The Observer

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Wildcats stride towards GNAC championships

By Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

For CWU Track and Field athletes that don’t qualify for the NCAA National Championships, the Greater Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Outdoor Championships is their final shot at glory this season.

Outdoor Championships will be May 11 and 12 in Monmouth, Oregon, and will be the final track and field meet between GNAC teams.

The event is scored separately for the Men’s and Women’s side. Earlier this season, in the GNAC Indoor Championships, the CWU Men’s team finished sixth out of 10 schools and the Women’s team tied for first place with Seattle Pacific University.

At last year’s GNAC Outdoor Championships, the CWU Men’s team finished sixth in the conference and the CWU Women’s team finished third in the conference.

After becoming co-champions earlier this season, the CWU Women’s team is looking to achieve its first ever back-to-back GNAC Championship first-place finish.

“ITAM department relocates to Hebeler following report of health hazards

By Sarah Hoot
For the Observer

Shane Scott, the interim assistant vice president of campus planning and facilities management, stated that facilities has “put [their] foot on the gas pedal,” and that as soon as the issue hit his radar he dispatched his crews to begin what repairs they could.

After receiving a complaint on Feb. 28, James Hudson, an industrial hygienist with the department of environmental health and safety, hired NVL Labs to conduct an investigation of Shaw Smyser. The final report was submitted on March 26 and detailed the mold issues within the building.

The report stated that there was an elevated level of Aspergillus-Penicillium and Stachybotrys—different types of black mold—spores within Shaw Smyser room 234. It also stated that the mold may have been caused from excessive moisture in the walls and other building materials.

According to a memo sent from Director of Facilities Ed Castaneda to Scott regarding the findings of the report, after receiving the results, facilities went and did their own inspections of different parts of the building.

“Using an aerial lift, crews inspected the building gutters and roof drains on the north side of the building,” the memo said.

What’s Inside

CWUPD officers receive promotions

Snapshots of the Burg

Beautiful, cheesy goodness

Deconstruction begins on chimpanzee building

Before

After

Google Maps

April 2018, Ryan Weier

Ryan Weier
CWUPD continues restructuring
Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John promoted

By Miles King
News Editor

Starting May 1, two CWU Police Department employees will begin new positions. Corporal Andy Bayne and Officer Jeff St. John will both become sergeants.

Bayne, a CWU graduate with a law and justice degree and played baseball for the university, has been with the department since 2006. Baynes has been in his position as corporal for six and half years and was previously worked at Kittitas County Corrections.

St. John started at the department on Sept. 11, 2001 and has split time at CWU and the Army Reserve. He has served a few tours and spent a nearly five months in the Mideast East in 2004. St. John just returned from a deployment with the Navy Reserve, which he currently is listed with.

The promotions are part of a department-wide restructuring, Project First, which is currently in progress. Corporal Bayne and Chief Jason Berthon-Koch started their positions recently, according to McPherson. Other than adding another officer later who is currently in training, the promotions were in the works for awhile, according to McPherson.

“We all kind of been through our paces here,” Bayne said. “Being a corporal for six years allowed me to get a lot of the reports, a lot of the query… understanding that part.”

Bayne and St. John are confident that the new structure can carry out the mission of the department. According to McPherson, the mission will not change and the new structure will be more than ideal going forward.

“I think our message will remain consistent,” St. John said. “We won’t shirk our duties just because we have a different culture.”

According the McPherson and Bayne, the department’s involvement in the campus community is important for them, and a rarity in the law enforcement sector.

“We invest in the community, we want this community to grow and flourish.”

