

5-10-2018

## The Observer

Central Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu\\_student\\_newspaper](https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper)

---

### Recommended Citation

Central Washington University, "The Observer" (2018). *CWU Student Newspaper*. 2625.  
[https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu\\_student\\_newspaper/2625](https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper/2625)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in CWU Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@cwu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@cwu.edu).



## ♥♥ A crescendo of romance ♥♥

By **Anakaren Garcia**  
 Staff Reporter

Love has a way of changing our lives. When Torrance “Tor” Blaisdell met his wife Gayla in Boston, he never expected to be teaching classes with her 30 years later and thousands of miles away from where they first met.

At first glance, you might not even know the couple was married, but Tor knew Gayla was “the one” even in 1991 when they were both students.

When the Blaisdell’s first met, they were both attending the New England Conservatory of Music. Tor was a second year in the opera program and Gayla was a transfer student. On their first day of class, they had to sing in front of the class and the instructor as if auditioning for a part.

When it was Gayla’s turn to sing, she was extremely nervous but Tor was captivated by her performance.



Mikaela Nickolds for The Observer

Torrance and Gayla Blaisdell have been together for over 30 years and have enjoyed teaching music at CWU.

“It was great, she just nailed it,” Tor said who could tell his future wife was stricken with nerves after her song. Impressed by her vocals Tor offered his crush a Jolly Rancher to ease her nerves.

“She just grabbed that jolly rancher out of my hand and I thought ‘Okay, that’s it, this is the one.’”

Following that fateful day,

Tor said he did what anyone would do and started following Gayla around campus. “That worked out really well,” he said jokingly.

Before transferring, Tor attended Dartmouth where nearly a decade earlier he had fallen in love with performance art.

When Tor was 10, he had a brother who attended Dartmouth and played

in the university’s production of Gilbert Sullivan’s “H.M.S. Pinafore.” Tor and his parents drove eight hours to see the production before their motorhome broke down and they were stranded at the university for a week.

- See “Love” page 8

## Baseball hosts GNAC, makes playoffs

By **Rachel Greve**  
 Staff Reporter

The CWU baseball team clinched its berth to the 2018 GNAC Championship Tournament starting Wednesday May 9 at home in Ellensburg.

Normally held in Portland, Oregon, it was decided to bring the tournament to Ellensburg this year.

Sitting in third place, the team is set to play number two seed Western Oregon University, who took six of the eight games played against the Wildcats this season.

The Wolves, sitting with a 24-20 overall record, boast a 6-2 season record over CWU. With senior infielder Jay Leverett leading the team with a .356 batting average and on base percentage, Leverett will be a threat at bat.

No matter their competition, the team is excited to be making playoffs and hoping this year is their year to earn a championship.

- See “GNAC” page 10

### What’s Inside



Pg 4

SOURCE: Giving Voice to the Voiceless



Pg 5

Gotta Trade Em’ All



Pg 8

Sophomore Pitcher Leads Wildcats

## Deans reflect on a year with new budgeting model

By **Eric Rosane**  
 Co-Editor

Deans from CWU’s four colleges met last Monday, May 7 at the provost’s quarterly budget summit meeting to give presentations on implementing each college’s budget next year, review expected expenses and revenues, and present this year’s efficiency and cost projections.

This meeting comes only a week after deans from the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), College of the Sciences (COS), College of Business (COB) and the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) received their first look at next year’s budget.

For most colleges, new budgets mean new obstacles to traverse and a tighter belt to adjust to. Despite minor financial setbacks from decreasing state funds and the implementation of Responsibility-Centered Management (RCM), deans from all four colleges said that they’re looking to continue to find efficiencies within their departments.

Deans from the four colleges were also quick to identify some large expenditures that they predict might affect their drafted budgets. Tim Englund, dean of COS, identified \$220,000 that is needed to spend on equipment and program and retention development. Paul Ballard, dean of CEPS, identified

\$875,000 of program development and teaching resources.

Ballard said that despite CEPS’ awareness of the high costs they’re predicted to encounter, they’re still going to try to instill a reserve thanks to knowledge of how RCM is working within their college.

“I’ve still got to be looking at ways

The concern about RCM was that it was going to cause us to replace all our tenure-track faculty with adjuncts. And, well, that’s not the trend so far. It seems to be working ok.

-Tim Englund, dean of the College of Sciences

that we can find efficiencies and how we can work to secure our future, but we are going to have needs that we are going to spend some money on this year,” Ballard said. “We’re lucky in CEPS that we do have money.”

Ballard also said that by not filling \$361,000 worth of tenured and tenure-track positions after those employees retired, he was able to meet his efficiency target. According to College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, that’s about three or four professors.

College of Arts and Humanities

According to Interim Dean of CAH

Todd Shiver, the college is predicted to start the year off \$167,000 in debt. CAH last year started out \$150,000 in debt, according to Shiver.

“I think that we’ve been doing some good things about looking where we can really deploy it, invest and make some strategic moves to make this leaner, cleaner and more efficiency,” Scott Robinson, interim associate of CAH, said.

According to Shiver’s presentation, CAH has seen a majority of fund subvention from other colleges. A major reason why CAH was able to start last year with \$150,000 was because of a large subvention from the colleges that amounted to around half a million dollars.

Shiver recognizes that a lot of CAH’s programs are not cheap to run and that some of them aren’t as profitable as others.

“The provost has been nothing but supportive and has given us a lot of money... for strategic initiative funding,” Shiver said. “And the other deans [have] as well. The other deans aren’t looking at me, saying ‘you’re stealing our money from us, we resent you for that’... they might think it, but they’ve never said it aloud.”

Shiver also said that a lot of general education classes are also not seeing much of a rise in numbers.

- See “Budget” page 3

## NEWS

EDITOR: MILES KING | news@cwuobserver.com

## On the spread



Driving into the parking lot of Red Horse, an Ellensburg restaurant and bar, senior news reporter Jack Belcher was equally as excited as he was curious.

“Going in, I knew I wanted to cover everything, but I wasn’t sure of what I might all find,” Belcher says.

Last Saturday, May 5, Belcher covered Rockin’ the Red Horse, an event covered in this week’s issue of the Observer on pages six and seven.

From the outside, it may seem like the event is purely a kick-back for motorcycle enthusiasts, but a closer look reveals there’s much more going on with this small community. The event also hosts a variety of fundraisers, from Nerdy Girls project to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Not only was this Belcher’s first time covering an event at Red Horse, but it was also his first time taking a photojournalistic approach to telling a story.

“I wanted to get everyone from the right angle and there were a lot of cool things to take photos of,” Belcher says.

His favorite part of covering the story was seeing the passion displayed by the members of Nerdy Girls, a high school program that focuses on leading girls into the robotics.

“It was cool to see something like that succeeding. They’ve only been doing it for over a year now and they have got close to 20 members,” Belcher says.

As far as the biker gangs go, Belcher says that many of them there were there to help support these organizations. It wasn’t

just about having a drink and enjoying some live music on a sunny weekend, he says that many of them focus their efforts on philanthropic causes.

According to Belcher, Men of Fire, a biker gang composed of firefighters, and BACA, or Bikers Against Child Abuse, were in attendance.

“The whole culture there felt very alive. It was very cool,” Belcher says.

Belcher is currently a junior in the digital journalism program at CWU.

**Check out the spread on pages six and seven!**

## Watkins welcomes all



Courtesy of CWU Publicity Center

**By Matt Escamilla**  
News Reporter

Vice President for Equity and Community Affairs Elect Maurice Watkins has a mission to make everyone at CWU feel welcome. The sense of belonging is important for any incoming student, whether they are a transfer or a freshmen.

