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Stadium Renovations bring buzz to Tomlinson

By Bryce Weedman
Staff Reporter

On Saturday Sept. 29, CWU unveiled the newly renovated Tomlinson Stadium, a project worth $4.5 million that had been in the works since June.

The Wildcats lost to West Texas A&M University 28-26 in a nail biter that went down to the last play. The loss was unfortunate, but the atmosphere around the newly redone stadium was electric.

“We probably have in excess of one thousand fans around the field that do not have seating for the game, and that is just wonderful to see the turn out for our Wildcats,” President James L. Gaudino said.

The stadium renovation was privately funded by donors and, most notably, alumni of CWU. CWU added a newly redone Alumni Plaza to the stadium, which was fully funded by alumni Doug Andrews and Sharon Andrews, graduates in the classes of 1968 and 1980.

The Alumni Plaza adds a special and fun atmosphere for students and alumni to feel proud of their university. “We felt that if we could fund the plaza project and give back to the university then it would set an example for the future alumni to want to help expand this beautiful university,” Doug Andrews said.

The football players also enjoyed the newly renovated stadium. New turf installed on the field allows for safer play and better traction than the natural grass that covered the field prior to renovations. Additionally, CWU decided to install black turf on both ends of the field sporting the Wildcat name and logo which gives a fresh, new and improved look to Tomlinson Stadium.

Smiles on the faces of the players during pre-game festivities showed that they were excited about what the new stadium had to offer on game night.

“It is the best, no doubt, it is beautiful,” said Wildcat quarterback Reilly Hennessy. “No stadium in our conference compares to it.”

Built in 1959, Tomlinson Stadium had not seen any renovations before now. A facelift for the stadium was long overdue, and the players, fans, donors and faculty are happy with how the project turned out. Walking into the stadium now gives you a sense of pride on game days.

“There is a buzz around the new stadium and having our families and friends here showing their support for us is absolutely amazing,” head coach Ian Shoemaker said. “We look forward to this kind of atmosphere for years to come.”

If you missed CWU’s first home game, don’t worry; you will have at least three more opportunities to see the renovations this year. CWU will play its next home game Oct. 13 against Western Oregon.

ASCWU supports Diversity and Equity Center move to Black Hall

By Jack Belcher
News Editor

The Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) is moving to Black Hall in order for the program to expand. According to Jeff Rosenberry, Executive Director of Student Involvement, the new space in Black Hall is going to be three-to-five times larger than the current DEC in the SURC.

With the larger area in Black, the new DEC can consist of a multicultural space, a place that DEC Assistant Director Veronica Gomez describes as a setting where students can work on projects and have meetings.

According to DEC Assistant Director Katrina Whitney, students have been constantly and consistently asking for a DEC on campus. The DEC was created in 1997 because students supported the idea with a passion. Whitney was on staff from the very beginning, and has been with the center for the last 21 years.

Whitney said that back in 1997, the DEC was a one-room, one-office space in the old Samuelson building. It was then moved to its current location in the SURC, which, while larger, does not have the room necessary to easily help students. With this larger move to Black, the DEC will have access to a space that has more potential.

“The potential for this space in relation to what we can provide to students, from all identities, is so profound,” Whitney said. “We are in a state in our world, in our nation, where conversations around identity, conversations around privilege, conversations around ally-ship, conversations around equity are so crucial and vital to the health of our nation that having a center to be able to continue to grow in those conversations is invaluable.”

The space in Black Hall is only supposed to be temporary. The long-term goal is for the DEC to take advantage of an expansion of the SURC, a project that ASCWU President Edith Rojas said is many years away. However, because students have been asking for a larger space for so long, and because the opening of the new Samuelson building has provided a new home for the Multimodal Education Center, there is a large space in Black Hall for the DEC to move into.

The idea to move the DEC into Black Hall was presented to Rojas by Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Life Dr. Katherine P. Frank over the summer.

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- See “DEC” on page 3
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NEWS

CWU is unsure what to do with NY Teriyaki

By Nick Jahnke
Staff Reporter

CWU purchased the former New York Teriyaki and Burgers building in April for $850,000. According to CWU Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs Joel Klucking, for now, the building remains vacant except for leftover kitchen utilities from the previous business. The property, located on the corner of University Way and North Chestnut Street, has a wide range of potential uses. The future of the building is still being determined.