Marc McPherson, CWUPD Lieutenant

Andy Bayne (left) and Jeff St. John (right) have worked at the campus police department for a combined 28 years. They both begin new roles as sergeants on May 1.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John have shown a lot of dedication to the CWU community. Their contributions to the department have been invaluable. We are excited to see them take on these new roles as sergeants,” McPherson said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John have been an integral part of the CWUPD family for over 20 years. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to the department, our community, and our students. We are proud to have them lead our department as sergeants,” Mooney said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John are highly respected within our department and the CWU community. Their promotion to the rank of sergeant is a well deserved recognition of their hard work and commitment to our campus community,” Mooney said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John are two highly respected members of our department. They have served the CWU community with distinction and honor. This promotion reflects their dedication to the department and the high standard of which we hold them,” Mooney said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John are both outstanding individuals, and we are confident that they will continue to serve our department and community with excellence,” Mooney said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John are dedicated public servants who have given selflessly to our community. They are well deserving of this promotion,” Mooney said.

“Corporal Bayne and Officer St. John are two of the most highly regarded members of our department. They have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to the department, our community, and our students. We are proud to have them lead our department as sergeants,” Mooney said.

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ITAM temporarily moved due to health concerns

A faculty member within the department who chose not to be named stated that there have been several faculty and staff members who reported health problems. In their experience, the source has had to wear a mask when going into their office in Shaw Smyser, has had a loss of visual contrast—perceiving differences in objects—and extreme fatigue. Another staff member was reported to have fainted in their office and was taken to the hospital.

“I never had allergy issues in my life,” Dr. Martin Bagaya, an ITAM assistant professor, said. “But now, after we were [told all of the issues in that building], we know that was the cause.”

Scott stated the move into Hebeler Hall was voluntary and not brought on by facilities.

“The air quality is much better over here,” said ITAM department secretary Libby Gibson referring to the new office in Hebeler.

The north side of Shaw Smyser. The hall is currently under inspection for health concerns regarding mold.

The entire ITAM department is set to move into Hebeler on July 18, after the contractors finish their tests and give the building up in the overflow office space. This means that the professors who are used to being able to use phones for work have experienced some loss in communication with students.

“You can’t just knock on the door or go into the office,” Lwin Htet, a junior ITAM major, said.

Even though the move is for the health and safety of the people within the ITAM department, the move was not without its challenges. Many professors are being housed in an overflow office space instead of their own personal offices and some are even sharing a single cubicle.

The incoming professors and staff have also had to face a sort of technology downgrade. According to Dr. Susan Rivera, an ITAM lecturer, the phone network was never set up in the overflow office space.

“We all know [the move into Hebeler] is not anything permanent,” Gibson said. “So, everyone’s got a really good outlook on it.”

Families enjoy books and snacks at literacy night

By Jack Belcher
Senior News Reporter

The first Family Literacy Night of Spring Quarter was on May 1 with roughly 20 children and parents in attendance. This event has been a part of CWU for close to 11 years and has given away around 1,300 books to children, according to Associate Professor Dr. Sharryn Walker from the education, teaching and learning department at CWU.

There are three literacy nights each quarter, with the second and third event on May 10 and 15. The event is an opportunity for CWU teacher candidates to practice their skills in a practical experience as part of the Teaching Children’s Literature class (EDLT 321) that is taught by Walker.

According to Walker, this program provides the community an experience for children and their families to attend a free event where they can enjoy books and snacks, which are also provided.

“This event lets students practice their teaching skills by providing them with a practical way to apply what they have learned in the classroom.”

“They [the kids] usually want their snack first, so they go and grab their snack and then they get to choose a reader and they sit there with them and listen to the stories that are told,” Walker said. “Before they leave, they take a book home from off the book table.”

The students pick out what book they want to read before the event starts and then the children get to pick a book to take home.

Junior Haylee Engelhardt, was also enjoying her first literacy night decided to read “Llama Llamma mad at Mama,” until she agreed to read “Bulldozers” to 2-year-old Jethro Miller.

“Sometimes the children want to book shop, but they don’t know what book they want to take home,” Walker said. “So they grab a couple from the table and take it to a reader and ask them to read it to them just to make sure that it is the one that they want.”

Another junior, Cassidi Laramore, decided to read “When Spring Comes” to children for her first Family Literacy Night.

“It’s great,” Laramore said. “It’s been a lot of fun.”

Walker said that when the program first started 11 years ago, only one or two people showed up. Now, the event attracts around 20 people on average.