“How can you make the most of your college journey if you feel as though you don’t belong?” Watkins said.

Watkins plans to bridge the gap between Equity Service Council (ESC) clubs and students at CWU.

“I’ve grown some great relationships amongst ESC organizations, its always been a dream of mine to be a liaison between students on campus and ESC organizations,” Watkins said.

Watkins has two years of experience working with ESC and is a representative member for the Black Student Union. Watkins believes that ESC organizations can provide a safe haven for marginalized groups.

Myrinda Wolitarsky, the current VP, is confident in Watkins.

“I’m excited for Maurice, he’s going to do well and bring new ideas,” Wolitarsky said. “I experienced and grew a lot, being a part of student government brought me out of my comfort zone.”

Being a diverse institution has been a point of emphasis for CWU and Watkins will continue that tradition.

“I don’t necessarily feel we’re completely there

yet,” Watkins said. “I feel there’s so much more we can do in terms of continuing to promote diversity.”

A new one-month transitional period for incoming government officers has been implemented this year. Incoming and departing officers are ecstatic with the grace period.

“It’s essential and I’m overjoyed, [it] would have helped [me] so much,” Wolitarsky said.

She mentioned that her transitional timeline was crammed before she took office. This new transitional period will help the incoming cabinet accomplish much more.

Executive Director of Student Involvement at CWU Jeff Rosenberry echoed that statement. A later election cycle yielded a lower voter turnout and didn’t allow for the new VP elects to get early training last year, according to Rosenberry.

“The decision to move the election calendar up this year provided nearly a month of time that the new board can use to better understand their roles and expectations from current board members,” Rosenberry said.

He doesn’t see the transitional period being removed anytime soon because of the high value of early training.

“This will be the first year we have had this kind of transition available, but certainly [we] see the value in newly elected officers getting the support they need to be their best for students,” Rosenberry said.

A multicultural center has been a point of emphasis for the entire student government. Watkins is among those who support the proposal.

“We have a diversity [and] equity center, but having a multicultural center could do so much more for this institution as a whole,” Watkins said. “It’s going to be a melting pot for diversity. Diversity goes deeper than just race, [its] ethnicity, gender [and] sexual orientation.”

## Tweets from the streets



## OBSERVER STAFF

## Co-Editor

Eric Rosane | editor@cwuobserver.com

## Co-Editor

Natalie Hyland | editor@cwuobserver.com

## News Editor

Miles King | news@cwuobserver.com

## Scene Editor

Henry Crumblish | scene@cwuobserver.com

## Sports Editor

Hanson Lee | sports@cwuobserver.com

## Copy Desk Chief

Alexa Murdock | copydesk@cwuobserver.com

## Photography Editor

Xander Fu | alexander.fu@cwu.edu

## Online Editor

Mariah Valles | editor@cwuobserver.com

## Faculty Adviser

Cynthia Mitchell | adviser@cwuobserver.com

## Advertising

Cait Dalton | caitilin.dalton@cwu.edu

Central Washington University

400 East University Way

Lind Hall 109

Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Editorial policy:** The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold; to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large, and to be the best source for information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (509) 963-1073 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

## NEWS

EDITOR: MILES KING | news@cwuobserver.com

## Deans review budget after first year of RCM

## "Budget" from page 1

"What we found out fall quarter, just minus the extra hundred students that we had. The demand for seats in our gen ed classes were not being met," Shiver said. "We had been offering the same number of English classes for the past five years, as of fall quarter."

He attributes this lack of growth to poor general education retention and that students aren't able to get into upper level classes.

According to Shiver, CAH is going to be looking into creating more sections for classes that are higher in demand with their carryover and attempt to schedule classes more efficiently.

CAH is also looking into funding eight new positions and creating an alumni mentorship program that will pair 50 CWU students with alumni mentors.

## College of Business

According to Kathryn Martell, dean of COB, the college has been acclimating to the RCM model well and have been resilient in handling a large increase in student credit hours.

From 2014 to 2017, COB's credit hours increased 23 percent, according to Martell. Within that that same time span, COB hasn't hired any additional faculty. 83 percent of student credit hours in COB are taught by tenure-track faculty. This has led to a higher workload for faculty, as well as a steady increase in salaries.

Even though faculty salaries

are increasing, they've been able to report lower costs and minimize non-urgent expenses.

"It's amazing that College of Business is this productive. I don't want to imply that we were sluffs before, but people really had to get on board in terms of believing this was a crisis and we had to respond," Martell said regarding faculty taking on more students.

Martell said that she attributes the college's resilience to her faculty and implementing RCM initiatives early.

Even though the COB is keeping up with the rise in seats needed, Martell said that their current budget doesn't allow for much expansion or development within the college.

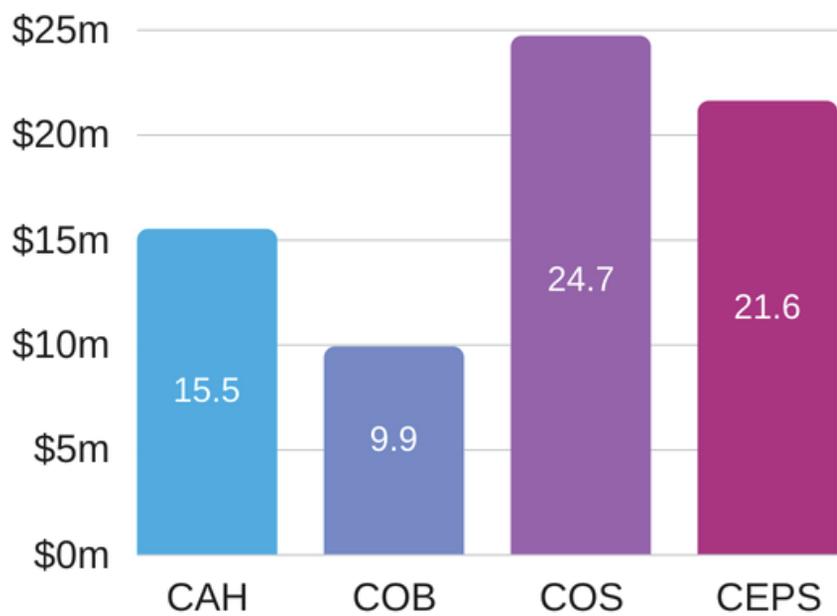
Martell said that she wouldn't be implementing RCM this way because it has been taking a large hit at a lot on the college's budgets and the subvention process of transferring funds between the colleges.

"In retrospect... I don't know if I'd do it this way because it really took a bite out of the college. The one thing I hadn't anticipated was... how the subvention would work," Martell said.

Martell said that there was confusion on where the funds were coming from. She initially thought they would be coming from a fund and not between the colleges.

Martell also reported that online courses make up one-third of COB's credit hours. This was her last budget presentation as Dean of COB.

## FY19 Expense Projections



Miles King/The Observer

polo) helped them hit their efficiency targets.

## College of Education and Professional Studies

Dean of CEPS Paul Ballard said in his presentation that the college will need to continue to keep up with its growing expenses if they want to continue to expand. According to Ballard, the expansions in aviation and education have consumed a lot of their budget.

Ballard also presented that his college would need \$310,000 in instructional equipment and invest \$45,000 in marketing.

A list of reports, recordings from the presentations and a recording of the dean's presentations are available on the budget summit website at cwu.edu/budget/budget-summits.

