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The Observer

Central Washington University

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The Observer

By the students For the students

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Shawnté Elbert named newest Dean of Health and Wellness

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

CWU has hired a Dean of Health and Wellness, a new position at the university. The position was established to meet the needs of the growing student population at CWU.

Shawnté Elbert is 36 years old and grew up in Salem, North Carolina. She is a first generation college student who graduated from East Carolina University alongside her twin sister with a degree in health education and promotion. She has a husband and three kids, including a 19-year-old stepdaughter, a 7-year-old son, and an 8-month-old son. Elbert's hobbies include reading, listening to music and dancing. She also spends much of her free time working on her dissertation. She is currently working on her Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership and Management at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida. She has a long background in public health and wellness, and is excited to take on the position of Dean of Health and Wellness here at CWU.

Elbert came to CWU after holding the position of Director of Health and Wellness at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) for over three years. Her experience in this position, as well as

her passion for wellness, makes people confident that she will be a good fit for CWU.

"I'm excited that Shawnté is here," Marrison Howatt, Director of Wellness and Health Promotion, said. "I feel encouraged that the university wants to prioritize this area of health and well being for students."

Howatt added that she is glad that CWU hired someone with a background in wellness and prevention. She noted that statistics suggest a significant and growing need for health and wellness programs among students.

"Universities need to expand be-



Heather Stewart / The Observer

yond the classroom experience to have the best opportunities for students that are enrolled," Howatt said.

Elbert understands this need. Part of her job is to integrate the four divisions of health and wellness at CWU: recreation, counseling, medical, and the Wellness Center. Her goal is to "drive health and wellness cohesively with an integrated approach." In the first few weeks as Dean of Health and

Wellness, Elbert aims to get to know the people involved in the different divisions and their perspective on wellness. Elbert hopes to hold focus groups made up of both faculty and students in order to understand how to best approach the subject of health and wellness as it pertains to CWU.

From there, Elbert will develop a model for the campus on what health and wellness

should look like from orientation until graduation. She noted that this model needs to be sustainable and relevant to CWU's specific needs. She also added that every department, as well as students and faculty, needs to be on board for the model to work, something she aims to accomplish through the focus groups.

Elbert also wants to involve community partners with something she refers to as "wrap around care."

That means that there will be a seamless transition to off-campus providers when it comes to health services that the university does not provide, such as dietitians, chiropractors, and medical services.

Elbert strives to embody wellness on multiple levels.

Continued on Page 5

Measure No. 1639 in action as of Jan. 1

Jack Belcher
News Editor

A new gun law will be affecting citizens under the age of 21 who want to buy semi-automatic rifles. Initiative 1639 passed in Washington state with over 60 percent of voters in favor in November of 2018.

The law raises the age requirement to purchase a semi-automatic rifle from 18 to 21 years old. The law defines semi-automatic rifles as firearms that use the power of a round fired to chamber the next bullet, then require a separate pull of the trigger to fire that bullet. This means that the only action a marksman needs to take in order to fire a round is a pull of the trigger.

Other weapon types such as bolt, lever and pump action are still legal to buy as an 18-year-old, and are unaffected by this law.

CWU is a weapons-free campus, so even people not affiliated with the university cannot walk around campus with a firearm, regardless of whether they have a concealed carry permit or pistol permit. If a student is living on campus and wants to own a firearm, he/she needs to register and store that firearm with campus police or keep it off-campus. This means that someone under the age of 21 who already owns a semi-automatic weapon can still store it with campus police.

"When the law went into effect, it didn't say 'hey everyone under 21 you have to get rid of them,' it just means that it needs to stay secure in your abode or residence," CWU Police Lieutenant Marc McPherson said.

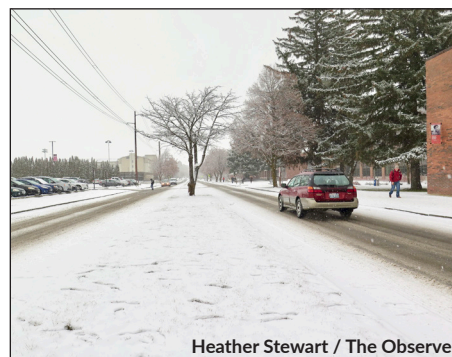
The law will also require anyone purchasing a rifle to pass a background check as well as a firearms training course.