Director of Auxiliary Operations Joseph Pearson said that CWU’s short-term intention is to take advantage of the cooking equipment already in the building and offer a new dining experience to students.

A new dining service could take on several different forms, it could be a place that sells locally grown produce, or it could be a restaurant with a specialization in beer and wine. Pearson said that they are looking to create a dining experience that is not currently being offered on campus or in the community. CWU is also exploring possible ways to benefit CWU’s programs.

Pearson mentioned the possibility of using the building in conjunction with CWU’s Craft Brewing program.

CWU Dining Services is in charge of figuring out the short-term plans for the building. Pearson explained that part of the reason they haven’t made any concrete decisions is Dean Masuccio’s transition to Director of Dining Services. According to CWU News, Masuccio has succeeded Dan Layman as Director of Dining Services as of Sept. 17. He brings 18 years of dining service experience from his time working in Housing and Dining Services at the University of Washington.

As for the long term, CWU is playing with the prospect of converting the space into a new welcome center for students and visitors. “For us, that has a lot of potential to be the grand entrance to campus,” Klucking said.

Klucking said that there are a lot of different directions CWU could go with the property, and that CWU is always looking for border properties that allow the campus to expand. Klucking explained that because of the property’s location, it would certainly be a good investment for CWU down the road. “It was a good hundred-year decision,” Klucking said.

Vice President of Student Life and Facilities Jocelyn Matheny spoke about the university’s constant need to expand in order to suit the needs of the ever-growing student body. “With a growing number of students, we’re just running out of spaces,” Matheny said.

Pearson said there is considerable planning and work to be done before the building opens its doors to students, which he hopes to do by Fall 2019. The long-term purpose of the building is still undetermined, but Pearson and Klucking are hopeful that it will be figured out within the next five years.
Diversity and Equity Center moves to Black Hall

“I was really taken back,” Rojas said. “Sitting on the board last year, we had this idea of expanding the SURC... and so we didn’t think it would be possible.”

And ASCWU VP of Equity and Community Affairs Maurice Watkins both liked the idea of the space, and cannot wait the move will help students. Watkins thinks that the location in Black Hall is perfect for the DEC’s needs right now. He is aware that this is still only a temporary location, but the space will be familiar for returning students, as it was previously the area in Black Hall where students could check out laptops. It will also be hard for new students to miss, due to its proximity to the SURC.

“I am sure that there will be lots of people who will come in and either want to use the space for themselves or their organization, or as a place to pray or if they would like a learning experience,” Watkins said. “It’s a very inclusive space, it’s a safe space and it’s open to everyone of every sort of demographic.”

According to Watkins, the space isn’t just for students who might face marginalization in their lives. It is for those who may not be part of a marginalized group, you can still come, and you can talk to individual, and you can get to learn people who have different cultures on a more personal level, to be able to understand them better,” Watkins said.

On Monday, Sept. 24, the ASCWU voted unanimously in support of the move during a public meeting in the SURC Pl. Both Watkins and Rojas state that there was no opposition to the move and nobody had anything negative to say about the idea. Rosenberry believes that the support that CWU President James Gaudino, Provost Frank and the university on the whole is providing shows just how important diversity and inclusiveness is at CWU.

“I was a student here from 2001 to 2007 and during that time I saw a campus of inclusion, I saw a campus of diverse populations,” Rosenberry said. “People who didn’t always have the same thought process but were able to come together in a way and have an educated dialogue, and that difference of opinion is okay, and its accepted and it should be encouraged on a college campus.”

CWU senior and DEC volunteer Taylor Tahake-Valencia is excited to get the new space, although she feels the move is long overdue. She thinks the move is finally going to give the DEC a place to call home. Whitney believes that the university supporting this shows the beginning of a transition to the larger space that students have been asking for. She does not think that this is the final step, but that it is a step in the right direction.

Gomez said that the DEC needs this move because they have outgrown the space that they have in the SURC. She also believes that the university will continue to grow more diverse over the coming years, and that the DEC having a larger place to call home is going to help those students.