“It’s really a low key and comfortable event. We have lots of families who once they start coming, they come all the time,” Walker said. “We have one now that he was six-week-old when he first came and now he’s in second grade.”

The event is sponsored in part by the Diversity and Equity Center at CWU. According to assistant director Katrina Whitney, the event has been a collaborative effort with the education department. The goal of this program in Whitney’s opinion is to provide an opportunity for students to read to kids, as well as increasing the desire for kids to learn and to want to read. This is an event that is open to everyone, not just people that are associated with the university.

“This gives them [people] an opportunity to feel included in our campus community,” Whitney said.
VP elect ready for office

By Mathilde Angeledei
Staff Reporter

Claire-Anne Grepo was elected Vice President for Academic Affairs on April 18. She is a sophomore pursuing a Russian and political science double major.

Grepo will take office in Fall 2018 and replace Edith Rojas, who will become the ASCWU president. The polling results show that Grepo was elected with nearly 65 percent of the vote, totaling 753 votes.

According to the CWU website, the office of Academic Affairs is a resource for students who have ideas, issues, and concerns regarding academic departments. The VP attends Faculty Senate meetings in order to represent the students of the Academic Affairs, has given her approval to Grepo.

“Her reason I supported her was that she was passionate about what she was saying,” Edgar Marchan, Grepo supporter.

“Edith Rojas, ASCWU President Elect.

It was the main reason I supported her was that she was passionate about what she was saying, what she said such as the fact that we should use the leftover money to create a scholarship for deserving students,” Marchan said.

Edith Rojas, who is currently the VP of Academic Affairs, has given her approval to Grepo.

“Her reason I supported her was that she was passionate about what she was saying. I agreed with a lot of what she said such as the fact that we should use the leftover money to create a scholarship for deserving students,” Marchan said.

Edith Rojas, ASCWU President Elect.

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Edith Rojas, ASCWU President Elect.

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“The Senate has one person from each department representing that department but there are only 20 students senators from 52 departments and that is a big issue. I want to get students to join Academic Affairs.” Grepo said.

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Most “comic-booky” movie of the year

By Will Schorno
Staff Reporter

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is over a decade old now and is constantly evolving. The latest movie in the MCU, “Avengers: Infinity War” follows every single character in the MCU thus far and does just about as good a job as I could ask for.

The movie is overflowing with action and conflict from the get-go and does a fantastic job at managing all the subplots.

It can, at times, be overwhelming as the story is always moving forward at a rapid pace. There is no sequence in the movie where all the heroes in the MCU are displayed in the same setting.

Instead, the protagonists are split into groups that you follow throughout the film. The characters in said groups are paired up perfectly as well. Dr. Strange and Tony Stark butt heads in their groups frequently because they are in a lot of ways the same person, while Spider-Man and Star-Lord conflict over pop culture references.

The best aspect of “Infinity War” is that all the characters serve a purpose. There were no characters who didn’t help in some way to contribute to the story. I do have some gripes about how the character of Star-Lord was handled. When most MCU fans have seen “Infinity War,” Star-Lord will be the most hated character in the MCU by a long shot.

It’s not that Chris Pratt does a bad job of portraying him, quite the opposite, but Star-Lord makes the biggest mistake any character in all 10 years of MCU has ever made. He is absolutely bitch-made after this movie and it will be difficult for the screen writers in “Infinity War: Part 2” to make him likeable again.

Now, let’s talk about Thanos. Thanos is a welcome sight in the MCU as most villains portrayed take a back seat for the heroes to shine. Not in “Infinity War.”

While the heroes are portrayed wonderfully, Thanos is the best kind of villain; he believes what he is doing is right. He is also emotional, empathetic, and still very evil.

This movie can be considered Thanos’, as most of the plot revolves around his actions and he sets the tone for every fight. Thanos is the most powerful MCU villain by far and “Infinity War” does an excellent job at portraying that. He throws around Iron Man like he’s a hacky sack and can beat up Hulk with ease.