Continued on Page 8



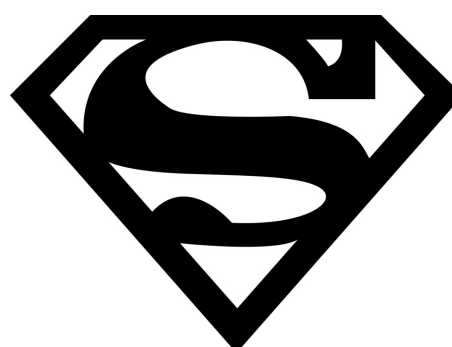
Heather Stewart / The Observer

Men's rugby season outlook, Page 9



Heather Stewart / The Observer

See winter driving, Page 3



See modern day Superman, Page 14

Editor: Jack Belcher

Observation Deck: Welcome back Wildcats



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Mariah Valles, Editor-in-Chief looks forward to winter quarter. Valles hopes to implement a digital mindset inside The Observer's newsroom.

Welcome back, Wildcats! My name is Mariah Valles and I am the newest Editor-in-Chief of The Observer, CWU's campus newspaper. First and foremost, I want to say thank you for picking up this newspaper. If it weren't for readers like yourself, there would be no reason to continue printing.

The Observer runs on a weekly production cycle and new issues can be found all across campus and in town on Thursdays. If there is a specific location you wish to see the paper delivered, I welcome you to email cwuobserver@gmail.com and make a suggestion.

This quarter, we will be focusing

on implementing a digital mindset into our newsroom. With the digital age of journalism creeping up on us, we must move with the times. All of our weekly stories and additional online content can be found on our website at cwuobserver.com. You can also find our stories and engage with us on Facebook (/CWU Observer), Twitter and Instagram (CWUObserver). If at any time there is something you wish to see in The Observer, don't hesitate to mention us, or private message us the story idea.

Over winter break, the editorial staff met to discuss a redesign of the paper. With the helping hands of our lead graphic designer Ryan Edwards, the top of the front page has undergone a large facelift. Inside the paper, our fonts and colors have been modified and updated. The goals behind the changes in design were to make the paper more attractive, modern and sleek.

As mentioned above, I am the Editor-in-Chief and while I hold a lot of responsibility, there would be no paper without the editorial staff (as well as normal staff).

My right-hand-woman, or managing editor this quarter is Alexa Murdock, who has been a strong voice in the newsroom since I joined in winter 2018. While the two of us have always worked together, I look forward to collaborating even closer this quarter. Her and I have similar goals for the paper and are not afraid to put ourselves out there and try new things. We are a student newspaper, that is.

This quarter, The Observer has two returning section editors. Hanson Lee will be tackling his third quarter as sports editor, and Jack Belcher is entering second quarter as news editor. I look forward

to seeing what both accomplish in the coming months, given their experience. I have high expectations for them, and they are well aware of that.

This quarter, Hanson will be working with Desmond Rodriquez, assistant sports editor. We will also have one senior news reporter, Nick Jahnke.

This is Cassandra Hays' first week as The Observer's scene editor. I have no doubt that she will thrive in her position this quarter.

The Observer's photo editor, Heather Stewart will be returning for her second quarter. I'm excited to see the photo section advance, especially with an emphasis on the digital side of things.

Ben Wheeler will be tasked with the online and social media editor position. This job is crucial in the digital age of journalism. Ben will be responsible for posting stories on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. I look forward to watching The Observer's online presence continue to grow.

Rune Torgersen accepted the copy desk chief position and will, alongside section editors, be overseeing every single story that is printed in The Observer this quarter.

To end this off, I'd like to stress that we truly are a student-run publication. The editorial staff makes all decisions regarding content, design and structure of the paper. Every staff member is a student journalist. This quarter, we have several brand new reporters. While we do our best to catch every error or mistake, things are missed at times. If at anytime we make an error, please reach out via email (cwuobserver@gmail.com) or social media. We will always run corrections on our website and social media if we realize

they're necessary.

