By Miles King & Jack Belcher
Editor in Chief & News Editor

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 18, Ellensburg Police responded to reported gunshots in a neighborhood just north of the CWU campus. Students received news early the next morning via email that two students, both in the ROTC program at CWU, had passed in a tragic firearms accident the night before.

According to Ellensburg police, no foul play is suspected. It was reported 21-year-old Austin McKenzie unintentionally shot 22-year-old Michael Demchuck. The two were close friends, and after shooting Demchuck, McKenzie turned the gun on himself, according to the Ellensburg Police Department (EPD).

“EPD Detectives arrived and based on their initial investigation it appears a 22-year-old male died after being accidentally shot by the 21-year-old male, and that the 21-year-old died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound,” the department said in a Facebook post. “EPD is not seeking any suspects, as we believe we have identified all individuals involved in the incident.”

Demchuck and McKenzie were well known on campus. A few dozen friends attended a candlelight memorial Friday evening around 9 p.m. At one point, there were about 100 people present, according to one attendee. The vigil occurred on the south side of Lind Hall, where the ROTC department is located. Flowers and pictures of the two remain on the steps.

In his email to students, CWU President James Gaudino affirmed the university’s unwavering support for friends and family of the deceased.

“The [Demchuck and McKenzie] lives impacted campus; it wasn’t just ROTC.”

- Edith Rojas, ASCWU President

“CWU will provide support to those grieving the loss of these students and offer assistance to those who need it now or in the days and weeks ahead,” Gaudino said. “We will also offer our highest level of support to the students’ families during this very difficult time.”

Executive Director of Student Involvement Jeff Rosenberry and ASCWU have organized a candlelight vigil today, Thursday, on the SURC East Patio.

“We [ASCWU] wanted to do one because we wanted to support the students,” ASCWU President Edith Rojas said. “Their [Demchuck and McKenzie] lives impacted campus; it wasn’t just ROTC.”

According to Rojas, Demchuck was heavily involved with ASCWU; he would visit the office very often, sometimes multiple times per week. Demchuck also ran for ASCWU Executive VP last spring.

Others in the community have also come out in support of the families and those who are grieving.

Steward and Williams Funeral Home and Crematory in Ellensburg has donated the candles for Thursday’s vigil. Manager and Funeral Director Henry Johnston said they were happy to donate and they are very community focused.

“Everybody needs to support each other through this,” Johnston said.

Local bar and restaurant Blue Rock Saloon has planned a benefit for Saturday, Nov. 3 from 4 to 9 p.m. Every dollar earned from a $15 taco plate will go to support the families of Demchuck and McKenzie.

Friends of Demchuck and McKenzie gather on the south side of Lind Hall on the evening of Friday, Nov. 19. Attendees shared fond memories of the deceased. ASCWU has organized a candlelight vigil for tonight at 7 p.m. on the SURC East Patio.

"Everybody needs to support each other through this," Johnston said.

Cooper shines on potent Wildcats offense

By Micah Chen
Staff Reporter

Senior running back Cedric Cooper is proving to be one of the most elite players in the entire GNAC this season. His 813 total yards leads the conference, making him an early candidate for GNAC offensive MVP.

Just two years ago, Cooper was debating whether it was time to hang up the cleats.

“There were times where I thought I might not ever play again,” Cooper said.

“I had to take a year off, I didn’t know if I could make it back.”

Several times during his college football journey, Cooper has had to take entire years off in order to make money to support himself.

From a young age, Cooper had to move around a lot because of his dad’s military position. Cooper played high school football in South Carolina, then at Tacoma-based Foster before wrapping up his high school experience playing for Skyline High School.

It was at Skyline where he won a state title and finally broke into the spotlight.

He would play on national ESPN broadcasts multiple times.

Former USC quarterback and teammate at Skyline, Max Browne, gave his thoughts on Cooper’s playing ability.

“He was as good of a jump cutter as I ever played with,” Browne said. “He came in and showed how special of a player he was and it today. He definitely was an extra lift in our running game.”

Browne added that Cooper was a tremendous presence behind the scenes.

His ability to adapt to the Skyline locker room is as impressive as anything he has done on the field.

After graduating high school, Cooper had no offers. This meant that if he wanted to pursue his football dreams, it would have to be as a walk-on.