The special effects in “Infinity War” are top-notch. The CGI in the movie is as good as it gets from Thanos’ shaved beard stubbles and human-like facial expressions to Spider-Man’s new and improved suit. There wasn’t a moment in the movie where I thought the scenery could have been better generated or I wanted the special effects to look more realistic.

“Infinity War” is the most comic-booky movie I have ever seen. Every character is as accurate to the source material as possible. Besides Star-Lord, he sucks. The comedic dialogue, including every one-liner, is welcome in such a chaotic mess of a conflict and it doesn’t get overdone. Nobody should be going into this movie with a predicted outcome in mind; this movie is not afraid of getting bally and will go places you do not expect it to go.

Juliane Luna for The Observer

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You Belong Here!
Portraits of the Past

Photos courtesy of CWU Archives and Special Collections
Award-winning photojournalist, former CWU professor and photographer John Foster passed away on Friday, April 6. Foster was known for his nearly 30 years of work for CWU and the Ellensburg Rodeo. He served on the Ellensburg Rodeo Board as director for 10 years and founded the CWU Rodeo Club, of which he was an advisor.

Foster’s experience in newprint and photography was noted as valuable by The Observer and many institutions on campus and around the community. Foster, an Indiana native, received acclaim for his photography at publications such as the Indianapolis News, The Greenfield Daily Reporter, The Hancock Journal, The Indiana Associated Press and Life Magazine.

Throughout the 60s and well into the 80s, Foster used his camera as his primary tool to document the changing identity that once was the Central Washington State College and the students surrounding it. The campus and culture were changing back then, and Foster was there to document a good portion of it. Students, such as Darla Hill, a 1991 graduate in print journalism, describe a fun, astute professor that had just as much humor as he did guidance.

“He was funny. I think that’s something that everybody says about him,” Hill said. “I soon found out that he [also] really knew the craft of writing and knew how to teach it well.”
War at Home rages over airwaves

By Taylor Papadakis
Staff Reporter

With her vibrant red hair and reserved persona, Easton Benson can be described as intelligent, determined, influential, and a doppelganger to the mermaid Ariel.

Benson is an avid reader; an advocate for the Diversity and Equity Center, and an actress. Now, Benson can add “play writer” to her resume.

On April 26, “War at Home,” a radio drama based on the lives of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black squadron, debuted.

Benson has had the idea to write a radio drama based on the highly decorated group of historic African-Americans in summer 2017.

Benson wanted the main focus of the play to be about the treatment of soldiers in combat once they arrived back into civilian life.

In order to make her play as accurate as possible, Benson spent weeks researching World War II and the events within “War at Home” as well as trying to envision the life of a soldier from the greatest generation.

“The idea of soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has evolved through the history of war. I found all these amazing stories that just had to be told,” Benson said when describing her research.

The radio play discusses and exposes the realities of war, conflict, and combat through three characters. One character is a Tuskegee aviator, another is a modern day soldier from Afghanistan battling PTSD, and the third is a Japanese-American nurse from Vietnam.

The play was made to show the true effects of racism, warfare, and class structure that represent the different mental and social struggles soldiers battle when they arrive back home.

Benson’s drama was inspired by her grandparents and immediate loved ones who have been affected by the repercussions of war.

“I have always had an interest in the behavior of military with and without conflict and how those things that affect people’s lives in ways society doesn’t always address,” Benson said on opening night.

The play was performed downtown Ellensburg. Filled with students, friends, and veterans, the play was impassioned with the truths of mental illness surrounding how soldiers are treated once they’ve fought for their country, and how they are then shoved back into society with no help from the people around them.

Benson says it’s not that loved ones and confidantes aren’t there to support and encourage returning soldiers, it’s that the effects of war have transformed soldiers into who they weren’t before combat.

The negative aftereffects of fighting for your country aren’t exemplified like the ideas of traveling away from home or exploring unknown regions, when military recruits beg high school graduates to take a stand to represent their country and fight for their Constitutional freedoms.

In addition, the K20 building in CWU’s theatre department students was “super excited” as well to be a part of the play.