I look forward to serving as EIC this quarter, and if there is anything I can do to better the paper, I'm always willing to listen.

Best,

Mariah Valles



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Editor-in-Chief: Mariah Valles

Managing Editor: Alexa Murdock

News Editor: Jack Belcher

Scene Editor: Cassandra Hays

Sports Editor: Hanson Lee

Copy Desk Chief: Rune Torgersen

Photo Editor: Heather Stewart

Online Editor: Ben Wheeler

Assistant Sports Editor: Desmond Rodriquez

Senior News Reporter: Nick Jahnke

Faculty Adviser: Francesco Somaini

Email: cwuobserveradviserFS@gmail.com

Advertising: Cait Dalton

Email: caitlin.dalton@cwu.edu

Central Washington University

400 East University Way

Lind Hall 109

Ellensburg, WA 98926

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

Content published in this newspaper does not reflect the views or decisions of Central Washington University. We are proudly independent from all university affairs. For all questions relating to content, we invite you to email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

Editor: Jack Belcher

Driving safely in the snow and ice

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 between five and six times throughout winter quarter and said she always takes precautions before she travels.

"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 trav-

els home every weekend in the winter to see his family and to work. He drives a four-wheel drive pick-up truck which helps control his vehicle in the snow. 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 had some advice for students driving this winter.

"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.

" [I try to avoid] being right behind cars. "

Sophomore and law and justice major
Miguel Garcia



Heather Stewart/The Observer

While snow tires can be extremely helpful, the best course of action is to slow down when the roads get slippery.



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Tuesday marked the first snowfall of winter quarter 2019 at CWU, and with it came snow covered roads.

Manweller announces resignation from Washington state legislation

Jack Belcher
News Editor

Washington state representative and former CWU professor Matt Manweller turned in his letter of resignation as state representative on Dec. 19. Manweller was fired by CWU and has been pressured to step down from his position as a representative after multiple allegations of sexual assault.

Manweller has denied these allegations, claiming that he was innocent and that they were politically motivated.

In Manweller's letter of resignation he stated "I am grateful to the voters in the 13th District for their overwhelming support in re-electing me as one of their state Representatives. However I am announcing that I will resign effective January 14, 2019 and will be vacating the position. It has been an honor to serve the 13th District for the past six years."

Manweller stated during his campaign last year that he would step down if he was elected in order to secure a legislative seat for the republican party, as his name could not be removed from the ballot. This was after he was asked by republican leaders to leave the Legislature in September 2018. His resignation comes on the first day of the legislative session.

The republican party has narrowed

down the list of possible candidate replacements to three people, Danny Stone, Alex Ybarra and Ian Elliot.



Taken from houserepublicans.wa.gov



CRAB FEED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019 • 4:30 - 7 P.M.
HOLMES DINING ROOM
General Public \$25.00 + tax
Students \$18.00 + tax (meal plan discounts apply)

MENU

Fresh Cracked Crab	Clam Chowder	Butterfly Shrimp
Smoked Salmon Caesar Salad	Cajun Linguin 	Rosemary Potatoes 
Vegetarian Succotash 	CWU's Famous Cheddar Biscuits 	Ice Cream Sundae Bar 

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Sonic and Dutch Bros lead project to revamp downtown Ellensburg

Rune Torgersen
Staff Reporter

The beginnings of a new construction site have been visible from the I-90 for the better part of six months now. The old Bar 14 restaurant on Canyon Road near the I-90 overpass was demolished early last year, and plans are moving along to replace it with two newcomers to the Ellensburg fast-food scene; a Dutch Bros Coffee and a Sonic Drive-In.

Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Director of Economic Development Laura Bobovski has high hopes for the area. "That area is in an opportunity zone, so it...has great potential for growth. It is ideally situated, just right next to the I-90, highly visible," Bobovski said.

This addition to the freeway area, what is colloquially known as "fast food lane" promises to attract more traffic from commuters looking for a quick bite or a hot cup of coffee.

In addition to the Sonic and Dutch Bros, which Bobovski says will offer employment opportunities for college students as well as Ellensburg residents,

a revamp of lodging and travel amenities is under way in the Canyon Road area. An Extended Stay America hotel will break ground soon, along with a host of new retail outlets. The development will take place on Umpantanum Road, and is being overseen by

Hogback Development. Previously, Hogback has been responsible for various retail developments in Yakima.

