The Observer

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A service never forgotten

By Cassandra Hays
Staff Reporter

The night is cold and silent as the clock strikes midnight on Veteran’s Day. A lone soldier stands motionless in front of Lind Hall. Behind him is a table bearing objects such as an overturned wine glass and red rose in a vase. The seat at the table remains empty to represent the soldiers that will never return home. Every year, seniors in the Air Force ROTC program hold a 24 hour vigil to honor prisoners of war (POW) and soldiers who are missing in action (MIA). More than 82,000 Americans remain missing and unaccounted for, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The vigil is meant to remind us that a soldier’s service, courage and sacrifice is never forgotten.

An opening ceremony signaled the start of the event at midnight on Sunday, which included a speech from First Lieutenant Lauren Letarte followed by the playing of Taps.

“They are unable to be with their loved ones and families today, so we are coming together to pay humble tribute to them and bear witness to their continued absence,” Lt. Letarte said in her speech. “As we look upon this empty table, do not remember ghosts from the past, remember our comrades.”

There are 14 seniors in the program and each took 15-minute shifts to ensure that someone was standing still and silent outside Lind Hall for the entirety of the 24 hours. Behind the soldier was a small table with a white tablecloth, an empty chair and various objects. Each object was meant to convey a certain meaning. A single red rose signified the blood shed by soldiers defending their country, and a plate with a lemon and a sprinkle of salt signified the bitter fate of POW/MIA and the tears shed by their families as they wait for their return.

An overturned wine glass served to remind us that the soldiers were not here to toast with us. A candle represented the light of hope in their loved one’s hearts, while the black ribbon tied around the candle represented those who will never return home.

Seniors in the Air Force ROTC program have put on this vigil for the last 20 years to pay a respectful and humble tribute to POW/MIA personnel.

“The seniors really take a lot of pride in this,” Lt. Letarte said. “There are still hundreds of bodies that are unaccounted for just from Vietnam alone, so it is a big deal to honor them.”

Two CWU alumni are currently still missing from Vietnam alone, so it is a big deal to honor them. Their photos and information were displayed at the vigil. Lt. Letarte spoke about how important it was to remind their families that they are not forgotten.

“I think it’s important to remember those who have served before us, and the sacrifices that they and their families have made to our nation and this defense,” Lieutenant Colonel Mark Meier, commander of the Air Force ROTC program, said.

Cadet Captain Michael Reid was one of the seniors in the program who participated in the vigil.

“This event is important because it brings awareness to a topic that does not receive enough attention and that’s bringing awareness to POWs and MIAs that are out there right now, and their families,” Reid said. “We do this every year so the seniors get an opportunity to partake in it.”

The vigil ended with a closing ceremony at midnight on Monday that included a closing prayer. Taps was played once again to honor the missing soldiers. The Air Force ROTC program continues to encourage the community to come out and witness the vigil at any time throughout the proceedings on Veteran’s Day each year.

L&L building showing age nearly 50 years

By Nick Jahnke
Staff Reporter

The Language and Literature (L&L) building has started to show signs of aging. The building was constructed in 1971 and has been eliciting a slew of complaints and concerns from some of the faculty members who work within its walls. The problems range from uneven floors and tripping hazards to handicap accessibility issues. Some of the L&L staff feel that many of these issues pose safety concerns and may even leave CWU open to lawsuits.

On Wednesday Oct. 31, Associate Professor Jason Dormady spoke at the Faculty Senate Meeting about a problem he had noticed: the elevator is too small to fit a stretcher. If someone had a medical emergency on one of the higher floors it would present serious problems. Dormady warned that this could be a lawsuit waiting to happen. Dormady also voiced his concerns about the level of accessibility for people with disabilities. He said that the only handicap-accessible bathroom is located in an area separated from the building which requires people to leave the building and go all the way around the backside.

By the students, for the students!
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Language and Literature building is damaged by age

On the inside of L&L’s northern building (L&L is divided into two buildings on the first floor and joined on the second), the floor in the lobby is haz- ardously uneven. The concrete base beneath the carpet is broken into pieces, some of which protrude just enough that someone could catch their foot. The office worker said that they had witnessed a student trip on the floor and nearly fall head-first into the concrete stairs.