Late night eats for a monster appetite

By Will Schorno
Staff Reporter

The newest late-night restaurant on Third Avenue, Monster Melts, is located on the same street as Pita Pit and Hot Diggity Dog. However, Monster Melts separates itself from the other restaurants because it’s open until 2 a.m.

Monster Melts has an upstairs lounge complete with board games and a TV to keep their consumers occupied. The restaurant has a friendly Seattle-esque vibe to it with brick walls and paintings decorating the place from floor to ceiling.

Their most popular meal, grilled cheese with soup, sticks with the theme of comfort. The owner of Monster Melts, Lori Poulter, who has experience in the Seattle bar scene, said the layout and spirit of the place was designed with comfort in mind but employees come first.

“I operate my business by my employees. That’s how it works for me and having them understand and be able to feel and be the best that they can be because they’re the ones there doing the hardest part and that’s the most rewarding,” Poulter said. “We want everyone to feel at home here.”

Poulter’s business model has been beneficial. Since the opening in October, there has only been one cited incident where someone has had to be told to leave the restaurant. Poulter’s means of operating the business seems to make the employees happy, which transfers to the customers, which then minimizes conflict even after a long night with plenty of drinks involved.

“I think we’re really fortunate to realize accountability because it’s so much easier in today’s day because people hold themselves accountable,” Poulter said. “It’s easy; you just be nice and give respect and it comes back to you.”

Poulter’s attitude is not just hearsay, her employees follow the same model of a tightly-knit restaurant staff. Kash Serock, who has been employed since the restaurant’s opening, echoed roughly what Poulter explained in her business model.

“[Lori Poulter] has our back I think more than anyone can comprehend,” Kash said.

The future for Monster Melts includes an expanded second floor with more tables and chairs to occupy more customers for a growing business.
Athletes set sights on GNAC Championships

“GNAC” from page #1

According to head coach Kevin Adkisson, individuals are what makes up the track team, but the combination of all the individuals into one team effort is what makes the Outdoor Championships a big part of the season.

“That’s where the team focus side is,” Adkisson said. “You’ve obviously got a lot of good individuals… that’s why we always wanna go to conference and get that combination of all these great individual performances.”

Adkisson added that the conclusion to this season gives some top athletes that are already qualified for the NCAA National Championships a chance to leave a lasting legacy at CWU.

“Records come and go, but All-American placings at nationals… that’s something that stays on the record book forever,” Adkisson said. “Say, Kodiak Landis in the decathlon, a top three potential finisher, or Alexa Landis and Shindruk are two CWU Track and Field athletes that have already qualified for the NCAA National Championships and are looking to make a big impact on the team in the GNAC Outdoor Championships.

Kodiak Landis

An athlete to watch out for on the CWU Men’s Track and Field team is Kodiak Landis. A decathlete, Landis has been on many headlines and has made an impact on the CWU record books this season.

Three times this year Landis has received GNAC Field Athlete of the Week. Landis carried his latest Athlete of the Week at the Bryan Clay Invitational on April 18 in Azusa, California. In this event he moved up to third overall on the GNAC All-Time List and also set a new CWU record in the decathlon, with a score of 7,187.

Landis, a probable automatic qualifier for the NCAA National Championships, also holds the CWU record for pole vault, is sixth all-time in the GNAC in the 400 meter, and is tenth all-time in the GNAC in the long jump.

“Finding rhythm, finding pop, being more explosive in all my events. This is the time where we pick up that speed and we pick up that explosive-ness,” Landis said, in regards to the season coming to a close.

Landis said he is excited for the meet, and it’s the most fun part of the season for him.

Landis is also looking forward to seeing the Women’s team compete for CWU.

“I’m really excited to see how our Women’s team will stack up coming off that tie for first in Indoors. It would be really nice to see us have that title outright,” Landis said. “And then for the guys team, I think we can actually do a lot more than people predict this year.”

Alexa Shindruk

On the CWU Women’s Track and Field team, a big name to keep an eye on is Alexa Shindruk. The junior is a distance runner and will compete in the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters.