Knowing that he wasn’t going to get any full rides, Cooper decided to start out playing for one of the most prestigious junior college (JuCo) football programs in the nation: Arizona Western.

It’s a JuCo that historically is known for making the playoffs, having missed them just once in the past 10 years. Additionally, the school has sent 33 players to the National Football League. For Cooper, this is exactly where he wanted to be in order to jump-start his career.

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Parking problems arise with new changes

By Jessica Perez
Staff Reporter

This school year, quite a few changes have occurred related to parking at CWU. These include the price of parking permits, a student lot being turned into a faculty lot, the way students can submit appeals and a decrease in the number of available parking spots, due to more students choosing to have a car on campus.

According to Program Specialist of Parking Services Trish Swanson, the price of all parking permits has increased 10 percent this year.

“This is not the only change that has occurred that may inconvenience students; one of the student lots, E-14, was turned into faculty lot. In its place, lot F-15 has become a general parking lot.”

There have also been changes to the way students can handle their appeals of parking tickets, in that students can now submit their appeals online. According to Swanson, there has been some confusion with this since some students do not have their vehicles registered online.

“Once vehicles are registered online with CWU Parking Services, the student driving the vehicle can appeal the ticket.”

Appeals are then sent to the CWU Parking Appeals Board, which is made up of faculty, staff and student representatives. The board meets once a week to look over the different appeals, and it has been in charge of doing so for quite a while, according to senior and student representative for the Parking Appeals Board Arber Demiri.

Demiri said that the board usually makes decisions pretty quickly, within a few minutes, but that there are things that impact whether or not they grant an appeal.

“If people come in person, we are more likely to reduce the fine because it shows they care,” Demiri said. “When people park in ADA spots, we don’t take kindly to that.”

Demiri also mentioned how having a board that appeals parking tickets can be beneficial to students who get tickets on campus.

“The board allows students to appeal the tickets they get without having to go to the court,” Demiri said. “There are a lot of tickets that are handed out weekly, so if it all went to the lower courts, that would probably congest it, there would be too many people there trying to appeal tickets.”

Another change is that more first-year students are deciding to bring their cars on campus because of recent parking changes. With increased pricing for parking passes and less parking spots, a place to park is not a guarantee.

CWU parking permits have increased by ten percent in the last year, the passes are also now based off the calendar year, instead of the school year.

“Students might reconsider bringing cars to campus because of recent parking changes. With increased pricing for parking passes and less parking spots, a place to park is not a guarantee.”

“Parking is more difficult to find. Returning student and second-year resident representative for the Parking Appeals Board Sarah Syverson said that she always hears people complaining about how difficult it is to find parking on campus.”

“I’ve also heard people complain about parking and it makes sense, because they all pay all this money and they don’t even get a parking spot most of the time,” Syverson said.

First-year student Nathan DeVore lives on campus and usually parks his car behind Barto Hall. Devore said that he chose to bring his car on campus because of the convenience of being able to drive home at anytime.

“I knew there was transit around Yakima, but having a for sure ride home and not relying on others for a ride is an advantage of having a car on campus,” DeVore said.

“I think commuting is more convenient,” Syverson said. “It would be difficult to have your car on campus, there’s never any parking and it’s expensive.”

Students might reconsider bringing cars to campus because of recent parking changes. With increased pricing for parking passes and less parking spots, a place to park is not a guarantee. 

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By Kejuan Coleman

Over 100 cellists from all over the state of Washington played together in the McIntyre Music Building during the Central Cello Celebration on Oct. 19 and 20. "The sound of a choir of cellos surrounds and compels you. The cello can hold down the bass line and also sing a high register melody which makes it an ideal instrument for a like-instrument choir," said John Michel, professor of cello music at CWU. He started the first biennial Central Cello Celebration concert in the fall of 2004. "I was inspired to start the celebration after I was invited to lead a section at the First Kobe International Cello Festival in Kobe, Japan where there were 1,000 cellists playing together in memory of the victims and heroes of the devastating Kobe earthquake," Michel said.

The celebration is an event where cellists from all over the Northwest have an opportunity to collaborate with fellow cellists in one massive choir performance over the weekend. The celebration was open to cellists of all ages, giving it a diversified sound. "I am always excited to bring cellists together that are inspired by the repertoire and enjoy playing together. Because we only do this every other year, it feels more special," Michel said.