## College of the Sciences

Englund said that even though COS is predicted to finish the fiscal year \$40,000 in debt, the college will have \$731,000 of funds to carry forward for next year.

ing their predicted increase in expenditures to tighten funds, leaving little wiggle room. Despite that, Englund is optimistic with the new RCM model.

"The concern about RCM was that it was going to cause us to replace all our tenure-track faculty with adjuncts. And, well, that's not the trend so far. It seems to be working okay," Englund said.

Englund also said that a major reduction in Goods and Services this last year will be made up by revenue earned summer quarter. COS didn't spend any money on professional development and travel, according to Englund.

Englund said that a vacancy in six tenure-track positions (three in math, three in anthro-



In retrospect... I don't know if I'd do it this way because it really took a bite out of the college.



-Kathryn Martell, Dean of the College of Business

According to Englund, COS's budget next year will be fairly similar to this year's, leav-

## CAH recognizes students and faculty

By Natalie Hyland  
Co-Editor

On Tuesday, May 8, students, staff and faculty of the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) gathered in the SURC to recognize their peers for their exceptional work this year.

In total, eight undergraduate students, one graduate student, four faculty members and two staff members were recognized.

## Undergrad Students

Nelson Green received the Thomas Gause award for achievement in music composition.

Connor Simons received the Betty E. Evans Award for achievement in creative writing; poetry.

Jennifer Marsh received the CAH Award for Achievement in Non-Fiction Writings: creative writing.

Laura Mentele received the George Stillman Award for achievement in Art.

Kathryn Kibota received the

CAH Award for achievement in performance for live performance.

Kimberly Smith received the the Raymond Smith Award for achievement in scholarship.

Susana Camacho Plascencia and Carlos Lee Sullivan both received the Marji Morgan Outstanding Student Award.

## Grad Students

Graduate student Drew Liedtke received the Outstanding Graduate Student Artistic Achievement Award.

## Staff and Faculty

Dr. Nathalie Kasselis, a world language professor, received the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award.

Dr. Mark Samples, a music professor, received the Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

Rachel Kirk, an art and design professor, received the Outstanding Faculty Artistic Achievement Award.



Courtesy of CWU

Dr. Nathalie Kasselis (left) and Dr. Mark Samples (right) were recognized by the CAH as outstanding faculty members.

Maya Chachava, an art and design professor, received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award.

Matt Martinson, an English professor, received the Outstanding Non-tenure Track

Faculty Teaching Award.

The Outstanding Employee Award was presented to Jeff Cleveland, a maintenance mechanic with the art and design department who will retire at the end of

the 2017-18 school year.

Entertainment for the event was provided by the CWU Film Program and award winners Connor Simons and Jennifer Marsh.

## NEWS

EDITOR: MILES KING | news@cwuobserver.com

# Film makers return to SOURCE

By Jack Belcher  
Senior News Reporter

Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE), is a chance for students, faculty and staff to show research and creative projects they have been working on to their peers and the community.

According to Program Coordinator Jamie Gilbert, there are over 500 presentations and over 700 students involved in the event. This is the largest SOURCE to date and participation is increasing every year. For the third time in its history, SOURCE will take place over two days, May 16 and 17, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the SURC.

One of the presentations is called Give Voice.

According to Director, Producer and film major Jocelyn Waite, Give Voice is

a documentary-style project that focuses on first-generation Americans. This will also be the second time Give Voice is being presented at SOURCE.

Last year, the project was awarded "Outstanding Presentation,"

with their focus on how first generation American women balance their lives. This year, the team decided to focus on men and their experiences with expected masculinity.

"After listening to all of the girls' stories last year, I just knew there were more stories," Waite said. "I hope we do them justice."

Waite first joined the program when Jadvar Gill, the co-creator of Give Voice, asked the president of the film club to help with the project. This year, Waite is more confident with her talents because she is much further into her major.

"I want to do what I can to enhance these stories and tell them in a way that better conveys what these people are about," Waite said.

Waite believes that the production quality has improved this year, and is very excited to see the end product. She hopes that first-generation college students will be able to see themselves

on screen and see that their voice matters. According to Waite, while the team does hope to win another outstanding presentation award, they really just want to create a documentary that resonates with people.

Junior psychology major and co-creator Jadvir Gill is looking forward to SOURCE 2018. According to Gill, the group has been working on this project over the last two quarters and is still finishing editing. Like Waite, she also can't wait to see the final project.

Gill is a first-generation student whose parents moved to the United States from India 25 years ago. Gill created Give Voice to raise awareness of the struggles that first generation students face.

"Basically, I didn't have anyone to guide me through important decisions," Gill said.

Last year's Give Voice project focused on the concept of parents not understanding the difficulties of college and cultural sexism toward women. The current project will focus on masculinity expectations placed on men, according to Gill.

Not only is this Gill's second time presenting at SOURCE, but it is her second time presenting two different projects. Her other project, titled "What's in a Smile: How Power Influences Judgment and Smile Authenticity," centers on deception detection, with a focus on fake smiles.

"Basically, what we were trying to figure out was whether or not if higher power individuals were better at discriminating their targets real or fake smiles," Gill said.



Courtesy of SOURCE  
Attendees engage with SOURCE presenters at last year's event. SOURCE 2018 is open to the public and takes place in the SURC from May 16 - 18.

“After listening to all of the girls' stories last year, I just knew there were more stories.”

—Jocelyn Waite, co-creator of Give Voice

**SVC** | Skagit Valley College



*You Belong Here!*

Complete your  
General University Requirements (GURs)  
at SVC, while home for the summer.  
*Sciences • Psychology • Math and More!*

Save Money • Enjoy Smaller Class Sizes  
Learn from Nationally Recognized Instructors

For course details & how to get started:  
[www.skagit.edu/summer](http://www.skagit.edu/summer) | 360.416.7700

## NOW LEASING!

Two Bedroom Multi-Level Townhomes AND Apartments,  
Steps Away from CWU Campus!



### FEATURES & AMENITIES

- Spacious & bright classic style townhomes and flats, starting at just \$1200 per month
- Newly renovated 2-bedroom multi-level townhomes featuring designer interiors!
- All appliances included
- Washer & dryer in every home
- Professional on-site management
- Ample on-site parking
- Across the street from CWU athletic fields and Tomlinson Stadium
- Close to shopping, restaurants, historic downtown Ellensburg &



(509).925.6277

[info@greenpointtownhomes.com](mailto:info@greenpointtownhomes.com)

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-5, Sunday Closed  
711 E 18th Ave, STE M2, Ellensburg, WA 98926

[www.greenpointtownhomes.com](http://www.greenpointtownhomes.com)

## SCENE

EDITOR: HENRY CRUMBLISH | scene@cwuobserver.com

## Become a Pokémon Master at CWU

By Bryce Jungquist  
Staff Reporter

What started out with 151 soon turned into 251, which later snowballed into 386. Now we have over 800 different Pokémon, and only one club on campus is dedicated to catching them all.

Central Pokémon League is a club for anyone who enjoys Pokémon. They meet in SURC 301 every Thursday at 8 p.m.



The league is looking for new trainers to join.

Bowen Piotrowski is a junior majoring in communication studies and a member of Central Pokémon League.

According to Piotrowski, anyone can comfortably play video games, card games and everything else to do with the franchise at the club. Students playing their Nintendo 3DS during meetings is a common sight.

"I managed to pick up a card game and [it] was a pretty good time," Piotrowski said. "The nature of the card game is that it usually lasts quite a while, I only got a couple games in before the time was up."

Nathan Butschli is a senior majoring in computer science and president of Central Pokémon League. He said the club is made up of CWU students who want to "catch 'em all."