The plaza outside of the building also has problems. There are two spots where concrete has been raised over time. According to the L&L worker, staff from Facilities Management had marked these areas as tripping hazards with orange spray paint but took no further action to fix them. Since then, the spray paint has either faded away, or has been removed. There are also spots high up on the building’s exterior where pieces of concrete have broken off and fallen to ground while students were making their way to class, according to the office worker. One of these pieces was glued back into place by maintenance the next day.

Vice President of Operations Andrew Bohman said he was aware of the ground, and said that it had taken the maintenance staff months to get around to her work orders. Bohman said that when it comes to issues like elevator size and lack of bathrooms, there is only so much that can be done because of the way the building was designed. He said that in the long term, CWU has plans to replace the building. As for now, his staff is doing what they can to fix these problems. Bohman said he has a team that is attempting to fix as many tripping hazards around campus as possible.

“We have to make sure our students and staff can operate in a building that’s serviceable,” Bohman said.
Driving responsibly when winter arrives

By Jessica Perez
Staff Reporter

With winter weather approaching and the roads beginning to get icy, students have begun to take measures to ensure they are safe while driving home and around Ellensburg. Sophomore Hannah Whittington usually drives to her hometown several times and finds herself in a situation where driving in the snow is inevitable.

“Last winter I was driving home every weekend in the winter to see my family and work. He drives a four-wheel drive pick-up truck and he also tries to drive cautiously,” Whittington said. “I always make sure I am in a safe environment,” Whittington said. “I always check the pass on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) app, always talk to my parents to see how they think the pass is and if I feel unsafe at any time, I can pull over and make the decision if it’s safer to go back or to continue.”

Most students try to avoid driving in the snow if they can, but often times, students want to go home in the winter months to see their loved ones and find themselves in a situation where driving in the snow is inevitable.

Sophomore and law and justice major Miguel Garcia said he travels home every weekend in the winter to see his family and to work. He also tries to drive cautiously. “[I try to avoid] being right behind cars,” Garcia said. “Because if they were to step on their brakes and I don’t react fast enough, I could hit them.”

According to BestPlace.net, Ellensburg gets an average of 22 inches of snow per year. The WSDOT website says that last year Snoqualmie Pass received 446 inches of snow and that closures due to inclement weather, avalanche control and accidents are expected in the winter. Assistant manager at the Ellensburg Tire Center Grant Allison said some advice for students driving this winter is to slow down. “I would recommend snow tires, at least good all-season tires with lots of tread,” Allison said. “Snow-season tires and studded tires are the best.”

Allison said when it comes to winter it is best to be prepared for all weather conditions, and his advice is if you need snow tires one time, it is worth it to buy them. He also said when it comes down to it, the big secret to driving in the snow is to slow down.

International Education Week comes to CWU

By Kejuan Coleman
Staff Reporter

The Office of International Studies and Programs will be hosting events for International Education Week Tuesday Nov. 13 through Saturday Nov. 17. The events will be in multiple locations around campus during the week.

“International Education Week is a countrywide celebration,” Program Coordinator for International Studies Anna Miller said. “Universities across the country will be participating in and celebrating the International Education Week and Global Connections.”

The events held during International Education Week will celebrate and educate members of the community, students and faculty about the diverse population and opportunities that are provided this year.

On Tuesday, the week starts off by highlighting all of the global clubs on campus. This gives students the opportunity to see how they can get involved with a more diverse group of students.

“Some people may not know that we have an African Student Club, Filipino American Student Association, Saudi Student Association. There’s a ton of really diverse groups on campus, so we’ll have them all tabling in the middle of the SURC from about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,” Miller said. “The clubs will be there to share information about getting involved.”

The Culture Fair will be on Wednesday. The fair is a returning event here at CWU. Students from many different countries will have table displays in the middle SURC hallway representing and showcasing their countries.

“According to Miller, there will be students from countries like Saudi Arabia, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Argentina, Colombia and many other students from different countries around the world. Thursday’s event will be the International Café which has been hosted by the Alumni Association for the last three years. The café will run from noon to 1 p.m. in SURC 137.

On Friday, there will be an International Trivia Night in SURC 137 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All questions in the trivia will be globally themed with questions regarding regions around the world. There will be prizes provided for first, second and third place participants.