All of this development is primarily in the interest of getting traffic on I-90 to stop and spend their money in Ellensburg. The Chamber of Commerce is looking into WSDOT data surrounding freeway traffic and local businesses to improve business performance in this regard.

"Those numbers are being looked at because of future development that is being discussed in Umpantanum... but there will be a significant impact in terms of the number of retail establishments that are going in and pulling people off the freeway," Bobovski said.

CWU students are excited about the new developments as well. Miles Foucault, a psychology major, sees himself visiting the new Dutch Bros once it opens.

"Dutch Bros I definitely would [frequent]...it's a really good coffee place, and I really enjoy it," Foucault said.

Brendan Wasmunh, a senior studying chemistry, is ready for more retail options in Ellensburg.

"I'd be looking for something more specific than Fred Meyer...shoes, clothes and the like," Wasmunh said.

A smaller, more high-end hotel is planned for downtown Ellensburg as well, catering to people who visit for the cultural and shopping experiences Ellensburg has to offer.

Sonic and Dutch Bros are eyeing a summer opening date, though it's difficult to be precise this early into construction.

“That area is in an opportunity zone, so it... has great potential for growth.”

Laura Bobovski, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Director of Economic Development



Heather Stewart/The Observer



Heather Stewart/The Observer



Heather Stewart/The Observer

The new Dutch Bros location can be found off Canyon Road just off the I-90 exit into Ellensburg. Construction is rapidly progressing.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Shawnté Elbert hired as Dean of Health and Wellness

Continued from Page 1

“[I want to] make sure people understand wellness is not just health related, it is about various dimensions because we are multi-dimensional beings,” Elbert said. “It’s not just about clinical and prevention methods, it’s about every dimension that makes us who we are.”

Bailey Kinker, Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, was part of the hiring committee for the new position. She notes that wellness is a part of everything that students do.

“If a student isn’t doing well in class you can usually draw it back to health and wellness,” Kinker said. “Health and wellness is something that can kind of be pushed under the rug, especially with the culture on college campuses. [Elbert] is going to be someone that can bring that to the forefront.”

Moving to Ellensburg

Elbert moved to Ellensburg from Indiana over winter break after getting hired.

“I’m excited to be here,” Elbert said. “The first two weeks I’ve been in Ellensburg have been amazing. This is a dream, to be honest.”

She says that people are genuinely welcoming and helpful, which is helping her adjust quickly to the new environment.

“It’s been so refreshing to be here,” Elbert said.

She said out of the four campuses she has been a part of, CWU stands out the most due to the people she has encountered. Coworkers have baked cookies for her, offered to help her move, and made sure she knew her way around campus. According to Elbert, this kind of hospitality is not the norm.

“I’ve heard nothing but great things [about CWU] from everyone I’ve talked to since I’ve been here, so that makes it even more exciting,” Elbert added.

She remarks that CWU has a different energy than other campuses she has been to.

“People are authentically excited about this campus and its growth,” Elbert said. “I’m confident that Central Washington is where [me and my family] need to be. It’s a hidden gem.”

Achieving Success

Elbert says one of the reasons for her success is her ability to visualize long term goals, adding “you can’t be what you can’t see.” She goes on to talk about how her goals changed after graduating college, which led her to where she is today.

“I’ve watched my career unfold,” Elbert said. “These positions didn’t exist when I came out of undergrad. I wanted to be a health educator, and the ultimate



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Shawnté Elbert is a welcomed addition to CWU’s staff in the new position of Associate Dean of Health and Wellness. Elbert is located in Bouillon Hall room 204.



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Shawnté Elbert will be working to integrate the different branches of wellness at CWU in order to best address students needs.

I wanted to be a health educator, and the ultimate goal was to be a director.”

When administrator jobs such as Dean of Health and Wellness started to become more prevalent, Elbert realized that she could strive to achieve more than she previously thought was possible. She created vision boards and improved her skills until she was qualified for these positions. She wanted to lead the way so that people like her could follow in her footsteps and realize that anything is possible with hard work.