Butschli said community members and alumni are welcome to join the league if they enjoy Pokémon.

Five years ago during his freshman year at CWU, a student named Charles Harding had the idea to found a community of people who enjoyed the popular Japanese franchise.

Although

Butschli

## Info Box

When: 8 p.m. Thursdays

Where: SURC 301

How: Open to community

wasn't part of the inaugural meetings, he soon became involved with the club started by Harding.

"He contacted some of his friends, they contacted their friends and eventually, this chain of telephone got to me in my dorm. [I] showed up here in the SURC and we hung out and talked about Pokémon for an hour," Butschli said.

This happened more as time went on. Butschli said the group wasn't official until last year and before that, it was just a gathering of friends who would meet up and talk about pocket monsters.

In 2017, the club finally had an adequate amount of people that were able to hold office areas positions and got an advisor.

Recently, Central Pokémon League has decreased in members because of the steady number of students graduating each year. The club currently has six members.

Serah Manning, a fifth-year student majoring in early childhood education, said she's been a part of the club since fall 2017. Manning said she wishes for the club to survive.

Manning said one cool thing she's been able to do in the club is take part in a Pokémon trading card game tournament they hosted when she had just begun playing.

"At Nerdcore, they hold tournaments on Saturdays, but I have to work so I never get to go," Manning said. "[At the club] I was able to test my new decks against other people and see how they fared in the real world instead of just theory."

The club's primary mission should be familiar to anyone who's played the game, which is "to be the best like no one ever was."

What the club mainly wants to do, but currently can't due to lack of members, is have a league identical to the television shows.

In theory, the club would have eight "gym bosses" and several "Elite Four" members. Other members would be able to challenge them to become the next champion.

"We don't exactly have 12 members anymore, so this isn't feasible," Butschli said. "But this is something we'd like to begin doing again once our membership has increased."



Jacob Gerken/The Observer

Pokemon club member Quentin Tagen goes through his 'PC Storage Box' to check his pokemon's IVs to see which Pokemon he will breed next for a competitive team.

# THE VERGE

OFF CAMPUS STUDENT LIVING



UTILITIES, CABLE  
& WIFI INCLUDED

PET FRIENDLY

ON-SITE POOL

24 HOUR FITNESS CENTER

& SO MUCH MORE!

COME VISIT US  
TODAY!

2420 N AIRPORT RD, ELLENSBURG, WA 98926

(509) 962-4010

Pregnant?  
You have options.

Stop in for a free pregnancy test

CARE NET  
CareNetEllensburg.org



Like us:  
fb.com/carenetellensburg



Call or Text:  
(509) 925-2273



Visit us:  
111 E 4th Ave • Ellensburg

# Rockin' Out at the Red Horse

**By Jack Belcher**  
Senior News Reporter

Rockin the Red Horse is a hodgepodge of events, live music and fundraisers that took place the weekend of May 5. Rockin the Red Horse (formally known as “Iron Horse Trail Motorcycle Show”), is an event that attracts many motorcycle enthusiasts from across the state, but the event is about much more than biking.

One of the objectives of the event is fundraising. From an all-girl robotics club to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the event's causes vary. A 50/50 raffle was put on to raise money for VFW, which works similarly to a lottery, except half of the money is given to the winner and the other half goes to supporting VFW.

Nerdy Girls, a high school robotics organization that was created by teen girls for teen girls, raffled a quilt with the proceeds going to the organization. According to co-founder of Nerdy Girls Parker Mayer, the organization was created to “forge a new path to help other teen girls become builders and coders, and build the robots of their dreams.”

Nerdy Girls was founded in January 2017 and currently consists of 19 members. The Nerdy Girls competitive team has recently completed their first season, and made it to the state championship. Mayer is currently in 11th grade, although Nerdy Girls is designed for any girl in 6th through 12th grade.

Nerdy Girls was invited to Rockin the Red

Horse by one of the organizers for the event, Beryl Kelley. She has been a supporter of Nerdy Girls since she read about them in an article, and is the person who sewed the quilt together to be raffled.

“I think it is a good cause,” Kelley said. “Trying to get girls interested in technology and math and science, and not just playing with paper dolls.”

Kelley is a technical writer who has been in the computer industry for most of her career, and is a motorcycle enthusiast. According to Kelley, there wasn't anything like Nerdy Girls for her when she was a kid.

“Amongst motorcycle people, t-shirt quilts are very, very popular, and I know jumping from Nerdy Girls to a motorcycle t-shirt quilt isn't very direct, but they're both of my loves,” Kelley said. “I love quilting, I love riding my motorcycle and I like supporting these young girls.”

Rockin the Red Horse doesn't only attract bikers. Families and people from all over come to experience the event, with around 450 people interested on Facebook.

According to sisters Nicole Crossett and Breanna Willis, whose parents own the restaurant, Rockin the Red Horse 2018 was one of the largest events that they have had. According to organizers Crossett and Willis, the event really kicks off Saturday morning with the motorcycle run which, this year, had 198 bikers participate.

The sisters started the event under the name “Iron Horse Trail Motorcycle Show,” after being approached 10 years ago by ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitar-

ian Enactments), a non-profit organization for bikers that offered to partner with them. In 2016, ABATE left their partnership, so the name of the event was changed to “Rockin the Red Horse.” Ever since ABATE left, there hasn't been an actual bike show at the event, but according to the sisters, it will be back for 2019.

That's not to say that there wasn't a number of interesting vehicles this year, and not

“

***My first car was a 42' Willys, my last car was a 42' Willys.***”

-Oly Kreger

all of them were motorcycles. Oly Kreger drove his 1942 Willys Military Body Jeep to the event, a vehicle that he spent the last five winters building.

“My first car was a 42' Willys, my last car was a 42' Willys,” Kreger said.

According to Kreger, he found most of the parts in scrap yards, but he found the body in a farm field in Alaska. He said that he was driving by and saw the body on a burn pile. He knew what it was when he saw it, and after driving about nine miles past the farm, he couldn't just leave it. So, he turned around and talked to the owner, who ended up giving it to Kreger for free.





Rockin the Red Horse features several shopping locations, that can offer nearly anything a biker might want, from novelty knives and leather apparel at Psycho Wear, to custom embroidery and more leather apparel at Motorcycle Outfitters.

There is also live music all weekend starting Friday with the American Honey Band, Saturday started off with the musical talents of singer/songwriter and Ellensburg local, Abbigale Smith, alongside bass player Erik Eyestone.

According to Smith, she plays at the Red Horse Diner often, although this is her first time playing for the Rockin the Red Horse event. Other performers scheduled to play were The Road Fever Band and The Rusty Cage.

The whole event is described by Crossett and Willis as a way to have a fun weekend with good shopping and great company, as well as an opportunity to support local businesses and charities.



Jack Belcher/The Observer  
Bikers from all around the community gathered at the event, Rockin' at the Red Horse. Food trucks, biker apparel, and live bands gathered in Red Rock's back porch for an afternoon of events.



## SCENE

EDITOR: HENRY CRUMBLISH | scene@cwuobserver.com

# From New York City to Ellensburg

## Distinguished Performance duo teach voice and CWU music

### "Love" from page 1

"I sat in the front row of the balcony every night and I was just glued to what was going on," Tor said. "It looked so much fun."

From that moment on, Tor felt his love for music and theater grow. He remembers a specific moment sitting in his high school's empty auditorium thinking that he could see him-

in her first show at age five.

She began taking serious voice lessons in her teens and exploring classical music and opera. While in middle and high school she learned to play the flute and bassoon in the band and sang in the choir.