“The demographic of the student population has changed drastically since then [the opening of the SURC], I mean we have an increase of minority students,” Gomez said. “We are over 30 percent minority students and that doesn’t include women and our LGBTQ+ students. So definitely that space is going to help accommodate to a certain point the need of the demographic.”

Applying for a CWU parking pass takes a turn

By Jessica Parez
Staff Reporter

CWU has implemented a new process for obtaining an on-campus parking permit this school year. The change occurred because of the new system that most depart- ments upgraded to over the summer.

“The school is encouraging departments to go [online], in fact, the system is the same program, only a different module, as housing.” Program Specialist Trish Swanson said.

In previous years, there was the Flex-system, meaning everything had to be handwritten. Students had to have handwritten vehicle registration forms, as well as written forms of appeals. The process is now online through MyCWU accounts. Students login and then go to their housing page, click “Links,” then “My Parking,” where a login page once again appears. Once logged in, students can click “Apply for a Permit” and fill out their vehicle information. However, before beginning the process, a pop-up appears that says to have the vehicle’s registration handy so that the vehicle information is entered correctly into the system.

The permit application was moved online in order to make the process simpler for students.

“Students don’t have to wait in lines, they can plan ahead, order their permit, pay for it ahead of time, and so it makes it quicker,” Swanson said. “We do the 24-hour turn-over, so you order it, and then you should get your permit within 24 hours.”

The new system is also easier for staff members in Parking Services.

“For us, it’s easier because the data entry is mostly on the students, so when license plates come up wrong, or whatever, it is whatever the student put in,” Swanson said. “It also allows students to update their vehicles and move their permits over to other vehicles via registering that vehicle on their My Parking account.”

According to Swanson, the system still has some kinks to be worked out, such as importing the data from the old system to the new one. At the beginning of the quarter, most students didn’t know the application was online this year, so many of them didn’t get their permit in 24 hours.

“We processed as quickly as we could,” Swanson said.

Despite the hiccup, students find the new system to be more efficient than the previous one.

“It’s easier than having to wait in line forever,” second year student Laynie Moran said. “I thought it was really simple when I got online this year because you put in your information online and then just go pick it up.”

Second year student Leslie Allen agrees with Moran about the accessibil- ity of the new system.

“Yes, the process is so simple, but to be fair I didn’t know what the process was before,” Allen said.

At the beginning of the quarter, there seemed to be a lot of confusion about how to apply for a parking permit, since Parking Services wasn’t allowed to mass email students about the change. Swanson, along with other members of Parking Services, hope now that students are on campus, there will be less confusion about how to apply for one next quarter.

Under the proposed timeline, the DEC will be moved into the new location around late October to early No- vember. The soft opening is going to take place sometime at the start of 2019.
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BRIX Wine under new management

By Cassandra Hays
Scene Reporter

The sounds of clinking wine glasses and conversation fills the room. Friendly faces greet you as the smell of home-made food hits your nose. Located on 3rd Street, BRIX Wine Bar & Restaurant has been serving wine, beer and fresh food to the Ellensburg community since 2010. When the business was put up for sale, Stephanie and Tony Ritter decided to buy and co-own the bar out of their love for the Ellensburg community.

Stephanie Ritter is one of the new owners and general manager at BRIX. Prior to moving into her new management position, Stephanie worked for the company for five years. Tony grew up in Ellensburg, and also owns The Roost, a tattoo studio on Main Street. The male is well known by the community, which has allowed for a smooth transition into their new ownership.

“We saw an opportunity to expand within our community. We love Ellensburg to our core,” Stephanie said. “We love that we can facilitate a place that brings the community together.”

Stephanie said that the new management worked hard to keep BRIX true to the reputation it had prior to restructuring. The management takes pride in keeping the bar relatively the same, making only a few minor changes to improve it and make it their own.

“Management has been very strong in doing what they need to do to make sure the doors stay open,” Elijah Combs, an employee said. Combs added that Stephanie has been doing a great job of managing BRIX since stepping into the role.

The change in ownership also led to many positive reactions from the community.

“It was a pretty simple transition,” Stephanie said. “As far as us taking over the management, we had a lot of support from the community.”