Earlier this season, at the Mt. SAC Relays in Torrance, California, Shindruk bested her own school record in the 10,000 meters by over a minute. Her previous record was 35 minutes and 58.99 seconds.

Her new time of 34 minutes, 57.08 seconds was good enough to put her at seventh fastest all-time in the GNAC for the 10k.

Shindruk is sitting in a prime position to qualify for the NCAA National Championships, but also understands the importance of representing CWU in the GNAC Outdoor Championships.

“Trying to help all our teammates to come along so we can all score and contribute is important,” Shindruk said.

Shindruk is helping her teammates by “pacing” them, which is the act of leading them in a distance run in order to establish their own competitive speed. Last Saturday, at a track meet at Western Washington University, Shindruk paced a teammate and helped her set a new personal record in the 5,000 meters.

With no female distance runners in their senior year this year, Shindruk knows the role she plays as being a leader for younger distance runners on the team.

“I have to step into that role of trying to lead people and work together with them,” Shindruk said.

Shindruk brought up the recent success that the CWU Track and Field team has been having, and how that has had a big impact on the community, school, and even the team’s future.

“The Women’s team tied for first earlier this season in the GNAC Indoor Championships, and CWU is also adding a new track facility that will allow the team to host home meets.

“I think as a whole it’s not well-known, but the success that we’ve been having in years past has helped that,” Shindruk said. “It has also helped in terms of recruiting more talented individuals… success breeds success.”

[end]
Opinion: LeBron James is the GOAT

By Micah Chen
Staff Reporter

The annual CWU rock-climbing trip by OPR is happening this spring quarter. The climbing will take place at Vantage. According to the Lemke.Climbs.com, Vantage Rock boasts over 700 unique routes. Lemke.Climbs.com also stated that Vantage Rock was carved out by erosion during the ice age. When the Lake Missoula floods hit, it carved out the scene we see today, and now it is used as a rock-climbing destination.

Climbing a rock in nature is different from the indoor wall in the CWU Recreation Center. Climbing leader Melissa Robertson was able to explain the differences between the two styles.

“The climbing that we do for our trip is sport climbing,” Robertson said. “Sport climbing has bolts on the outdoor wall, so you’re putting the ropes up as you go. It does have grip holders on the wall, so that would be the same as it is on the Rec Center wall.”

The Vantage Rock is divided into three different areas. According to Lemke.Climbs.com, they are known as the Feather, Sunshine Wall, and the Middle East Wall. All three parts of the wall feature their unique characteristics.

The Sunshine Wall is the go-to in the winter, as it faces the sun and therefore is much warmer than the other two areas. It also is protected from wind, which can be an issue during spring months. The Feather area faces up to its name as it possesses the lowest intensity routes. It is most suitable for beginners or for climbing in the gym.

The Middle East Wall acts in opposite fashion to the Sunshine Wall. There is plenty of shade on this route to protect you from summer conditions.

With all these characteristics, Robertson continues to lead teams back to Vantage year after year.

“It’s very convenient, only 35 minutes away, and has plenty of climbing options,” Robertson said. “A lot of other climbing places have their cliffs located miles apart, but here at Vantage they’re right next to each other.”

Climbing participant Kenon Jeffers gave his thoughts on why he keeps coming back for the climbing adventure.

“It’s good to get outside, especially on a day like it is right now,” Jeffers said. “I personally find it more interesting than climbing in the gym.”

Vantage Rock is aligned with man-made steel rope hangers. This is necessary for belaying climbers. Indoor climbing walls have steel rope hangers inserted already; but they are not organically made in nature. CWU staff have aligned Vantage Rock with steel hangers to ensure safe climbing.

No previous experience is required, as Vantage Rock has plenty of route options for beginners and veterans alike. Even if you don’t feel the need to climb all minutes of the trip, there are plenty of other nature-driven options in this area.

“If you don’t like climbing, is for you, there’s lots of nature in the surrounding area, lots of sunshine, and plenty of friends to talk to,” Robertson said.