"I always felt that there was more to learn," Gayla said. "That's always been a big motivator for me."

Music has always come easy to her, it's the singing that she



I think it has challenges but, I think we work really well together as a team.



-Torrance Blaisdell, Voice Instructor

self spending the rest of his life there.

He said that in high school, singing is what set him apart from other students.

"I always wanted to be in theater and I was passionate about singing," Tor said. "What I fell in love with when I was learning what opera was about, was creating characters."

After his time at the New England Conservatory of Music, Mr. Blaisdell lived with his dad for a year, then moved to New York City with his wife Gayla and he began working in big banks while also doing apprenticeships.

These apprenticeships included him singing for big name companies around the country. Along with that, he got an agent and began working in professional operas.

Mr. Blaisdell was then cast in "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway in New York City and he was in the show for almost two years. "I like to think of myself as the Stanley Tucci of opera. The guy that does a little bit of everything."

After graduating, the Blaisdells continued to live in New York for the better part of the next 15 years raising two children while Gayla began teaching and working on her Ph.D. at New York University.

When she was young, Gayla had been surrounded by music and performance. Both of her older brothers were in stage choir and said she has always admired and looked up to her brothers because of how much fun they had performing.

She knew then that she wanted to pursue a career in performance arts and is thankful her parents were so supportive of her. Her mom enrolled her in piano lessons and she appeared

felt she always had to work on. It was because of this that she continued to go to school and practice her music.

In May of 2008, Dr. Blaisdell had finished her dissertation and was ready to graduate. The duo then decided it was time for a change of scenery started looking at teaching opportunities across the country.

"I applied for jobs all over the country," Gayla said. "Some jobs... I applied for, I didn't really want."

When CWU became a finalist for Dr. Blaisdell's teaching career, Tor accepted a job to run the Season Performance Hall in Yakima. Both professors say the move to Ellensburg was a culture shock for them, especially Tor.

"Here I was in Ellensburg, Washington with an advanced degree in opera and no opera company for 120 miles," he said. "I tried to reinvent myself."

However, after about a year at the Seasons, Tor was laid off due to financial issues.

It was then that Tor applied to the same department his wife had already called home for a year and they began a whole new chapter of their relationship; a working relationship.

"I think it has challenges but, I think we work really well together as a team," Tor said.

Tor says teaching at CWU has been one of the more intense learning processes he's undertaken because he's learning from colleagues and students alike.

"Just because you know how to do something, doesn't mean you know how to teach other people to do it," he said.

Now that they're both working together at the same university both Mr. and Dr. Blaisdell had their thoughts on how it's been.



Mikaela Nickolds for The Observer

Gayla Blaisdell and Torrance Blaisdell have fun in the workplace at CWU where they even teach a class together.

"We support each other, we're best friends," Gayla said. "We pretty much tell each other everything and talk everything over with each other and really

rely on each other for the other opinion."

Moving forward, the Blaisdell's hope to leave a legacy of love no matter the circumstance.

"My greatest hope is that students see two people who often do not agree but are just nuts about each other," Tor said.

## SPORTS

EDITOR: HANSON LEE | sports@cwuobserver.com

## Intramural softball in full swing at CWU

By Gunnar Hinds  
Staff Reporter

Softball is in full swing here at CWU. For athletes that don't make it to varsity level in college, intramurals are a way to continue to play the game they enjoy after high school. Intramural softball, offered through the Recreation Center, is a favorite in the springtime and this year includes five different leagues.

There are three ten-on-ten competitive leagues and two ten-on-ten Co-Ed leagues. Each league has three days they can play in a week and generally each team plays two games a week.

“Not a whole lot of people come and watch the games, so it would be cool to see more people coming out to watch.”

-Austin Jones, Snowflakes

The games are relatively short, only lasting six innings or one hour. During each inning, a team is only allowed to score five runs unless it is the last inning of the game. This keeps the scores somewhat reasonable. A batter also starts out with a one-on-one count when they step into the batter's box. This means one ball one strike, so, it keeps the game moving at a fast pace.

The seasons only go from April 16 to May 24 with each team playing eight regular season games. The top three teams go into playoffs, and their season ends after two losses.

Each team is also given the opportunity to come up with their own team name. For teams that have been together for multiple years, the name comes with the territory.

Will Gatlin is the captain of the Swingers, the number one

ranked team in their league with a undefeated record at 4-0.

“Our team is pretty talented because most of us played college baseball,” Gatlin said. The Swingers beat the Honey Nut Ichiros by nine runs last week and Gatlin struck out five batters in the six innings.

Wyley Stewart, second baseman for the Swingers, has been with the team for the last two years. He shows his talent defensively, stopping any ball that is hit to him.

“I really enjoy coming out and playing with these guys after being in school all day,” Stewart said.

Pitching can be a scary role, because they are in danger of the ball being hit back at them. The league made a rule change halfway through last year, going from a hard softball to a squishy ball. This has made the games a lot safer for the pitchers.

This rule change has also gotten some scrutiny from batters. It is harder to get a good drive on the softball.

“The softer ball is a lot harder to get decent contact with, which is making it harder to get on base,” Stewart said.

Brandon Hamilton is the catcher for the Swingers. He has had a huge impact on the team's success in the last four games.

“I never played baseball growing up, so I enjoy learning more about the sport,” Hamilton said.

The Swingers won the championship last year and are on pace to repeat as champions. The Swingers only lost one game last season. They ended up playing the same team in the championship and won by one run.

“It was a pretty cool experience for all of us, we earned t-shirts and socks with Central's logo and also was mentioned on the CWU Recreation page,” Gatlin said.

The Swingers only lost two players from last season from graduating.



Xander Fu/The Observer

A player takes a swing with the bases loaded while playing in the evening on Tuesday, May 8.

“I think we have an advantage because we all have played with each other for a while,” Gatlin said.

Kody Michaelson is the captain of the Snowflakes. They are in a different bracket of the competitive league. The Snowflakes and the Swingers will most likely see each other in the playoffs considering both teams are currently in first place in their brackets.

“We would really like to beat the Swingers in the playoffs since they eliminated us last year,” Michaelson said.

Austin Jones also plays for the Snowflakes and typically plays shortstop for the team. Jones is the standout on the team this year. He is batting ten for eleven on the year and has two home runs.

“I played baseball all my life and the balls are a lot easier to hit when the pitcher is throwing underhand,” Jones said. Jones played college baseball at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon.

Karson Rodgers, an outfielder for the Snowflakes, said his contribution to the team

includes being able to run and catch ground balls in the infield.

“I'm not a big guy so I don't hit for power,” Rodgers said. The Snowflakes roster is filled with mostly fast players and the team prides itself on infield hits.

The games are free to watch and are held at the recreation fields right behind Student Village and at the recreation fields off 5th Ave in downtown Ellensburg.

“Not a whole lot of people come watch the games, so it would be cool to see more people coming out to watch,” Jones said.

## Opinion: James Paxton is the next Felix Hernandez

By Austin Lane  
Staff Reporter

When the Seattle Mariners needed a young pitcher to come in and fill

the shoes of starting pitcher Felix Hernandez, they got James Paxton.

Hernandez

will go down as one of the greatest Mariners pitchers, but has fallen off the past few seasons. He led the MLB with a 2.14 ERA in 2014 and got screwed out of the Cy Young trophy. Ever since, his ERA has dipped, his average strikeouts went down and his fastball lost its velocity. His once



Austin Lane

“nasty” changeup isn't so nasty anymore.

Ultimately, Seattle needed a new ace. Enter James Paxton.