Becoming a Role Model

Elbert talked about what it was like to work in a field where she was a minority and how it motivates her success.

“No one looked like me,” Elbert said. In a profession with very few women and people of color, Elbert wanted to be someone that people like her could look up to. She aims to be a role model and is proud to be one of the first women of color to hold such a high position at a university.

“I’m excited to bring another dimension to Central Washington’s campus,” Elbert said.

Goals

- Integrate the four branches of wellness: recreation, medical, counseling, and Wellness Center

- Make it easier for students to receive off-campus care for services CWU does not provide

- Set new standard for student wellness from orientation to graduation

She added that she is humbled by her success and owes it to the people that she surrounds herself with.

“It’s so important to visualize where you want to be and to have people around you that push you, motivate you, and appreciate what you bring to the table,” Elbert said.

Elbert is excited to connect with students on campus because it is what motivates her most.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how I will keep that connection

“

I’m looking forward to seeing how I will keep that connection with students as a senior administrator. It’s going to be different.

-Shawnte Elbert, Dean of Health and Wellness

”

with students as a senior administrator,” Elbert said. “It’s going to be different.”

At a larger urban university such as IUPUI, Elbert did not always get the chance to connect with as many students as she wanted to. A smaller campus like CWU will give her the opportunity to connect with students on a more personal level.

“That type of connection is something you don’t get at a larger institution,” Elbert said, adding that she looks forward to being part of a smaller university, and can’t wait to get started as the new Dean of Health and Wellness at CWU.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

D&D club rolls to the top of club attendance

Dungeons and Dragons Club had the most volunteer hours as of Fall quarter, 2018. The club also had the highest turn out for a club on CWU's campus.

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

While the Dungeons and Dragons Club may seem like a niche, it is one of the fastest growing clubs at CWU and has completed more volunteer hours than any other club on campus.

The Dungeons and Dragons Club has the highest attendance of any club on campus, with about 115 members that regularly attend meetings. According to Bailey Abbott, president of the club, the highest attendance at a single meeting was 146 people.

“

We've definitely grown a lot since we first started.

- Bailey Abbott, D&D President ”

The club now takes up six rooms in Black Hall in order to accommodate its high attendance rate.

Dungeons and Dragons is a tabletop role playing game in which players design their own character and go through a continuous storyline created by a "Dungeon Master." According to Abbott, the reason why many people like the game is that players have the opportunity to make decisions which affect the storyline.

"It's a lot more open and you get to make your own choices," Abbott said.

She adds that this aspect of the game is what sets Dungeons and Dragons apart from other games in the fantasy genre.

Gus Foster, owner of Central City Comics, has worked closely with the Dungeons

and Dragons Club for years. He said that he noticed a remarkable growth in the amount of people interested in the game.

"They're constantly growing out of the space they get," Foster said.

He added that most members come into the store regularly because Central City Comics is a sponsor of the Dungeons and Dragons Club. The store often hosts sessions in which people can play with club members. Foster has also created a system for members of the club to earn store credit that can go towards role playing games and accessories such as dice.

Last quarter the Dungeons and Dragons Club completed 51.6 volunteer hours, which is more hours than any other club on campus. Each club on campus is required to complete 10 hours of civic engagement in order to stay recognized by CWU.

"The volunteer hours are intended to help give back to the Ellensburg community and campus community," Bailey Kinker, Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, said.

Kinker added that the volunteer hours also aid in giving students professional development experience. She says clubs often participate in volunteer work that directly relates to their interests. For example, Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH) has recently started a food bank which will count toward their volunteer hours.

The Dungeons and Dragons Club completed many of their hours by participating in club fairs. They also tabled at Bite of the Burg in September alongside Central City Comics and volunteered at Boo Central, a Halloween event put on for the community in the SURC. Abbott adds that the club will also participate in community projects with CLCE on occasion. The high attendance



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Various dice used by Dungeons and Dragons players during this enticing game. These die can be found at Central City Comics in Downtown Ellensburg.


rate of the Dungeons and Dragons Club contributes to the high number of volunteer hours that they have completed. According to Kinker, the Clubs and Organizations department is looking at solutions to make volunteer hours more equitable for large and small clubs alike in the coming quarter, including redefining what counts as community service and club engagement.