Sydney Ethridge, 23, is a regular customer at BRIX.

“The people here are always friendly and the bartenders are always able to answer my questions,” Ethridge said. BRIX offers wine tastings and the employees are knowledgeable about the selection they offer. The bar also offers craft beer, which is quite popular in the Pacific Northwest region, according to Stephanie. BRIX features local breweries from Ellensburg and all over Washington state.

They are also known for their wide selection of wine and craft beers, which they rotate often in order to keep a good variety.

“We have wine from all around the state of Washington and a couple varieties from Oregon,” Stephanie said. “We really like to support local [wineries] and give a taste of Washington’s grapes.”

BRIX has also gained a reputation for their wide selection of food, including pizza, appetizers and desserts. Everything is homemade by their head chef Timothy Fields, who is continuing to work at BRIX after the new ownership took over. Fields is responsible for coming up with many items on the menu.

“We pride ourselves on everything being handmade and homemade,” Stephanie said. “We come up with new seasonal creations all the time that are just made from the brains in our kitchen.”

She added nothing is frozen or sent to BRIX from distributors. If you need a bite to eat or a drink after a long day BRIX is here for you.

“It’s just a really welcoming chill place,” Combs said. “It has a really nice vibe during the evening. We have good music, the lights are kind of low, and it’s easy to talk and be social.”

They offer specials and student discounts on their menu items. BRIX is open from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

CWU hosts goat yoga

By Matt Escamilla
Scene Editor

Replace green smoothies with grass and Zen music with bleats and you’ve got Goat Yoga. On Sept. 25, CWU Campus Activities switched up the typical yoga session by adding goats to the equation. A total of 30 students and three goats attended the event that was put on by Health Programming and Marketing Coordinator Claire Cox and Assistant Director of Student Activities Robbi Goat yoga.

The goats were supplied by the Wobbly Ranch, a goat sanctuary in Snohomish, Washington that specializes in goat yoga. Cox came into contact with Wobbly Ranch owner and CWU alum Amanda Leone after doing some research. Five months later, Goat Yoga arrived in Ellensburg.

According to Goninan, this was CWU’s first Goat Yoga. “She [Cox] called me up one day and said what do you think about doing goat yoga and here we are,” Goninan said. “It’s been really good so far.”

Leone thinks the nature of the event is what appeals to students. “Goat Yoga is so popular because it combines two of the very best things on Earth—goats and yoga! More than anything, it’s just plain fun. When we become adults we sometimes stop doing things purely because they are fun,” she said.

Leone said that she felt positivity in the air after the sessions, noting that the goats were great for stress relief. “People are present when doing yoga with the goats,” Leone said. “They aren’t thinking of their classes or schedule or what paper is due or impending deadlines.”

Kacie Little, a graduate student in the English department and Nicole Johnson, a freshman Information Technology and Administrative Management major, attended the event: Seamus, Arlo and Elwood.

“Goat Yoga is as therapeutic for the goats as it is for the students. Wobbly Ranch brought three goats for the event: Seamus, Arlo and Elwood. Seamus was the biggest of the three and wore a red harness. Arlo and Elwood are twin but can be easily identified because Arlo has more white fur on his face and head. Leone stated the Wobbly Ranch started after she adopted a three-legged goat named Trippy.

“I was visiting a local sanctuary when I met him [Trippy] and just fell head over heels in love. He was our inspiration for starting the Wobbly Ranch and providing a home to other goats in need,” Leone said. “Everyone who lives here has been rescued from deplorable conditions. They are all individuals and everyone has a story.”
CWU football plays their first game at renovated Tomlinson Stadium, and it does not disappoint.

"We probably have in excess of one thousand fans around the field that do not have seating for the game, and that is just wonderful to see the turn out for our Wildcats."

- President James L. Gaudino

"There is a buzz around the new stadium and having our families and friends here showing their support for us is absolutely amazing."

- Head coach Ian Shoemaker

"Parachuters dropped into the field during pregame festivities.

Courtesy of CWU Public Affairs

Senior running back Cedric Cooper makes a cut along the sideline in Saturday's game. Cooper had 39 yards on 8 carries.

Hanson Lee/The Observer

ASCWU President Edith Rojas and CWU President James Gaudino officially reopen Tomlinson Stadium with the cutting of the ribbon.