Paxton has shown flashes of being the pitcher that the Mariners so desperately need, but every season he has some kind of injury that impacts or ends his season altogether.

This season, he is once again proving that if he can stay healthy, he can be our next Hernandez. Through eight starts, Paxton has a sub-4 ERA and currently leads the MLB in strikeouts per game.

A big part of that was his performance against the Oakland Athletics on May 2, where he threw seven innings of no runs, five hits, one walk and a career-high 16 strikeouts. Something that Hernandez surely couldn't do anymore.

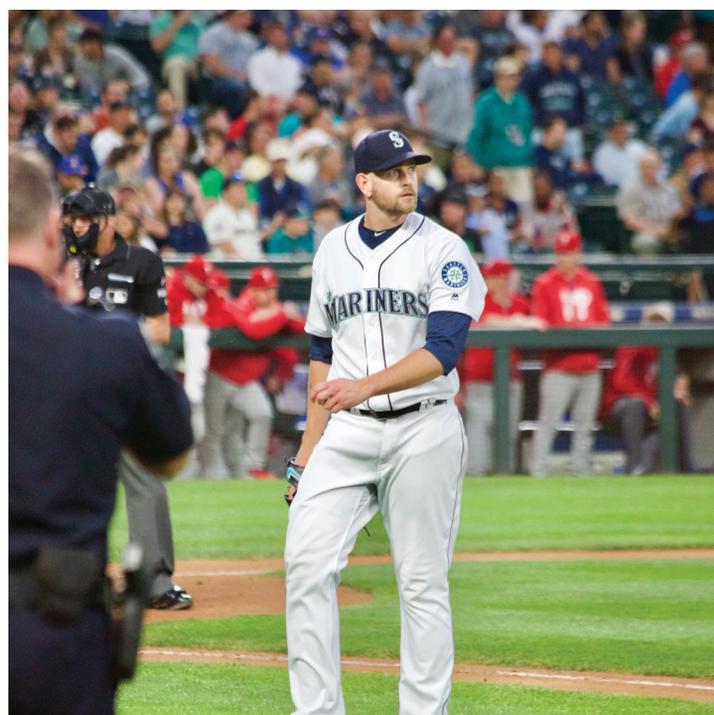
If Paxton can stay healthy all year, he will go to the all-star

game, have a chance to win the Cy Young. He could also be the leader that takes the Seattle Mariners to the playoffs for the first time in 16 years.

On May 8, Paxton threw a no-hitter for the M's against the Toronto Blue Jays and showed that he could be the new faces of the Mariners organization. He proved that he is the starting pitcher we need.

Paxton is still only 29 years old, which means he will more than likely be on the team when Hernandez decides to retire. He is also the only pitcher on the team right now that can throw a fastball over 90 mph.

I would love to see Paxton help get the team to the playoffs for the first time in 16 years. It would be fitting for the changing of the times for the organization and would finally show all Mariners fans that Paxton is indeed the next Hernandez.



hj\_west/Flickr

James Paxton pitched a no-hitter on the night of May 8 in a game against Toronto.

## SPORTS

EDITOR: HANSON LEE | sports@cwuobserver.com

## Williams finds home in CWU Softball

By Austin Lane  
Staff Reporter

CWU Softball Pitcher Taylor Williams comes from a small-town city east of Los Angeles. With a population of about 40,000, Brea, California is where Williams played her high school softball.

Coming from Southern California, Williams had no idea she would attend CWU until head coach Mike Larabee started recruiting her.

"Coming to Central was a total luck-of-the-draw sort of thing," Williams said. "I had never even heard of Central before... I was 100 percent scared to come, but the second I got here and met the team and was on the campus, I fell in love."

**"I wanna be on the mound, and I wanna look like a force that the other team doesn't mess with."**

-Taylor Williams, pitcher

Williams knew by the time she was halfway through high school that it was "100 percent achievable" to be a college softball player.

"It was something that I always wanted to do, but it was also something I was kind of afraid of making my goal because it sometimes felt unachievable," Williams said. "Around my sophomore year of high school was when I really realized that's what I wanna do... it became the goal I was reaching for no matter what."

Williams is a sophomore and has already made a huge impact on the team, pitching a no-hitter on April 22 against rival Western Washington University (WWU). A big part of the no-hitter was the offense. CWU scored eight runs in four innings, which made the fifth inning a do-or-die situation for WWU. The Vikings would have needed to score two runs in the top of the fifth in order to stay in the game, due to the NCAA mercy rule. They would end up with no hits through those five innings, giving Williams the career milestone.

According to Williams, having those runs helped out a lot.

"Having that energy and having my team behind me... nothing compares to that and I think that's huge," Williams said. "Sometimes you have to take that pressure off of you and play in a way that gives you that energy to win."

Celine Fowler, a senior outfielder on the team, enjoys playing while Williams is on the mound. Fowler admires Williams' composure on the mound and said that she holds herself confidently.

In her freshman year, Williams couldn't travel with the team when they went to their first road tournament with her on the roster. Fowler said that Williams wasn't performing to her potential, and that missing the tournament lit a fire in her.

"I feel like her attitude is so positive and it carries on to everyone else on the team," Fowler said about her teammate. "You can always count on her to be positive and happy and really funny in the dugout, she's just so sweet."



Courtesy of CWU Athletics

Taylor Williams, pitcher, made waves on April 22 when she threw a no-hitter against Western Washington University.

Fowler was in the outfield for Williams' no-hitter, and made sure to not bring up the no-hitter in possibilities of jinxing it. She did however feel excited and happy for Williams after the game and felt that "there's no other pitcher that deserves this more."

This year marked the third year in a row that the team won at least 30 games, but the season was cut short early into the post-season last weekend. The CWU Softball team was eliminated from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) tour-

namment after going 0-2, suffering a 9-0 loss to Simon Fraser last Thursday, and losing the next game to Western Oregon, 4-2.

Now that the season is over, Williams brought up how she found new ways to help out the team this season. Moving forward, she looks to further expand on being a team leader.

"This year I achieved a lot more than I did last year and I found a role and I'm able to help my team in a lot more ways than I was previously," Williams said. "I really hope to just continue doing

that. I just wanna have a role, I wanna be able to help us win, I wanna help make us better, and I wanna be able to make my teammates wanna do the same."

Williams wants those leadership roles on the team and wants to constantly help improve the squad as a whole, but isn't forgetting to focus on her own performance.

"My mound presence is really important to me. I wanna be on the mound, and I wanna look like a force that the other team doesn't mess with," Williams said. "I wanna be a steady force."

## Baseball prepares for GNAC tournament

"GNAC" from page #1

"I'm stoked to make the GNACs. It's my last year playing ball and I want to end it on a high note and with a championship ring," junior outfielder Tristin Parton said.

Parton, a transfer from Big Bend Community College, is originally from Leavenworth, Washington and has stepped in this year, taking the lead at the plate. Starting in 23 of the 40 games he has played in, Parton is leading the team with a .392 batting average.

The championship ring is on the mind of each senior this season, all knowing this is their last chance.

"Making the GNAC my senior year means everything," senior pitcher Chris Dalto said. "I've been so close to getting a ring my last two years. I'm going to make sure this is the year."

Dalto, a senior from Valencia, California appeared in 50

games last season with 13 games on the mound, earning NCB-WA West Regional Player of the Week and First Team All-GNAC honors.