The Vantage Rock climb takes place over two different dates, May 5 and 20. The event runs on both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. According to trick co-ordinator Robertson, anyone is welcome to participate in both rock climbs.

The Vantage Rock Climbing trip takes place 30 miles east of Ellensburg in Vantage, Washington. The cost is $35 per session for CWU students, and $42 for non-CWU students.

Top Rope Belay Certification has been highly recommended by the OPR staff, which you can schedule with the Recreation Center. Robertson emphasized to wear attire that you can move around well in, as that is part of the nature of rock climbing. If you’re feeling a little intimidated to go on a rock climbing adventure, trip participant Angela Brooks had words on his climbing experience.

“Just about every new climber that’s come on this trip has enjoyed it,” Brooks said. “We’ve had climbers come on these trips, as well as join us often on the Rec Center wall.”

By Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

It’s no question anymore; LeBron James is the greatest basketball player of all time.

The thing that pushes LeBron over Michael Jordan as the best NBA player in history is the talent surrounding each player on their respective teams, and what they did specifically in regards to that talent either being there, or not being there.

Let’s compare their careers. For LeBron, through 15 seasons, he has made the playoffs 13 times. All in a row, missing the playoffs his first two seasons. He’s a 14-time all-star, three-time NBA Finals Champion, four-time MVP, and three-time Finals MVP.

Jordan played 15 seasons, and made the playoffs 13 times as well. Where LeBron missed the first two years of his career, Jordan missed the playoffs in his final two years with the Wizard. He’s a 14-time all-star, six-time NBA Finals Champion, five-time MVP, and six-time Finals MVP.

The biggest argument for Jordan being a better player overall is the amount of Finals rings he had over his career. Jordan has more rings because competition when he played was easier to overcome. For LeBron, playing in today’s NBA is why he doesn’t have as many rings.

Jordan played and won his Finals rings all between 1991-1998, a time in the NBA where the league was weak, soft, and full of expansion teams.

LeBron has had to deal with playing on a horrible 2006-2010 Cleveland team, having to play the San Antonio Spurs of the early 2010’s, and also found a way to come back down 3-1 in the Finals and beat what many consider to be the greatest basketball team of all time, the 2015 Golden State Warriors.

Outside of team ability and potential for either player, personal career stats play a big role as well. For LeBron, who shows no sign of retiring in the near year or two, stats that he has already surpassed Jordan in will continue to grow.

By the time his career is over, LeBron will be above Jordan in career points scored, all-star games, playoffs reached, NBA Finals reached, Olympic medals, overall record, rebounds per game, assists per game, and total triple-doubles.

The numbers add up; at this point in his career, LeBron James has already passed Michael Jordan as the greatest NBA player of all-time. For LeBron to even make it to the second round of this year’s playoffs with the way the rest of Cleveland is playing is a big milestone. If Cleveland wins this year’s NBA Finals, I hope it will be a unanimous decision. LeBron James is the GOAT.
Softball gears up for GNAC tournament

By Rachel Greve
Staff Reporter

The CWU Women’s softball team is headed to the GNAC tournament this weekend sitting in the second seed position. The Wildcats will head to Concordia University in Portland, Oregon this weekend where they will play for a chance at a super-regional berth.

With a four-game sweep over Saint Martin University (SMU), the Wildcats are GNAC champs for the third straight year in a row.

The Wildcats came out strong last weekend, hosting the first half of the four-game series in Ellensburg with an 11-6 and 10-7 victory over the Saints with sophomore Kylie Swee- ney securing her first win of the season on the mound.

On Sunday, the Wildcats and Saints headed west for the final two games of the series and regular season where the Wildcats were able to secure two more wins from the Saints, knocking them out of playoff contention with a 5-4 and 5-3 victories.

Freshmen pitcher Lexie Strasser was able to get her 18th win of the season in the first contest on Sunday while freshman infielder Alyvia Banan came in with a pinch-hit three-run home run, leading the Wildcats to their final score of 5-4.