On Friday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m., the recital featured high school and college cellists who ended with a small cello choir playing “Carmen’s Habanera.” Saturday was packed with excitement from all of the participating cellists. At 2 p.m. there was a recital featuring YouTube sensation and third chair cellist of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra Nathan Chan. The finale concert started at 7:30 p.m.

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The finale concert featured the debut choir, the festival choir and a combined performance world premiere of Tom Walworth’s composition “Jobim’s Standard Time,” a medley of famous bossa nova tunes. Grant Chase, CWU alumnus and returning Cello Celebration artist said, “There is plenty of background classes and recitals that go on throughout the two-day event rehearsing and putting together one massive cello choir finale concert. It’s truly a great experience.”

A concert of this magnitude takes time and practice to prepare. According to Michel, “There has been a lot of preparation leading up to this concert, so the excitement is mounting. Besides organizational matters, my studio of cellists has been working on the repertoire twice a week since school started.”

“The blend of the tones and the warmth of the cello tone is reassuring and comforting. The sound of so many cellists playing in such a unified manner is overwhelming. I am always amazed that the sound of the cello choir still stirs in me fresh emotions and inspires my soul,” Michel said.

Meghan Rochelle/The Observer

Professors John Michel and Nicholas Castle performing Pampeana No. 2 by Alberto Ginastera at the Central Cello Celebration Finale Concert on Saturday night.
Law and justice professor awarded Timm Ormsby Award for Faculty Citizenship.

By Will Ortner
Staff Reporter

Every year, one professor from six of Washington's State Universities gets nominated to receive the coveted Timm Ormsby award for Faculty Citizenship. This year, CWU Law and Justice professor Charles Reasons was one of the four recipients of this prestigious award.

Reasons comes from a working-class family in Bremerton, Washington. His father was a unionist and found himself involved in social justice issues when he was just a young boy. These views on social justice issues were passed down to Reasons and helped create the groundwork for a lifelong goal of helping those who were wronged.

“He saw injustices, and he addressed them as a unionist and as a person, and I always admired that,” Reasons said.

Reasons hopes to pass these values on as he became a first-generation college student at Linfield College. There, he took classes that helped open his eyes to more social justice issues that plagued our country, such as only being able to stay in specific hotels when his football team played in the south, because they had some African American players on the team. Instances like this were significant influences on Reasons.

No matter where his career in the states or Canada took him, Reasons always made sure to stand up for the little man when it came to social justice issues. CWU brought Reasons back home to be a professor in the law and justice department in the late 90s. Along with being a professor, Reasons has been a part of many social justice endeavors on campus, including being a founding member of Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors. The Justice for Our Neighbors program helps immigrants from other countries get legal advice, as well as any other assistance they may need. This could be protection for immigrants fleeing their country due to a life or death situation or for those trying to gain legal U.S. citizenship.

In a press release by CWU with regard to Reasons winning the Ormsby award, the chair of the department of law and justice, Paul Knepper, talked about how Reasons has made a difference in many people’s lives since he’s been here at CWU.

“Chuck Reasons has been consistently committed to civic engagement, and we’re happy he’s been recognized for these activities because they make such a difference to people,” Knepper said.
Dr. Lewis to retire after decades of math and travel

By Cassandra Hays  Staff Reporter

CWU math professor Dr. Scott Lewis is retiring as a full-time professor at the end of the school year. Dr. Lewis will be transitioning into phased retirement. According to Dr. Lewis, he will be teaching part time at CWU for the next two years after this.

Once phased retirement is completed Dr. Lewis will retire full time. Dr. Lewis has been teaching at CWU since 1988 and is known for his passion about studying and teaching math. He has also worked for other institutions, including Oregon State University, University of Montana, Western Oregon University and Green Mountain College. He has traveled around the world to other countries like Scotland and Finland for his studies.

“My resume looks like a travel brochure,” Lewis said. Dr. Lewis has worked in other areas aside from math, including environmental studies and conservation biology. In the 1990s he received a grant from the National Science Foundation while studying conservation biology at CWU. This led to him traveling to Finland to study at an environmental institute with the Fulbright Finland Foundation, which offers grants to U.S. citizens so they can work on individual research projects.