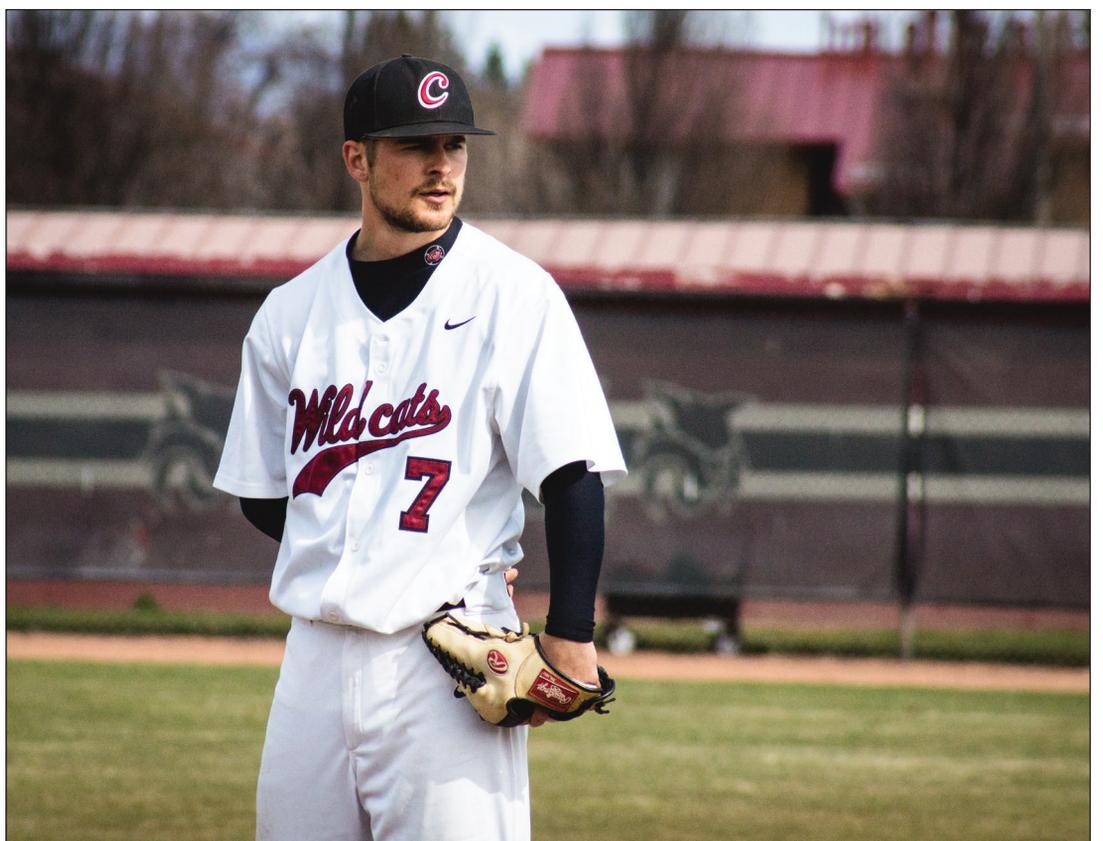
Dropping their first two games to the GNAC champions, the Wildcats came back May 4 to take both games from the Yellowjackets, including their 21-6 win in the second game of the day.

"We got good pitching, Mac [Gaul] battled and we got some big hits," head coach Desi Storey said in a press release. "It just carried over to game two. We hit everybody they threw at us, we were just barreling them up."

Mitch Lesmeister, a freshman out of Walla Walla, Washington, is standing out this year with a .305 batting average and two home runs. Lesmeister, an infielder for the team, has also started 36 out of the 39 games he has played in for the Wildcats this season.

For the 14 seniors on the team, this could be the last time they ever play baseball.

"Knowing this will be my last



Tanner Gunnells/The Observer

Senior pitcher Seth Pedersen takes the mound for his fourth consecutive inning against Montana State University of Billings.

season ever playing baseball is shocking, so I have to make every second count," Dalto said.

With a 21-19 GNAC confer-

ence record, the Wildcats battled all season to get where they needed to be.

"This season has been a lot of

fun. Overcoming adversity and battling through tough conditions has really brought the team closer together," Lesmeister said.

## SPORTS

EDITOR: HANSON LEE | sports@cwuobserver.com

# Women's club soccer gets underway at CWU

By Micah Chen  
Staff Reporter

There are a few different options for women when it comes to playing soccer at CWU. You can try out for the CWU Women's Soccer Team, sign up for an intramural soccer squad, or you can play for the women's club soccer team.

According to assistant coach Wade Flores of the CWU Women's Club, the women's club team plays teams from all over the northwest region. This includes Oregon State, Eastern Washington, and Washington State.

"You can decipher the different playing styles between schools," Flores said. "Eastern Washington tends to play with a lot more physicality, while Washington State plays softer and more strategically."

Karley Bentler, a freshman on the team, said that some of the clubs they face play the red shirt freshman of the school's official women's soccer team. This can create competitive imbalances, as the those soccer players have a higher skill level.

When asked why she decided to join the team, Bentler emphasized the time commitment was big a reason.

"I was looking into the varsity team, but I figured it was too much of a commitment," Bentler said. "I found out about this from



Tanner Gunnells/The Observer

Karley Bentler and Claudia Brasino doing some fun workouts during CWU Women's Club Soccer Dojo session.

a friend, and when I came to the first practice I fell in love."

Even though club soccer provides a lighter workload than varsity soccer at CWU, it still requires a commitment to practice five to six days a week.

Outdoor practices are held Monday, Wednesday, Friday, while Indoor weight training is Tuesday and Thursday. Weekend games against schools are sometimes 300 miles away.

Structures of the roster and

game length are about the same as official GNAC soccer rules, but according to co-captain Claudia Brasino, sometimes changes are needed.

"Not every school that we play can field a full roster, so we'll play 35 minute halves instead of the full 45 minute halves," Brasino said. "Our starting lineups can vary week to week depending on who's had the best practices."

This in comparison to the varsity women's team, who Brasino

says has a more consistently the same starting lineup throughout the season.

Coach Flores helps run the team for many reasons, but ultimately he wants to spread the game of soccer to as many people as possible and continue to grow the game.

"There are many benefits for coming out for a club sport," Flores said. "It gives students an outlet to play, meet new people, and really get involved in the CWU community."

According to Flores, the team typically does tryouts at the beginning of Fall. They are expecting to host tryouts again once Fall 2018 rolls around.

Due to smaller numbers on the roster as of right now, the women's club soccer team is looking for new participants.

They recently lost a host of seniors due to upcoming graduation, and Flores is hoping to jump start the next generation of CWU Women's Club Soccer.

This doesn't mean though that Bentler doesn't want to see this team competitive right now.

"We take this very serious, but with all the freshman on the team this year, we're acceptive of not doing well right now," Bentler said. "We're trying to figure out our chemistry, so we can continue to climb the rankings."

CWU Womens Club Soccer is 0-2 to start the season, with early losses to Washington State and Eastern Washington. Typically the team will play seven games during fall quarter, and another seven games during spring quarter.

## Next Game

When: Saturday, May 19

Where: Alder Park

VS: Western Oregon University

## Make a splash with Apple Watch® Series 3 (GPS)

- GPS and barometric altimeter track how far and high you go
- Dual-core processor for faster app performance<sup>1</sup>
- Ultimate sports watch and intelligent activity tracker
- Swimproof so you're always ready for the pool or ocean<sup>2</sup>
- Aluminum case
- watchOS 4 is even more intuitive and intelligent

## Available at



Authorized  
Campus Store



Selections may vary; see a sales associate for available models.  
Apple watch Series 3 (GPS) requires an iPhone 5s or later with iOS 11 or later.  
<sup>1</sup>Compared with the previous generation.  
<sup>2</sup>ISO standard 22810:21010. Appropriate for shallow-water activities like swimming. Submersion below shallow depth and high-velocity water activities not recommended. Some bands are sold separately.  
Copyright © Apple Inc. 2018. All right reserved.