The Global Thanksgiving on Saturday will be the closing event for International Education Week. The event will occur from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Baptist Church recreational area. Everyone who is interested in participating in this event will meet in the SURC Pit and walk as a group to downtown Ellensburg. There will be food for all who want to participate in the Global Thanksgiving event.

“The Global Thanksgiving dinner is a great way to get the international students more connected with the community, and it’s also a great way for the community to see the diversity we have on campus,” Miller said.

Heather Stewart/The Observer

(From left to right) Pablo Ruelas, Job Place and Claire Olney have fun with the world map in the middle SURC hallway during the Global Connections event.

Jack Belcher/The Observer

The Wildcat statue in front of the SURC has been decorated with flags in honor of International Education Week.

Right outside Snoqualmie Pass, last winter. Driving slowly and being prepared are the safest options for driving in the snow.
Fixing the mold in Shaw-Smyser after investigation

By Will Ortner
Staff Reporter

Black mold was found inside the gutters as well as in the building of Shaw-Smyser in March 2018. Black mold can cause health issues if exposed to it for too long. In March, an investigation was conducted on Shaw-Smyser after there were complaints filed about the building for over a year. The report found two types of black mold on the first, second, and third floors of the building, as well as in the gutters and on the roof.

“My professor said that the classroom we were in was not her original classroom, and we had to move because the second floor of Shaw-Smyser had a mold problem.”

Ryan Sleasman, freshman at CWU

The mold is believed to have been caused by issues with the gutters on the top of the building. Last year, Director of Facilities Ed Castaneda sent out a memo that explained the issue with the gutters after his crew conducted their investigation of the building.

“The lining and caulk in the gutter had deteriorated, thus allowing water to flow out of the gutters and penetrate the building,” the memo said. This moisture let in by the gutters is why the mold eventually began to form and cause health issues among a few of the staff in the building. The mold forced the Information Technology and Administrative Management department to relocate last year and is still currently affecting classes.

Ryan Sleasman, a freshman at CWU, had one of his classes moved to the first floor of Shaw-Smyser because of the mold.

“My professor said that the classroom we were in was not her original classroom, and we had to move because the second floor of Shaw-Smyser had a mold problem,” Sleasman said.

The construction crew is currently working on repairing the gutters so that no more water can get into the building and cause more black mold. The school has invested a considerable amount of money to repair the gutters, the money was used to put on a new roof, repair the bricks around the building, and clean out the mold in the classrooms.

Castaneda explained some of the repairs to the gutters that CWU has made to make sure that this does not happen again. "Our crew went up on the building and they found that the grout had deteriorated over time, so they regrouped the gutters and they put in a new sealant in the bottom of it to keep the water from draining through the gutters themselves," Castaneda said.

New rain gutters have been added to Shaw-Smyser after the old ones malfunctioned and caused mold to grow inside the walls.

What about the arts? CAH facing tight budgets

As CWU allocates funds to what it finds valuable, what will become of CAH?

By Eric Rosane
For the Observer

The year of 1926 was a particularly important and exciting year for both students and staff at what was then Washington State Normal School in Ellensburg. The institution saw record-breaking enrollment that year, with some excellent professors, is ultimate a time to strike. The problems with CAH funding are nuanced, to say the least, and not specifically at the hands of STEM.

Nora Johnson, now a student at CWU, was part of the development of the College Union Building, which later became known to be known as Samuelson Hall. Nora was one of the first female students to graduate from CWU, and was a member of the CWU Women's Basketball Team.

Over the last decade, CWU has slowly been making the transition to investing campus resources and funds towards STEM-related majors and classes, while simultaneously suffocating the arts. And because of its developing reputation and revenue, CWU has interpreted this as a good long-term strategy. But what about the arts?

“Well why wouldn’t you invest in technology and the sciences? They’re highly profitable fields for graduates (often earning twice as much as a humanities graduate over their lifetime, according to a Washington Post article), they stimulate local and regional economies and there’s more money for the alumni and administration to pump back into the university. We also can’t glaze over the discussion of infrastructure. Of the last seven major construction and renovations that have occurred on campus over the last decade, four have benefited the College of Sciences. The Language and Literature building, home to one of CWU’s largest programs, English, has suffered many infrastructural problems over the years. To the average onlooker, it seems as if CWU feeds the dollars into STEM and leaves the dimes for the arts. As an arts alumna, it pains me to see the struggles of my former college (mostly at the hands of a new, controversial funding model), but it also doesn’t surprise me. CWU’s journalism department, while passionate and filled with some excellent professors, is ultimately skeletal and meek. The future of small programs like these may be uncertain.