Aside from science, some of Dr. Lewis’s favorite areas of study include the history of mathematics and different walks of life,” Dr. Lewis said. “I think the best towns on planet Earth are small to midsize college towns. I want to get rich teaching, but you get rich in other ways,” Dr. Lewis said. “I’ve had students come back [to see me] after several years. That kind of payoff, there’s no money value you can put on that.”

Senior Emily Beck has taken several classes with Dr. Lewis. “I’ve had him since last summer,” Beck said. “He’s the most chill guy, but he also really wants you to understand.”

Beck added that Dr. Lewis cares a lot about his students and is an easy professor to connect with on a personal level. She appreciates his humor, knowledge, and willingness to help any one of his students with anything they may need.

Dr. Lewis was recognized for his outstanding teaching in 2000 when he won the Distinguished Teaching Award. He said he owes his success to his students and colleagues. Dr. Lewis has nothing but positive words for the students and faculty in the math department.

“The math department right now is as strong as it’s ever been,” Dr. Lewis said. “We have an unbelievable collection of excellent teachers. You can’t go wrong in this department and that’s really impressive.”

Dr. Lewis has left a lasting impression on CWU; he will be missed by faculty and students alike.

By Grey Caoli  Staff Reporter

It’s the start of the work week after a long weekend your craving sweets before lunch. Have you ever walked by Vinman’s before you covered? Located just south of campus on the corner of East University Way and North Walnut Street, Vinman’s Bakery has been serving freshly baked goods to the Ellensburg community since 1999.

Now, Vinman’s Bakery has expanded their business into what used to be the G&K’s Hawaiian Shave Ice hut, located directly across the street from a former bank.

Jeff Klindworth owns Vinman’s Bakery, and he started the business in 2014. His dream was to own a business.

Although Klindworth is an Ellensburg local, he had never stepped foot into Vinman’s until the day he began inquiring about buying it.

“I fell in love with it immediately,” Klindworth said.

Being next to CWU gave the store a lot of everyday traffic. Klindworth looked outside of the Vinman’s Bakery window and began to think about how they could expand his business.

“If we moved our big coffee machine out there and stocked it with our goods and got the signage out there... Anybody that goes through that intersection if you look that way, [is] going to see our sign,” Klindworth said.

According to Ginger Marsicano, general manager of Vinman’s Bakery, the last two years, the main goal of the expansion is to attract students walking past the coffee hut on their way to campus, or going in and out of the south campus residence halls, Kamola and Sue Lombard.

“We want to get people walking by and show them to we can feed you something different we do something excellent. We have a lot of first time coffee hut goers, but most of our clients and customers [have] known us,” Marsicano said.

The new Vinman’s Bakery coffee hut has two soft openings Oct. 19 and 20 and will sell fresh baked goods and coffee produced from Cafe Vita, which is located in Capitol Hill, Seattle. The tentative hours for the new coffee hut are Monday-Saturday 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. According to Klindworth, the hours and the goods sold at the coffee hut could change depending on customer feedback. Vinman’s Bakery does not offer student discounts.

“We are not a sitting coffee shop bakery. We’re trying to make the best loaf of bread, the best pastry, the best cookies and bars you’ve ever had so that doesn’t lend itself to discounts,” Klindworth said.

“That being said, anybody that’s ever been in this bakery on a regular basis has probably gotten a free item or two along the way... If a customer is a good customer then we try to go out of our way to make sure that they know that they’re welcomed and appreciated.”

Key menu items at the bakery include fifteen different types of bread and a wide variety of pastries such as prosciutto and cheese turnovers, sticky buns, fruit Danishes, croissants, bear claws, muffins, coffee cakes, cookies, bars and scones. All menu items are made fresh daily.

The entire staff, including Marsicano and Klindworth, come in every morning around 3 a.m. to get the process started. Meghan Gilbert, a graduate student in the experimental psychology department at CWU, grew up in Ellensburg. She is no stranger to Vinman’s Bakery but has only been inside a couple of times. According to Gilbert, she never needs to go directly to Vinman’s Bakery to still eat their goods.