Courtesy of CWU Public Affairs
The Wildcats wore their home black uniforms for the first game under the lights at Tomlinson Stadium.

Courtesy of CWU Public Affairs

Sophomore running back Michael Roots finds a gap in the defense. Roots totaled 56 yards on 11 carries.

Courtesy of CWU Public Affairs

The CWU marching band provided the newly renovated stadium with a lively atmosphere throughout the game.

Courtesy of CWU Public Affairs
Wellington’s Wildfire Preview

By Matt Escamilla
Scene Editor

The Wellington Wildfire event on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at the CWU Community Fields and Challenge course is a place for students to take a break from classes and work and spend time outside. It’s free to attend, and there will be different activity options and music playing from 88.1 The ‘Burg. There will be a 35 foot tall swing, crate stacking, and an alpine tower with many ways to get to the top. The event will have free food, drinks and of course a bonfire throughout the event. This event happens every year during homecoming week.

Jocelyn Matheny, Campus Life and Facilities Coordinator, has planned the event the last two years. “It was the first thing right out of the gate that I was tasked with in this role,” Matheny said.

Gage McHenry, brand manager at 88.1 The ‘Burg, recommends attending the event for networking possibilities. “Be involved early as you can—that’s where you meet your friends for life,” McHenry said.

According to Melissa Robertson, Climbing Wall and Challenge Course Coordinator at the Recreational Center, Wellington’s Wildfire is a good representation of the student body. “I know a lot of people that are now living together, roommates that met there a few years ago. It’s a great place to meet people,” Robertson said.

Free chili, cornbread, and drinks will be available at the event. There will be a vegetarian option for the chili available. For anybody who may not want chili, the food truck will be available with its normal menu, however, there is a cost at the food truck.

Wellington’s Wildfire is also a great opportunity for foreign exchange students to experience American culture. Matheny said that her favorite group that attends the event are the international students due to getting to see them make a s'mores for the first time.

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Deadlines for participation are: October 6 for the chili contest, October 8 for online registration and October 10 for on-site registration.

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CWU Cross Country begins to hit its stride for 2018

By Aaron Zewdie
Staff Reporter

The CWU cross country teams have had three meets so far this season. The Wildcats are a young team and it’s early in the season, but they are looking for ways to improve their current GNAC success.

Senior leader on the women’s side Alexa Shindruk has been a significant part of the team’s success. Adkisson expressed that with Shindruk having just missed nationals the previous season, “I’ve been really impressed about the performance of the team so far, especially the incoming freshmen,” Shindruk said.

“I think we finished fifth or sixth last year in the conference,” said head coach Kevin Adkisson. “We were picked in the preseason for both teams to finish fifth at the conference level and both teams have the goal of definitely being higher than that.”

Adkisson emphasized that they are still in the first half of the season training-wise and are in their strength and preparation phase. Adkisson is hopeful that the CWU cross country teams are looking to move up notches in the conference level.

The CWU volleyball team will play Montana State University Billings (MSUB) on the road Oct. 6. The Wildcats come into the matchup with an overall record of 14-2, including a 8-1 record within the GNAC. MSUB entered the matchup with a 7-8 overall record and a 1-7 record within the GNAC.

This will be the Wildcats’ first time facing the Yellowjackets this season after a 2-0 season sweep against MSUB last year. But even with the momentum the Wildcats currently have from their three-game winning streak, they are preparing for a tough test.

Although MSUB has a poor record, the Wildcats still want to approach this game well prepared.

“MSUB with a young team last year, they have a year under their belt,” head coach Mario Andaya said.

With MSUB starting the season 6-0, they have since lost momentum in conference play, currently 1-7 in GNAC play. Senior middle blocker Sarah Joff says the team has not lost its focus.

“I think we’re really excited to put to work everything we’ve been doing the last few weeks and continue how we’ve been playing,” Joff said.

The chemistry of the team will play a large role in their GNAC success. Redshirt junior outside hitter Bridgette Webb talked about the team’s ability to work together.

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The chemistry of the team will play a large role in their GNAC success. Redshirt junior outside hitter Bridgette Webb talked about the team’s ability to work together.