In a budget town hall meeting last winter, CWU President James Gaudino stated that the new budgeting model would eventually be adjusted to benefit all four colleges. In a later public forum, we learned that the other colleges had credited the College of Arts a portion of their funds. They were the only college that failed to balance their 2017-2018 budget. They were effectively bailed out.

The Washington State Normal School of Ellensburg wasn’t constructed back in the 1800s to fuel a renaissance of arts and humanities. Quite to the contrary, this institution was founded as a statewide initiative to churn out educators and scientists en masse while the United States was busy investing in World Wars and atomic bombs. It was what CWU found valuable then. Now, on the brink of a technologically “golden age,” the university sees this as a time to strike. The problems with CAH funding are nuanced, to say the least, and not specifically at the hands of STEM.
Annual Friendsgiving at the Bistro

By Grey Caoili  
Staff Reporter

Campus Activities is starting off the time to be thankful with its second annual Friendsgiving. The event is open to all students and will include a game of trivia based off the TV sitcom “Friends” and free Thanksgiving food.

Friendsgiving will take place on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.in the 1891 Bistro.

Friendsgiving is put on by three student Campus Activities programmers: Hunter Pohl who is studying computer science, Brennan Allen who is studying geography and Kaytlin Balyeat who is studying sports management.

According to Pohl, Thanksgiving food is provided by CWU Catering and students can expect turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and pumpkin pie.

Last year’s Friendsgiving had around 150 people in attendance, Pohl said.

According to the Director of Campus Activities Robbi Goninan, students are divided into six groups in order to play “Friends” trivia.

The event planners made predetermined “Friends”-themed team names that each team will be able to choose from. There will be tables with each team name and students can choose which team they want to be on—there is a maximum of six students on each team. Students can expect the trivia to come from “Kahoot!,” a multiple-choice quiz platform. There will be a total of 50 questions from the entire “Friends” TV series and the team with the most points at the end of the event will be announced as the winners.

Each member in the winning group will receive a “Friends” trademarked prize. “Ideally we would like to leave the exact prize, so it’s a surprise to the team that wins,” Goninan said.

According to Goninan, the origins of Friendsgiving came from a group of Experience Leadership Project students. In 2017, Campus Activities staff took all of the ELP students up to Camp Ghormley, in Naches Washington, for team building activities. During one of the activities, Goninan said, the ELP students broke out into groups based on their birth months and had 15 minutes to come up with an activity they wanted to see take place on campus. That year, a group of ELP students came up with the event Friendsgiving.

The 1891 Bistro is located in south campus across from Bouillon Hall. Opened in 2015, the cafe has become a great place for students to meet for study groups, individual study, or hangout between classes, and faculty to have meetings. The Bistro is overall a cozy atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. There are many comfortable couches, chairs and booths for students to sit in, and that is precisely why Friendsgiving will be held there.

Last year, according to the CWU Campus Activities web page, the event ran until 9:30 p.m. With the 1891 Bistro open 24/7 now, it can be hard to say just how late everyone in attendance will stay.

Holiday Weekend for the Arts

Nov 30th Friday Hertz Hall Celebration  
7-8:30PM Choir | Hertz Hall  
$12 General Admission;  
$7 Sr/Students/Alumni

Dec 1st Saturday +Art Sale & Reception  
10AM-12PM | Randall Hall  
Adults $15 | Seniors $12 | Alumni $12  
Students $12 | CWU student wID $8

Dec 2nd Sunday  
Music Performance  
4-5:30PM | Mcintyre Concert Hall  
http://www.cwu.edu/tickets/home
We all know that if you are a CWU student or alumni, you are a Wildcat, and we hold that pride of being a Wildcat with us for our entire lives. Most of us have been to a sporting event at CWU, or any kind of CWU event for that matter, whether it be a pep rally in Nicholson Pavilion or when we show up as freshmen on Wildcat Welcome Weekend. All of these events are different in some ways, and what makes them similar is that Wellington the Wildcat is there with energy and enthusiasm. Most of us know who Wellington the Wildcat is, and there is a lot of history about Wellington. Wellington is our illustrious mascot. According to CWU’s website, Wellington came to be our mascot’s name in 1981 when the university store put on a contest to name the school’s mascot. Meg Chadwick, a student at CWU in 1981, won the contest with the name of Wellington.