“I don’t necessarily have to go to Vinman’s because if I’m like at an event or over at a friends, they’ve went and got Vinman’s and brought it over,” Gilbert said. After the expansion, Vinman’s looks to take the business to another level.

Vinman’s Bakery expands location

By Cassandra Hays  Staff Reporter

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Dr. Lewis has left a lasting impression on CWU; he will be missed by faculty and students alike.
The sound of scissors cutting hair mixed in with chatter between a client and a barber has been a part of every community around the world for some time, and Ellensburg is no different. CW Barber Shop, located on East University Way across the street from CWU, has been in the Ellensburg area for two generations. According to the current owner Kelsey Schmitt, the institution has been open for almost 45 years, since 1973. It was founded by David Miller and was originally named Rawls Barber Shop.

Ellensburg resident Wayne Hunt has been a regular customer for six years. He appreciates what the barber shop stands for.

“It’s one of the few remaining old-style barbershops and serves the CWU community,” Hunt said.

Conversations allow people to appreciate one another’s journey through life. “Honestly, having conversations with everybody is awesome, everybody has a different conversation, everybody has a different story,” Schmitt said. Schmitt started working at the shop in July of 2004, she became the owner of the shop in May of 2007.

“The previous owner got arthritis and couldn’t cut hair anymore;” Schmitt said, regarding former owner David Mills. “I thought it would be easier to take over than find another job.”

With an institution that’s been a part of Ellensburg for so long, it means the world to the long-time owner.

“It’s my everything,” Schmitt said. “Other people have children, I have a barbershop.”

With how chaotic it can be during the day, the barber shop added two new barbers, Leah Lewis and Kassondra Merryman, to help reduce customer wait time to get a fresh cut.

Merryman and Lewis appreciate the mentorship Schmitt has provided since they were hired.

“She’s taught me so many things. I thought I was okay when I came here. I knew I was going to learn a lot but not as much as she’s taught me. It’s nuts how good she is,” Merryman, who has been part of the team since August, said.
To help with the learning curve, Schmitt looks over every haircut the new team members give to make sure each trimming lives up to the standard the establishment has built over the years.

“I hope they learn something and take pride in their work,” Schmitt said.

Large amounts of people come and go every day, but the constant flow of customers doesn’t faze the barbershop.

“I kind of like it when it’s busy, it doesn’t bother me,” Schmitt said. “The only one that matters is the one in the chair.”

The staff realizes they aren’t just barbers to their clients.

“It’s always nice to come in and chat with your barber, they [customers] always say your barber is like your therapist,” Merryman said.

One of the keys to CW Barber Shop’s success is the old-school practice of only accepting walk-ins, like traditional barbershops used to do.

“If we were taking time to write down appointments, it would be so much of a longer wait,” Lewis said.

According to Kelsey the walk-in business model is the most efficient way for the shop to keep things moving throughout the day. The business doesn’t have to turn customers away because staff is waiting on an appointment.

The barber shop has a varied customer base, ranging from little kids to college students to the elderly.

“I enjoy that we get everyone in here, from people getting their first haircuts to clients who are 100 years old, and I think that’s awesome,” Schmitt said.

CW Barber Shop believes in providing great customer service at a great price. They have been part of the Ellensburg community for many years and plan on sticking around for years to come.
Rotary Parks hosts the dog biscuit hunt (Top, middle) and the Flashlight egg hunt annually on Good Friday.

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Senior back adds edge to Wildcat offense

“Cooper” from page 1

Cooper quickly realized it was going to be hard to move up the depth chart. The sheer talent on the Arizona Western roster made it difficult to receive reps. Combine that with needing to work a full time job to pay for school, and Cooper had no choice but to leave the football program.

After taking the rest of the year off, Cooper was looking forward to a fresh start on a new team. He got a referral from a former teammate to transfer to Santa Barbara College.

“He had played for the coaching staff before,” Cooper said. “I trusted him that it was a great fit and it ended up being just that.”

Cooper had a breakout freshman season playing for Santa Barbara. He won offensive MVP after leading the conference in rushing yards and touchdowns. But once again, financial issues would come into play. Cooper would have to take another year off to pay for school.

Cooper expressed that every time he would take one of those “gap” years, he would think about whether or not he should return to football. Working a full time job in Tacoma, over one thousand miles away from his team, it was tempting for Cooper to start a new life.