“I feel like we really know our advantages, so whenever we are down we tend to look back on our advantages and then play to our strengths,” Webb said.

Joff echoed that team chemistry has been pivotal strength of the team this season. The team has developed their chemistry through improved communication and trust.

“As a team we have lot of trust in each other and we’re able to communicate a lot better,” Joff said. “I think that’s definitely helped us grow as a team this year and pushed us to new heights that we never reached before.”

The one major worry about going into the game at MSUB is the travel. With the Wildcats playing at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho this Tuesday, Oct. 2, the team is looking to stay focused on what will be a difficult road trip.

“The weakness of being on the road is being out of routine,” Webb said.

As far as a game plan against MSUB, the Wildcats are trusting that the preparation will help.

“We got to make sure we are doing some nice things that’ll be tough for them to stop or handle,” Andaya said. “Really offensively, we have to set the tempo.”

With tempo being a key point the coaching staff has preached throughout the season, it is a game plan that the team believes in.

As the Wildcats prepare for these next few games, they will rely on the leadership of the team and stick to the game plan of an up tempo game.
Soccer ready for conference rival WWU

By Micah Chen
Staff Reporter

CWU Women’s Soccer gets their first chance to play under the lights at the newly-renovated Tomlinson Stadium this Saturday, where they will face Western Washington University (WWU).

This being a rivalry game, head coach Michael Farrand challenges the CWU community by expecting a large crowd to attend the games.

In Farrand’s 19 years of coaching, the highest number of attendees he has seen is 700.

There won’t be a football game in Ellensburg competing for attention; it’s going to be a first ever home night game and it’s against a quality opponent WWU.

The prospect of playing such a high-profile affair has sophomore forward Madison Bradley excited.

“You just walk into the locker room and everybody’s pumped, like everyone’s excited to play, ready to play,” Bradley said.

According to CWU Athletics, history is not on CWU’s side in this rivalry game. Last season, CWU lost both matchups against WWU, losing by a combined eight goals to zero. CWU hasn’t beat WWU since 2011, having gone winless their last 13 attempts.

Despite the tough years they’ve had against WWU, the Wildcats believe they can not only win the series this year, but the GNAC as well.

“When we come out and play the game that we know how to play, and we do what we need to do, we’re unstoppable,” Bradley said.

Having won just one of their last nine games, in the first half of the season, the Wildcats are hoping to rebound.

According to Farrand, a big factor in the 6-foot-7 redshirt freshman Coleman, the team’s success in prior years and Jawan Stepney played a pivotal role in the team’s success in prior years and enjoyed their last games at the Pavilion last season before graduating.

With 10 new faces on the team, four bringing incoming freshmen, it may take some time to build chemistry. However, Rinta likes what he has seen thus far.

“I feel good about the group of guys we were able to add to the returners that we have here. They have a great attitude and have been working really hard,” Rinta said.

Incoming freshmen Zellie Hudson, Lewis Pope, Matt Poquette and Marcus Austin all came in hoping to contribute to a roster filled with potential.

“I’m loving our guys. It’s just one big happy family,” Austin said. “We spend a lot of time with each other. When we’re not together, we’re all playing Fortnite together.”

Senior guard Malik Montoya is one of only three seniors on the young team. Usually the most confident of the group, he was unsure about the team coming into the season, but now sees the potential this team has.

“I thought it was going to be a rough start but I’m getting along with all my teammates. I feel like we’re going to be just fine,” Montoya said.

The team is anxious to start official practices on Oct. 15. This year’s season opener is a date with powerhouse Gonzaga University on Nov. 1, a Division I school with a history of winning.

“The great thing about a game like that is there is nothing that we as a coaching staff need to do or say to get them ready for that,” Rinta said. “It’s gonna be a special opportunity for them to go play a top five team in the country. It’s going to be a good test out of the gate.”

It is going to be one of the hardest games in every player’s career. For Austin, it offers a chance at redemption.

“In high school, I lost to Gonzaga Prep in my state title game, so it’s going to be a revenge match for me. I’m looking forward to that,” Austin said.

The new team is eager to get the season started. With a new set of challenges this year, the men’s basketball team is out to prove themselves.