With nine conference losses, three of those coming from the co-conference champs Northwest Nazarene University (NNU), the Wildcats are hoping to face the Nighthawks in the tournament and to earn the win they rightfully deserve.

“I think if we are able to play [NNU] again we will be way better than when we played them earlier in the season,” senior outfielder Celine Fowler said. “We know what to expect from them this time and we are ready to take them on.”

Fowler, a four-year starter for the Wildcats, has a .279 batting average and .309 slugging percentage.

With Fowler in the outfield and sophomore Taylor Williams on the mound, the team is looking strong at the end of the season. “I am confident in this team. I really think they have the ability to take the GNAC title,” head coach Mike Larabee said.

Williams, who was honored as GNAC Pitcher of the Week last week, said she is finally getting to where she needs to be mentally and could be happier that she is peaking at this time of the season.

“It’s really a mental game and I was in my head a lot at the beginning of the season,” Williams said. It wasn’t until Williams didn’t make the travel team to one of the team’s tournaments in Las Vegas, Nevada that Williams realized she wanted to be out on the field with her team.

The Wildcats leave for Portland this week and look to take on Simon Fraser University at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday in the first round of the GNAC tournament. The tournament is a double elimination.

The Wildcats lost to Western Oregon University last year in game five to send them home.
Sports Commentary

**Seattle Mariners**

Austin Lane, Staff Reporter

The Seattle Mariners ended April with a 16-11 overall record, which was good enough to finish a first half game above the Los Angeles Angels for second place in the AL West.

What seems to be the case though is a majority of fans are more focused on the teams off the field decisions rather than their on-the-field success.

The decision by the Mariners to send down Guillermo Heredia and let Ichiro stay on the roster was a baffling move to say the least. Heredia provides electricity, impact and playmaker ability. Ichiro has reached the end of his career.

However, fans are taking the move to the absolute extreme. The Mariners still finished five games over .500 and having Guillermo Heredia on the team would not have had an impact on that.

In this situation, General Manager Jerry Dipoto is not getting enough credit for what he has been able to put together on the team.

Dipoto managed to add a lead-off hitter, Dee Gordon, that can get on base, steal a base and open up the scoring early in any game. In 2016 Dipoto also acquired Jean Segura and Mitch Haniger, two players that are making a huge impact on our whole team's production.

Segura leads the team with nine doubles, and is tied with Haniger for the most hits on the team at 34. Haniger is tied for the most home runs in the MLB with 10, and leads the team with 27 runs batted in. This is all while General Manager Jerry Dipoto is not getting enough credit for what he has been able to put together on the team.

**Seattle Seahawks**

Matt Escamilla, Staff Reporter

Last year's Seattle Seahawks identity did not match Coach Pete Carroll and general manager John Schneider's beliefs of what the team should've been. What caused this? Ever since the infamous play against New England in Super Bowl XLIX, the Seahawks' draft picks have not fit into the role of having an offense that runs the ball well and a hitting-you-in-the-mouth type of defense.

The Seahawks acquired Jimmy Graham in 2015 in an attempt to secure Seattle's post Super Bowl-loss depression. If I were to have been a playmaker and stays healthy, something that the Hawks need.

Regardless of losing his hand, Griffin is a difference-maker. His speed and ability to create turnovers is what makes him special. I would not be surprised if he ends up starting next year at one point or another.

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**Crossword of the Week**

**Across**

3. The athletic conference CWU competes in (2015)
4. This CWU pavilion is named after a CWU Men's Basketball head coach
5. The ______ Cup is given to the hockey team that wins the playoffs
8. The name of the last horse to win the Triple Crown in 2015 (6, 5)
10. This derby is the first of the three horse races to be considered for the Triple Crown, and is this weekend.

**Down**

1. The name of the CWU mascot
2. This Seattle rugby team has former CWU Men's Rugby players on their roster
6. CWU ______ Night is an upcoming event put on by the CWU Alumni Association at Buxton Field
7. The CWU football head coach is ______ Shoe-maker
9. Williams threw a no-hitter on April 22

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**Clues**

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