“I think that the name Wellington just fits the Wildcat mascot so well,” Taylor Stowell, alumni of CWU, said.

“Wellington the Wildcat is one of the best parts of football games.”

There are actually two Wellington Wildcats hired every academic year to wear the suit.

One of the most notable traditions of Wellington is something you most likely have heard of or even attended. The tradition is a homecoming bonfire called Wellington’s Wildfire, which happens in October at the Challenge Course on Alder street. All students, faculty and family are welcome to attend.

“I remember my freshman year going to Wellington’s Wildfire. It was so fun and it gave all of us freshmen a chance to meet our classmates,” Ian Harmon, CWU alumnus, said.

CWU’s website says that one of the easiest ways to know you are truly a Wildcat is whether you have high-fived Wellington himself. If you see him around campus, you’ll most likely see him with his paw up, interacting with everyone, always looking to give that popular Wellington high-five.

“I think I high-fived Wellington over 500 times in my years at CWU. It seemed like Wellington was everywhere and always had his furry paw in the air waiting for that famous high-five,” Allison Tresk, 2008 CWU graduate, said.

If you see Wellington the Wildcat around campus, don’t be shy, go up and give that cat a high-five because Wellington’s looking forward to it!
According to CWU’s website, CWU became the Washington State Normal School in 1891. It adopted the Wildcat mascot in in 1926. The school’s mascot in sports before 1926 was actually the Normalities.

“I was actually shocked and found it a bit humorous that the school used to be the Normalities, because there is absolutely nothing intimidating about that name,” Bryan Bickswerth, CWU alumnus, said.

CWU sported many different Wildcat logos from 1926 all the way through 2010, but in 2011 the school decided it was time for some rebranding. The design of the current Wildcat logo is actually the product of a class project by Jeremy Higuchi, a graduate of CWU. The design was brought to the CWU Public Affairs office, and people really liked it.

Over the course of eight months, the Wildcat logo was tweaked in small ways to make it fit the idea of what CWU wanted as their new image. The mascot head was only used for athletic purposes before 2011, but when the new logo was unveiled, they decided to free the logo to the whole school so that anyone could use it on campus.

“I thought the new logo was a lot better than the previous,” Mich Fieldman, a 2014 graduate, said. “It seemed more exciting and fierce.”

CWU’s website says that the goal of the rebranding in 2011 was to create a more consistent brand identity. Most universities rebrand their logos every five to 10 years, and CWU had not rebranded in almost twenty years, so it was time for a face lift.

“The new logos that we currently have feel more like a big school logo. They make me feel like I go to a Division I school,” Michael Sineck, a 2017 graduate, said.
By Wyatt Simmons
Staff Reporter

The CWU Theatre department started the performance of “Picnic” on Nov. 9 in McConnell Hall. Written by William Inge in 1953, the play is a coming-of-age story that deals with topics of sexism and gender roles.

Although the play is set in a different era, the importance of the message left a lasting impression on the cast and crew because these topics are still relevant today.

Patrick Dizney, associate chair of theatre arts, talked about the aesthetic and time period the play originates from.

“It has its own beautiful style,” Dizney said. “I think the 50s were my favorite era for American screenwriting, so [Picnic] has its own lyricism but isn’t flashy.”

Elements of the plot still appeal to young people, specifically women. “Parts of this play have to do with women empowerment,” Lindsay Cassidy, who played Millie in the play said. “Women’s role [in society] in how the male gaze changes our perception of ourselves, and how it changes our lives,” Emma Pope, who played the character of Flo said.

A key point the crew wanted to make sure they achieved was making the audience feel like they were part of the time period. They used music and sound to create the nostalgic feeling of being in the 1950s.

Claire Martin, a member of the sound team, gave insight on what part sound played in the production. She said sound helped to create clues that made the play feel realistic and believable for the timeline.

Another aspect is the costume design of the play. Hailey Weiss, a theatre major who is in charge of wardrobe, talked about the process of getting the costumes ready.

“We have to make sure that this is fitting the actor’s idea and working close with them, but we also work close with the designer to meet in the middle,” Weiss said.