“We’re just as good as anybody,” Montoya said.
Opinion: What is a sack in today’s NFL?

By Will Ortner
Staff Reporter

As we enter the fourth week of the NFL season one thing is clear; the league has gone soft. It seems that every time a quarterback gets tackled, a flag gets thrown. Players and fans alike have voiced their displeasure as many of the plays that are being flagged for roughing the passer seem like regular football plays.

For those who do not know why the roughing the passer rule has become so controversial, allow me to provide some background knowledge. On Sunday, Oct. 15 of last year, Aaron Rodgers, arguably the biggest star in the NFL today, was sacked by Anthony Barr in the first quarter of the Packers and Vikings game. When Barr landed on Rodgers, he broke Rodgers’ collarbone and almost ended his season.

That following offseason the NFL owners decided that they needed to make a rule change so that no team would have to spend the majority of their season without their star quarterback like the packers did. God forbid someone gets hurt from a tackle in tackle football. Soon the owners came up with Rule 12, Section Two, Article Nine, of the NFL rulebook to better protect quarterbacks from being tackled too roughly. Here is the rule in its entirety:

“A rushing defender is prohibited from committing such intimidating and punishing acts as “stuffing” a passer into the ground or unnecessarily wrestling or driving him down after the passer has thrown the ball, even if the rusher makes his initial contact with the passer within the one-step limitation provided for above. When tackling a passer who is in a defenseless posture (e.g., during or just after throwing a pass), a defensive player must not unnecessarily or violently throw him down or land on top of him with all or most of the defender’s weight. Instead, the defensive player must strive to wrap up the passer with the defensive player’s arms and not land on the passer with all or most of his body weight.”

One of the issues with this rule is that in a lot of cases it is humanly impossible to accomplish what it is asking. Seriously, go outside, run as fast as you can, then stop on one step. Impossible. Now imagine a 300-pound defensive lineman who runs like a deer trying to stop on one step. It will never happen. It does not matter whether the defensive player wanted to hurt the quarterback or not; there is no way for them to avoid a flag.

Another issue that is brought up through the new rule is that the defensive player is not allowed to land on the quarterback when they tackle them, almost an impossible task for a defensive player. Defensive players are taught to wrap up the quarterback on his arms so that he is not able to throw the ball away. Then they would have to try and roll not to injure the quarterback and get a flag. Rolling would then put the defensive player at risk of injury.

This season, this has already happened to William Hayes when he sacked Derek Carr. Hayes tried to roll as well not land on Carr and tore his ACL. Hayes’ injury is in direct response to the new rule by the NFL.

The NFL needs to revert to its old roughing the passer rule. That way the players can get back to playing football without worrying about getting penalized for a normal football play. Then we can back to what is most important, and watch football all Sunday long.
Crafts

Liven up your dorm room with this easy $10 DIY autumn wreath. All items can be purchased at the dollar store and the wreath can be assembled in just a few minutes. Grab a pumpkin spice latte, put on your favorite Halloween movie, and get creative!

Materials:
Wire wreath frame, 2-inch burlap ribbon, Fake flowers and leaves, Fake fruit, Glue.

Step One:
Wrap wire frame with burlap ribbon until it is covered. Cut the fake fruit in half so that it will lay flat on the wreath once glued.

Step Two:
Remove heads of flowers from stems. Glue the fake fruit, leaves, and flower heads to the burlap.

Step Three:
Let dry for a few hours and enjoy your wreath! Hang on your dorm door with a wreath hanger, a suction cup hook, or a Command hook.

Fall Activities

- Go to a Haunted House
- Host a Scary Movie Night
- Visit a Corn Maze
- Participate in a Craft Night
- Celebrate Octoberfest
- Create your Own Costume

Crossword

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Down
1. Going to the pumpkin _____ is a tradition in some families.
4. Another name for fall.
6. These form when leaves fall from the trees and land on the ground.

Across
2. This holiday is celebrated by dressing up in a costume.
3. Pumpkin patches often have a _______
5. This holiday is on the fourth Thursday of November every year.

Clues

1. Going to the pumpkin _____ is a tradition in some families.
2. This holiday is celebrated by dressing up in a costume.
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