Cooper did eventually save up enough money, and he returned to Santa Barbara for his sophomore year. His numbers improved, as he ran for 761 yards and 11 touchdowns, which caught the eye of several top Division II schools.

CWU Football head coach Ian Shoemaker recalled recruiting him hard following his breakout performance at Santa Barbara.

“We actually met him at Santa Barbara,” Shoemaker said. “We knew about him and we were trying to bring him home.”

Shoemaker would end up missing out on Cooper that year, as Cooper announced his commitment to Southwestern Oklahoma State on Dec. 18, 2016. Cooper cites the financial help of Southwestern Oklahoma State as the biggest reason why he chose them over CWU at the time.

“Just putting my head down and working, not talking, just working for my spot.”

Whether it’s CWU, Southwestern Oklahoma State, Santa Barbara College, Arizona Western College, Skyline, Fraser or South Carolina, Cooper has made a phenomenal impact everywhere he’s gone. At the pace he’s on, Cooper is projected to rack up over 1100 yards to go along with 10 or more touchdowns on the season. He’ll also be a front runner for GNAC MVP honors.

Indoor track back in session at CWU

By Bryce Weedman

CWU Indoor Track and Field sets their eyes on the 2018-19 season looking to fly high into the GNAC Championship. According to senior HarLee Ortega, in 2017 the Wildcats were able to achieve a lot in terms of their season, finishing tied for GNAC Champions. With that being said, the team is striving to take the title home alone this season.

Cooper (#11) has already racked up 604 yards on the season. Cooper has been a versatile and prominent offensive MVP after leading the conference in rushing yards and touchdowns.

Athlete spotlight: HarLee Ortega

HarLee Ortega is a Division II athlete from Payette, Idaho, who has had a knack for competition, dating all the way back from Payette, Idaho, who has had a knack for competition, dating all the way back from Payette, Idaho. She has had a knack for competition, dating all the way back from Payette, Idaho. She has had a knack for competition, dating all the way back from Payette, Idaho. She has had a knack for competition, dating all the way back from Payette, Idaho.

Athlete spotlight: HarLee Ortega

With CWU climbing up the national rankings (now at #21), Cooper hopes to continue to be a big part of the puzzle going forward.

Next up

Candy Cane Open

Where: Eastern Washington University

When: Dec. 1

Riley Mair practices shot put in the field house at Nicholson Pavilion. The indoor season will officially begin when the team heads to the Candy Cane Open at Eastern Washington University on Dec. 1.
The walk-on experience for athletes at CWU

The college recruitment process involves evaluating many impressive athletes that stand out from the crowd. However, some athletes can be overlooked and undervalued. These walk-on athletes have unique stories with one common similarity; the odds were against them to make a collegiate athletic roster.

By Dez Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

Donovan Barnhart
Men’s cross country

CWU sophomore cross country runner Donovan Barnhart figured out he had an ability to run by accident. With a plan to play basketball throughout his high school career, he joined the cross country team hoping that it would help him get in better shape. After going through the season, he learned that he was better at the new sport.

“I was a little better than I thought and maybe had a chance to get into a collegiate program,” Barnhart said.

26:27
Personal Best: 8K

Barnhart ran on varsity all four years at Everett High School. The success really started to show when he qualified individually for state in his senior season. The achievement didn’t generate any scholarship offers, so he had to decide which school presented the best opportunity for his running career.

“I ended up choosing to come here [at CWU] because of location,” Barnhart said. “I liked the idea of coming to Ellensburg and the team idea than I did at Western or Portland State.”

Barnhart got in contact through email with cross country coach Kevin Adkisson. He was able to visit with the team and begin tryouts towards the end of August. At the time, the athletes underwent a week where they did workouts of August. At the time, the athletes underwent a week where they did workouts throughout the week. The accumulation of those numbers throughout the week determined which runners would make the team and race for the season.

“I was pretty stressed out for the week,” Barnhart said. “I felt really happy to make it.”

Jax Wettland
Women’s soccer

After watching her older sister play soccer, Jax Wettland fell in love with the game at five years old. This passion would grow on her as she played soccer her entire life. In her first two years at Bonney Lake High School, Wettland was a varsity starter. She was having much success, when in a blink of an eye, soccer was taken away from her.