Apple WATCH  
SERIES 3

# ENGAGEMENT

EDITOR: MARIAH VALLES | editor@cwuobserver.com

## Nintendo: Think Outside the Box

### What to do in the 'Burg this week:

**May 10-**  
Geek Out Game Out: Fortnite Battle Royale in the SURC Theatre, 6-11 p.m.. Free.

**May 11-**  
CWU Ring & Medallion Ceremony in the SURC Ballroom, 4 p.m., registration required. Free.

**May 12-**  
Family Weekend Challenge course at the challenge course, 3-5 p.m., \$5/10.

**May 12-**  
Paint & Sip with Gallery One in SURC 137, 7 p.m., \$25.

**May 14-**  
Monday Movie Madness: "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" 7 & 9:30 in the SURC Theatre. Free w/student ID, \$3 general admission

**May 15-**  
TNT! Take over at the Nicholson Pavilion and Fields, 3-7 p.m., Free. Super soakers, dodgeball, kickball and more!

**May 17-**  
President's United to Solve Hunger Fitness Food Drive, 4-5 p.m. For the cost of one non-perishable food item, attend a group fitness class.

-- Tear me off and bring me with you this week! --



### Game Lineup

Mariah Valles, Online Editor

When the Nintendo Switch came out in March 2017, I had really high expectations. After trying to get one since the day it came out, I finally got my hands on the "Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" console bundle in mid-June.

Currently I own "Breath of the Wild," "Mario Kart 8 Deluxe," "Ultra Street Fighter II" and "Super Mario Odyssey."

There seems to be some no-brainer games missing from the lineup. After being out for more than a year, I expect more from Nintendo.

The first being a New Super Mario Bros. game. Odyssey

is an open-world game and sometimes I just want the nostalgia of playing a two-dimensional Mario game. The 2D parts of Odyssey aren't enough for me, I want a whole game. I like games that I can pick up and set down without having to remember where I left off.

By this point I also hoped to already be playing an Animal Crossing extension, especially after the mobile game came out. Hopefully Nintendo will announce the game at E3 in June.

With the Switch having the ability to be a handheld console, Nintendo needs to take more advantage of its portability. Games like Cooking Mama or even Nintendogs would be smart on

their end. There are also too many indie games. I'd prefer one \$60 well-prepared game over several \$5 mini-games anyway.

To me "Splatoon" and "Arms" were Nintendo's attempt to create a new classic. While I like the idea of a new classic Nintendo game, the way Nintendo marketed the two games was way too extreme, leading to a letdown. "Splatoon" characters who are brand new to Nintendo, should not have been included in "Mario Kart 8 Deluxe."

As for right now, I am most excited for the Yoshi game and eventually Smash Bros. I'm hoping that Nintendo's E3 announcements will impress long-standing Nintendo fans.



### Nintendo Labo

Alexa Murdock, Copy Desk Chief

of cardboard punch-outs that are used to build interactive toys.

Once built, the cardboard toys, dubbed Toy-Cons, allow you to interact with the Switch in a multitude of ways. One of the Toy-Cons is a playable miniature piano, which allows for the user to explore creative endeavors. Another Toy-Con is a wearable robot torso, which lets the user interact with the Switch in a way that resembles virtual reality.

Nothing like the Nintendo Switch or Labo has been released by a mainstream video game or electronics company in recent years. In this digital age, with many companies pushing for their consumers to

buy digital versions of their games and extra downloadable content, seeing the release of physical content is a breath of fresh air.

Although the Labo won't be everyone's cup of tea, I'm sure the Labo will be a staple in the memories of a new generation of children. The Labo blends the creativity and engineering skill one would learn by playing with traditional toys like Lego and K'Nex with the technology and imagination of a digital device.

The Nintendo Switch and Labo are unique concepts in this digitally focused age, and the Labo lets me explore the possibilities my 10-year-old self would have loved.

### Crossword of the Week

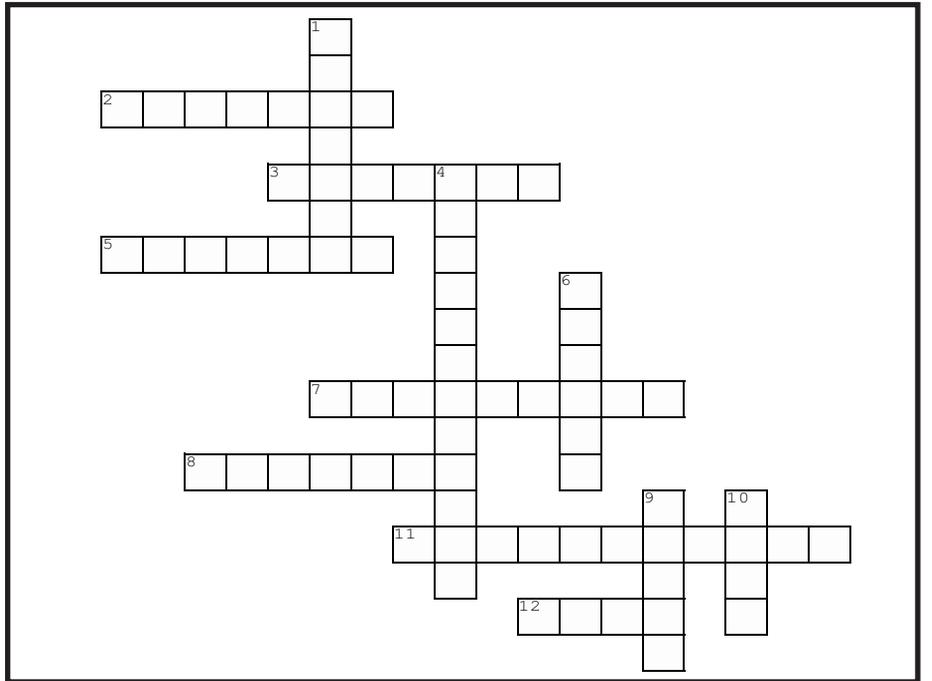
#### Clues

##### Across

- 2. Eighth generation Microsoft console
- 3. 8-bit handheld console first released in 1989
- 5. Indie platformer known for 1930s inspired graphics and difficult gameplay
- 7. Tracer, D. Va and Mei are charactes in this shooter game
- 8. Latest installment in the Super Mario series
- 11. Japanese video game console brand
- 12. Rockstar developed this 2013 game that is now the most financially successful game of all time

##### Down

- 1. US state where the fictional city of Hope Country is located in "Far Cry 5"
- 4. Free-to-play mode of a hit game created by Epic Games
- 6. Protagonist of a PlayStation exclusive single-player game based on Norse mythology
- 9. Bellevue-based developer popular for "Portal"
- 10. This green-clad protagonist often rides his trusty steed Epona



### Keep in Touch



@CWUObserver



@CWU\_Observer



/CWU Observer

Email Letters to the Editor to: editor@cwuobserver.com

## Sugar Thai Cuisine

The Best of Thai Food

10% Off Any Purchase Sugar Thai Cuisine

(509).933.4224 • Fax (509).933.4288  
306 N Pine St, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Open 7 Days a Week

Mon. - Thurs. 11am - 9pm  
Fri. & Sat. 11am - 9:30pm  
Sun. Noon - 9pm