018 team is not gonna be like any team before or after it.”

Boyd said that the team is trying to develop their identity by having their leaders step up and by having younger players step into those leadership roles as well.

“We still have a ways to go, but we’re a far cry from where we began,” Boyd said. “We’ll just keep trying to put one foot in front of the other and keep moving forward.”

The team held a scrimmage on April 14 where head coach Ian Shoemaker focused on the team as a whole rather than on specific players.

“Mostly what we’re looking for is unit execution and guys doing their job,” Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker said the high point of the off season has been getting back out and playing football.

“Thats the fun part for our guys,” Shoemaker said.

Comparing the scrimmage to the upcoming spring game on April 28, “both of them are gonna be opportunities for us to evaluate guys that haven’t had a chance to play much football,” Shoemaker said.

The spring game is a chance for coaches and fans to get a final look at players before the end of their spring practices. The game features starters and backups running plays just like a regular season game. The team will also run drills, and new recruits on the sideline will get a taste of what CWU Football is all about.

Last season’s starting quarterback Reilly Hennessey, who has been battling with an injury for the majority of winter and the beginning of spring, will get more reps in the spring game. He looks to capitalize on coming back to the football field and preparing for next season.

“Continuing to get better is the biggest thing for him,” Shoemaker said.

Backup quarterback Christian Moore will be using the spring game as a chance to impress coaches and show them what he’s been working on over the last few months.

“This off season, during the winter quarter was a lot of speed stuff with me… I’m a tall dude, kinda bigger in weight, so speed was a huge key for me,” Moore said.

Moore is also getting more comfortable with the playbook and is ready to focus more on showing his athleticism.

Shoemaker spoke about getting both players back onto the field at the end of spring.

“Reilly’s coming back and doing real well,” Shoemaker said.

“They’re gonna be splitting more reps as we go.”

Spring practice also offers an opportunity for players who were redshirted last year to get a jumpstart on next season. Many academic sophomores are still considering red shirt freshmen this upcoming season. They are using this time to prepare for when they are athletically cleared to run out on the field and make a difference for CWU Football.

Boyd also touched on just how important it is to get those new players out on the field to prove themselves, and that all starts with the spring practices.

“We’re just trying to make sure that we can build some skill development… get some confidence,” Boyd said. “We gotta a lot of guys who have not played a lot of varsity football for us… a lot of talented guys, but unproven.”

Heading into the spring game this weekend, Boyd is ready to see how his defense improves from the last scrimmage.

“What we tell our guys on defense is ‘the beauty’s in the execution.’ What we wanna do is be able to execute the desired calls, we wanna play hard, and run to the football,” Boyd said. “I think we’re on the right path.”
Floating the Yakima River in Ellensburg

By Gunnar Hinds
Staff Reporter

For people who are looking for a relaxing day in the outdoors, rafting on the river can be a great way to unwind.

As the weather starts improving, Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) is preparing for the busy spring and summer months of rafting on the Yakima River.

Kendra Turner and Tonya Morrey are both raft guides on the Yakima and work for OPR. They provided knowledge about the upcoming rafting season, and shared information on unique rafting locations on the Yakima River.

The river can be very dangerous in spots, so OPR recommends certain spots to get in and to get out. OPR has a map laid out of different sites they recommend. The map can be found online through OPR or you can go into their shop on campus.

“There are seven spots on the map, but we recommend to only go between one through five,” Turner said.

According to Morrey, a float through spots one through five takes between two to three hours.

Site one is called Ringer Loop, site two is called Bighorn, site three is called Beavertail, site four is called Seventeen Mile Flats, and site five is called Umtanum Recreation Center.

At the end of your journey, Umtanum Recreation Center has a bunch of BBQ pits and places to put your raft or inner tube on shore while you eat.

“It’s a really cool spot to relax after the trip,” Turner said.

“Rafting the Yakima for the day can be very inexpensive for students here at the university,” said Morrey.

Renting a raft from OPR costs around $40 and inner tubes cost only around $6. Rafts or inner tubes can be rented for a full day.

“If you are looking for a more bumpy ride, the small inner tubes can get a little crazy on the river,” Morrey said.

They added that all information regarding floats can be found at www.cwu.edu/OPR.
What to do in the ‘Burg this week:

April 26-
Geek Out Game Out: FIFA 18, 6-11 p.m. in SURC 201/202. Free. Play soccer with your friends.

April 28-
Baseball vs. Western Oregon, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the CWU baseball field. Free.

April 30-
Monday Movie Madness: The 15:17 to Paris, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the SURC Theatre.

May 1-
TNT! Bingo and Wellness, 4-6 p.m. at the Bistro. Free. Destress with bingo and tips from the Wellness Center.

May 2-
Off-Campus Housing Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. SURC East Patio and throughout the SURC.

May 5-
3-on-3 basketball tournament hosted by CWU Women’s Basketball, begins at 8 a.m. in the Nicholson Pavilion. Details and registration information at wildcatsports.com

Q: “Why did the primate building get torn down?”
- Junior Scout Wesselman, who studies biomedicine

A: Demolition of the athletic annex building, where the Primate Studies Program was originally housed began on March 1, 2018. A new residence hall and additional parking will be built in the area of the old building.

Have a question about something on campus? We’ll find the answer for you. @CWUObserver on Twitter with your questions by Monday, April 30!

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