“I got hit playing soccer and my hip dislocated,” Wettland said. “When I fell, it relocated and tore my labrum.”

At the age of sixteen, Wettland needed labrum surgery to repair the damage. The injury knocked her out of her final two years of high school, the prime years of recruitment for athletes. As a result, she didn’t receive any offers to play soccer from any schools. With these circumstances, she decided to go with the best school for her education.

“I came here mainly for academics and I thought why not try to walk-on and see where it goes,” Wettland said.

She emailed CWU soccer coach Michael Farrand about the possibility of trying out for the team. After exchanging information about her career, she was brought in for a tryout.

“You come in by yourself with the whole team and go through a practice,” Wettland said. “At the end he told me that he thought I’d make a great team member on this team.”

Wettland is redshirting this year and hopes that she’ll be brought back for the whole team and go through a practice. For now, she’s at every practice enjoying every second with the soccer team.

“I’m here to have fun, stay in shape, and prove that I can play,” Wettland said.

Chaz McKenzie
Football

CWU sophomore defensive back Chaz McKenzie took a liking to baseball as he grew up playing sports. It wasn’t until his sophomore year at Todd Beamer High School that he played football for the first time. The new sport immediately caught his attention and he continued playing and dedicated his time to the game of football.

“I’ve been told that I was too small in every sport. If you want something, you have to go get it,” McKenzie said.

Even after starting his football career late, McKenzie was able to receive offers from a couple of Division III colleges. With these opportunities, he chose to continue his career at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. After a year at what McKenzie describes as not a good fit, he decided to transfer closer to friends and family.

McKenzie’s friends on the CWU football team helped convince him to attend by talking about the idea of him making the team. With his focus now on tryouts, he trained months in advance to prepare himself.

“I came here to do whatever I could to make the team,” McKenzie said. However, doing whatever he could still didn’t help him make the team. McKenzie was cut from tryouts in the spring of 2016. Determined to not give up, he gave it one last shot by emailing defensive backs coach Benny Boyd.

“I told him I know I can play for this team. I’m confident in my abilities,” McKenzie said. “Just give me one more chance. If you don’t like me, then cut me again.”

He was greeted by a text the next morning, receiving praise for his perseverance and an invite to practice. McKenzie went to the next practice and received the good news after having a better tryout; he made the team.

“I’ve been told that I was too small in every sport,” McKenzie said. “If you want something, you have to go get it.”

Chaz McKenzie, sophomore defensive back
The CWU volleyball team has had an impressive season so far with a 16-5 record. After a four game road stretch, which included three losses, the Wildcats were hoping to bounce back to their winning ways. They did just that on Thursday, Oct. 18 when the team hosted the Concordia University Cavaliers and won 3-1.

Currently, the Wildcats are third in the GNAC standings. Head Coach Mario Andaya says he is happy with the team’s current position, but that the team has to make sure to continue to stay in the upper-third of the GNAC standings as the season moves forward.

The Wildcats look forward to playing more home games as they’ve been on the road the past couple of weeks and the fatigue is catching up to them. The last four games of the season before the NCAA tournament are going to be played at home. The Wildcats are more than happy to get that home field advantage.

“It’s going to be good to play at home, sleep in our own beds and focus on our conference opponents,” Andaya said. Senior outside hitter Shelby Mauritson played the role of closer, smashing home seven kills in the final set against the Wildcats’ recent game against Concordia. Mauritson finished with 18 kills two blocks and one ace. Mauritson says the team keeps improving every day and that they try to fix even the smallest problems during practice.

“I think we need to stay competitive in practice and really strive to work on a little part of your game, so we don’t plateau and we keep getting better,” Mauritson said. Mauritson hopes to finish strong this season, especially with their final four games being at home with the fans. As a senior, Mauritson feels sad to be leaving CWU after this season, but is striving to make it as far as possible in the NCAA tournament and leave without any regrets.

“I want to make it past the first round for sure,” Mauritson said. “I want to play the best that we have in the past four years that I’ve been here.” Andaya hopes to improve some areas in the team before they officially head into the NCAA tournament. Andaya also adds that at the current point in the season, the Wildcats will be playing conference teams a second time. So, any improvements will help the team to not be predictable against their opponents.