Senior Skyler Lenhoff, who played Allen, talked about how different his role is compared to other roles.

“They put me in the play to help grow as an actor,” Lenhoff said. “[Allan] kinda goes insane at the end; it helps me know different layers as the character.”

Pope said, “I’ve always played a motherly figure in the past, or the motherly friend, but not all moms are the same. So [in] interesting learning the nuances of the character, and this is the largest role I’ve been in.”

The cast and crew said they hope the audience gets something out of watching the play.

“I hoped they are moved, I hope their hearts are stirred,” Dizney said.

There is hope the audience is brought to tears and is moved by this play, according to Weiss. “Picnic” continues to be an important and relevant play, even well into the 21st century.

“Picnic” brings the 50s to McConnell Hall

Laura Taylor as Madge (left), Emma Pope as Flo Owens (middle) and Lindsey Cassidy as Millie (right) do a run through for their performance in “Picnic,” which premiered last Thursday evening.

“Picnic”

Where:
Milo Smith Tower Theatre

When:
Nov. 15 - 17 @ 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 18 @ 2 p.m.

Cost:
$15 GA
$12 seniors & alumni
$8 CWU students with ID
Head coach Ian Shoemaker’s team will be on the outside looking in when first round playoff action starts next week. CWU finished the regular season 8-3, a record that won’t be good enough for the 2018 Wildcats to qualify for the postseason.

Shoemaker believes that despite the tough finish to the season, there’s still optimism to build on going forward. “I wouldn’t say we’re 100 percent back to where we were last year,” Shoe- maker said. “I think we have improved in some areas, and there still needs to be improvement in some areas.”

It isn’t often that a team with a .727 winning percentage doesn’t make it to the playoffs.

Here is how the Division II playoffs work: the country is divided into four regions known as super regions. The top seven teams from each region move on to the national playoffs. Right now, CWU is ranked ninth in their region. It’s worth noting that seven of the top 16 teams in the country reside in the region that CWU plays in, making it one of the most competitive regions in the country. These teams are #1 Minnesota State, #5 Minnesota Duluth, #6 Tarleton state, #9 Colorado State Pueblo, #14 Colorado School of Mines, #15 Texas A&M Commerce and #16 MSU Texas.

For a greater perspective on how competitive CWU’s region is, it should be noted that Texas A&M Commerce hosts the playoffs this year in their region and they were last year’s national champion. Minnesota State University, another team in CWU’s region, has lost a regular season game since October 2016, and they were just moved up to the number one team.

“Strength of schedule is one of the things that determine the rankings,” Shoemaker said. “Our schedule hasn’t been as strong with records of the teams we’ve played.”

When you look back at CWU’s three losses this season, the one that’s hurting them the most right now is the 28-26 upset at the hands of unranked West Texas A&M University. This loss is one of only two unranked losses across the regional top seven this entire season. The combined record of CWU’s Division II opponents this year was 22-44, but it isn’t exactly CWU’s fault that they played a weak schedule.

They have to play all GNAC opponents twice. This includes a home and away game with Simon Fraser University, who has lost 52 of their last 53 games. It also includes a home and away game with Humboldt State, whose program has now been cut.

A seemingly simple solution to strengthening the schedule would be scheduling tougher opponents, but as Shoemaker points out, it’s not that simple.

“There’s a number of conferences in the country that you can’t get into their schedule,” Shoemaker said. “In a perfect world, CWU would be playing powerhouse programs like number-one ranked Minnesota State and number-four Colorado School of Mines every year. Shoemaker already has booked a home and away with Texas A&M Commerce, and ideally he would have more competitive games just like that. Unfortunately, this can’t happen because those teams already have fully booked schedules.

Minnesota State University plays in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, a division that features 16 teams. Colorado School of Mines plays in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, which has 11 teams. Meanwhile CWU’s conference, the GNAC, will have only four teams next season.

This means continued double leaders against struggling programs like Simon Fraser (1-5) and Western Oregon (5-6), with the occasional non-conference game against Southwest Baptist University (0-10).

“Competing against powerhouse programs is a huge advantage,” Shoemaker said. “Our schedule hasn’t been as strong with records of the teams we’ve played.”