“If we could focus on the serve and pass game, that’s really important,” Andaya said. “We got to make sure defensively we are playing a lot better than we have been.” Senior middle blocker Sarah Joffs finished with 14 kills and three blocks when the team recently faced Concordia. Joffs hopes to continue with the game plan the team has set up. She adds that the team has been working hard to accomplish their goals this season. The team’s trust and communication is getting better each week and Joffs feels it’s going to be a great change of pace playing more home games at Nicholson Pavilion. She explains that the atmosphere at home is completely different and adds that the home gym is where they practice every day.

“As a senior, Joffs hopes that her last season with the Wildcats involves her and her teammates going beyond the first round of the NCAA tournament.

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” Joffs said. “I’ve been working for it for the last four and a half years, so it’s really exciting to see where it takes us.”
**Halloween: party smart and safely**

By Mariah Valles, Managing Editor

For me, Halloween in college is the perfect excuse to stay at home, drink a cup of tea and watch movies all night long. While this may be the case for me, it is not necessarily everybody else’s perfect cup of tea.

If you choose to go out and party, have fun but do so safely. Being a college kid myself, I know that Halloween weekend is a big party weekend.

Plan ahead and arrange for a designated driver to attend parties with you to ensure that you and your friends arrive home safely. Speaking of friends...stay in a group. If you go to a party together, leave the party together.

Add a taxi service’s number into your phone before going out. Even if you plan to have a designated driver, be responsible and have a backup plan. Rodeo Town Taxi, LLC’s phone number is (509) 929-4222 and K.C Cab’s phone number is (509) 929-3055.

Don’t leave your drink unattended. Make sure to eat before and while you’re drinking. Know your limits. If you see somebody who may be in a medical emergency, remember that the Good Samaritan laws protect anyone who calls 911 on behalf of a person at risk.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2012 almost half (48 percent) of all crash fatalities on Halloween involved a drunk driver, compared to 31 percent on an average day that year.

I encourage you to be smart, plan ahead and don’t get behind the wheel if you are under the influence of any substance. Also, don’t get in the car with a driver who is under the influence either. Choose to not put anybody’s life at risk, including your own.

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**Are you dressing up for Halloween?**

**Are you going out or staying in on Halloween?**

**Simple costume ideas:**
- Cat
- Character from “The Office”
- Redneck cowboy
- Ghost
- Pennywise
- Pirate
- Skeleton
- Zombie

**Tips for safe partying:**
- Arrange a designated driver
- Do not drive under the influence
- Eat before and while drinking
- Do not leave drinks unattended
- Leave with the same people
- Watch out for your friends
- Let somebody know your location
- Know your limits

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**Your Next 3 Days:**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 25**
**Time Management Strategies**
3 p.m. • Black Hall 150 • Free
Change how you view time, and learn new tips for managing it!

**Halloween Dinner**
4:30 - 7 p.m. • Holmes Dining
Meal plan discounts or cash
Spooky good menu tonight!

**Being the “First”** • Latinx Leaders Roundtable
5:30 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby • Free
Hear about challenges and triumphs.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 26**
**Casino Classic with Ellensburg’s Adult Activity Center**
10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. • Free lunch
Register now at cwu.edu/leadership-engage

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**
10 p.m. - 12 a.m. • SURC Ballroom
Don’t miss this cult classic, with a live shadow cast and props! Doors at 9:30, get there early!

**SATURDAY, OCT. 27**
**Kittitas Connect: Downtown Make a Difference Day**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Register today at cwu.edu/leadership-engage
Join this national day of service

**Haunting at Central**
9 p.m. - 12 a.m. • SURC
Things are getting spooky...haunted house, Zombie Zone, “A Quiet Place,” food and more.

**Next Week Sneak Peak:**

**OCT. 29 - NOV. 4**
**Ant Man and the Wasp**
**Dissent, Demonstration & Democracy Panel**
**Identity, Stereotypes and Biases**
**Boo Central**
**International Café**
**Cranksgiving Bouldering Competition**
**Dia de Los Muertos**
**21st Annual Giving Tree**

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**October 25 • October 31, 2018**

**ENGAGE**

Editor: Mariah Valles • cwuobserver.com