It’s a recipe for disaster when it comes to the Division II committee evaluations, and it certainly hurt CWU this season. As time goes forward, the best thing CWU can do is just win.

They showed in 2017 that by going 11-0 in the regular season, they can qualify for the playoffs.

It’s going to take some serious Herculean efforts in the future, and it all starts at the quarterback position. The Wildcats will graduate fifth year senior quarterback Reilly Hennessey. He transferred to CWU from EWU prior to the 2017 season. The 6-foot-5, 220 pound gun-slinger finished his CWU career with 2,705 total passing yards, 1,297 total yards and 15 touchdowns. Fisk says there’s a lot of similarities between Hennessey and Moore.

They both have close stature (Moore is 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds), and Fisk said both have the same playing style. They run the offense how it should be.

Complimenting Moore going forward will be fellow backfield mate, junior running back Michael Roots.

Roots finished his sophomore season with 1,297 total yards and 15 touchdowns. He should be able to fill the void left by departing running backs Christian Cummings and Cedric Cooper. On the defensive side, defensive coordinator Ivan Cordova is excited with what he has to work with for the future. The team’s top 10 returning tacklers are all coming back next season. This includes linebackers Donte Hamilton, Uli Ma’aer and Tevin Gray.

“Donte Hamilton is probably the top guy,” Cordova said. “He’s probably the most notable, but we’ve got a lot of young guys.”

One of the things the Wildcats 2018 season will be remembered for is being the first season under the new lights. As cool as they’ve looked on game day, where they may have been most practical is during their preparation for these moments. The 2017 season was the first year under Shoemaker that they moved practice from 7 a.m. to the evening.

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This caused problems late in the season, as they had to start practicing at Ellensburg High School to use their lights.

Now that Tomlinson Stadium has its own lights, the coaching staff has relished staying home every day.

“It’s so much better,” Shoemaker said. “This schedule being able to stay on a normal process has been a huge advantage.”

Overall Record: 8-3
Outscored GNAC opponents 412-153
Named GNAC co-champions
QB Reilly Hennessey: 2,705 total passing yards
21/5 touchdown to interception ratio
The running back duo:
Michael Roots - 1,067 total rushing yards with 10 touchdowns
Cedric Cooper - 1,025 total rushing yards with 17 touchdowns
Combined average of 190.18 rushing yards per game
Webb had a huge block against the junior outside hitter Bridgette Webb. They do fun team activities to practice, after games and during the weekend. They have a great shot at leaving their mark. A strong outing from Shindruk was unexpected by herself and her teammates at the GNAC Championship. She held the lead at the 4k mark before finishing second overall for the women’s race with a time of 21:25.5. Only six seconds away from top Alaska Anchorage’s runner Emma Cheılması, Shindruk is now in with her preparation after coming so close to finishing at the top of the standings.

“We’re really focusing on hitting our paces, pushing the front end of our pace range for the intervals that we do,” Shindruk said, “Less distance, but the same intensity.”

Sophomore runner Nicole Soliem worked her way to a sixth place finish with a time of 21:42.8. Only four seconds separated the fifth through ninth places, so the margin for error is going to be slim at the regional meet.

Carlton’s experience with running is what helped him become the top finisher in for some improvement.

“As a team I think we can definitely break some ground. We’ve only raced 10k once this season and I think we’re in for some improvement,” Corbin Carlton, senior XC runner

The CWU cross country team will be headed to the NCAA West Regional Championship meet on Nov. 17. At the GNAC Championships, the men and women both earned themselves fifth place team finishes.
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**Thanksgiving Traditions**

- Going to see a movie in the theater
- Grill the turkey on the backyard Weber barbecue
- Tell each other what we are thankful for
- Watching football with family
- Eating ham instead of turkey
- Yelling at everyone to stop talking about Christmas until December
- Playing card games

**Thanksgiving is...**

- “Spending time with family, even the family I only see a few times a year, eating lots of food and about the past years.”
  - Shantle Black

- “Getting together and spending quality time as a family...but I don’t really contextualize it with the pilgrims and the natives.”
  - Issac Pauls

**Data from CWU Observer Twitter Poll**

- 81% Yes: Thanksgiving is...
- 19% No: Thanksgiving is...

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**Thanksgiving is...**

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  - Issac Pauls

**Are you going home for Thanksgiving?**

81% Yes

19% No