Aside from community service, the Dungeons and Dragons Club will put on at least one event a quarter. Often, this event is

something called a "one shot campaign," in which people can participate in a storyline which lasts for only one game. This gives club members the opportunity to teach people how to play and introduce them to the club.

"There is a surprising amount of people on campus that would love to play D&D, but they just don't know anybody else on campus that plays," Abbott said. "So that's what we're here for."

The Dungeons and Dragons Club meets every Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. in Black 203.



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 See wildcatshop.com for rules.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Students connect with presidents during Q&A event

Nick Jahnke
Senior Reporter

It's difficult to imagine the presidents of our university juggling side by side, or attempting to come up with "dad jokes" in front of an audience, but that's exactly what an audience witnessed on Tuesday. Students and faculty got the chance to see a different side of their student body and university presidents at 11 a.m. on Jan 8 as part of CWU's first "Coffee with Presidents." The event featured CWU President James Gaudino as well as ASCWU Student Body President Edith Rojas, mediated by ASCWU Vice President of Student Life and Facilities Jocelyn Matheny.

On Nov. 29, Rojas tweeted a poll asking what students would like to see her and Gaudino attempt to do. The top answer was a handstand, which Gaudino swiftly vetoed. Instead, they attempted everything else on the list which included juggling, dad jokes and drawing the CWU mascot.



Nick Jahnke/ The Observer
President Gaudino and President Rojas attempt to juggle apples at the Coffee with Presidents event on Tuesday afternoon.

“Everybody thinks the president is kind of a stuffy old academic who smokes a pipe and wears patches on his sleeves, and we're not.”

-President Gaudino

The two presidents sat down in the SURC Pit and answered questions ranging from what their favorite movies are to what they would change about their lives if they could. Gaudino said they wanted to keep things light and humorous, using the time as an icebreaker for

those who had never met the presidents.

Gaudino said that informal meet and greet type events such as this are important for the students as well as the administration. He explained that most of the students he connects with are "engage" students, club leaders and those involved in student government, etc. He said events like this are a great way of connecting with the "average" student who otherwise may never come in contact with the administrators.

Rojas said the idea for Coffee with Presidents stemmed from a similar event hosted at Washington State University (WSU). She

said that WSU's version is more of a hang-out session than a Q&A, and she wanted to put her own twist on the event. Rojas explained that she wanted to emphasize opening up a dialogue between the students and presidents, as well as showing students that they are much more than their titles.

The SURC Pit seats were filled with about 30 bodies, of students and faculty alike. Sophomore and Political Science Major Dominic Choi said events such as this are crucial to changing the way we perceive the administration, and that other administrators should get involved.

"Some people think of the presidents

as like, all stuffy. It was nice to see them in a more relaxed environment," Choi said.

Associate Dean of Student Success Jenna Hyatt said she thought Coffee with Presidents was a success, and charming to boot. She said she had always known Gaudino to be an approachable man, and that this was a prime opportunity for everyone else to see what she sees. Hyatt added that she thinks Coffee with Presidents should be made a tradition at CWU, and include other members of the student and administrative government.

"I always knew Gaudino was a pretty cool guy, this just confirms it," Sophomore and Mechanical Engineering Major Tristen Zug said.

Zug said he got a kick out of the event, especially when he asked Gaudino what type of video games he plays. Gaudino answered that he occasionally jumps on his Xbox to play "Halo", although, he said his skills are a bit lacking.

ASCWU Public Meetings

Who: ASCWU Student Government
What: Public Meeting
When: Every Monday from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: SURC Pit
Cost: Free



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Anderson apartments offer a brand new housing opportunity with convenient benefits for CWU students that include:

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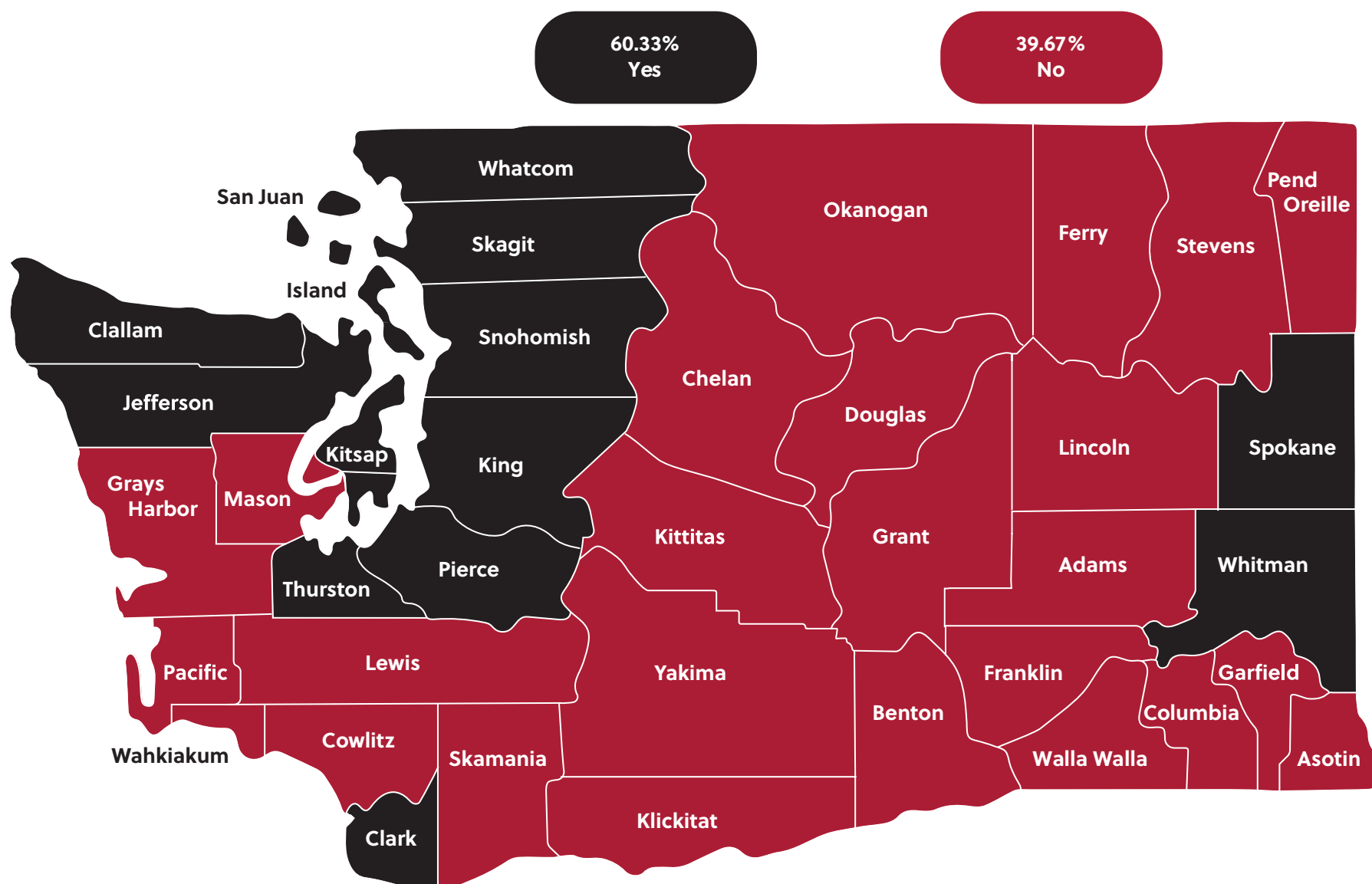
THE NEW

WASHINGTON

STATE

GUN LAW

Story by Jack Belcher | Design By Ryan Edwards



Measure No. 1639 voter data collected from results.vote.wa.gov



Continued from Page 1

On July 1, a portion of the law will go into effect which introduces a wait time of 10 business days before customers receive their firearms.

A “safe storage” provision of this law also comes into effect on July 1. The law defines someone in violation of this as “a person who stores or leaves a firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a prohibited person may gain access to the firearm.”

If this “prohibited person” uses that firearm to injure or kill someone, then the owner of the firearm is guilty of a felony, or first degree community endangerment.

A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the “prohibited person” fires the weapon, intimidates people by showing the weapon in public or uses the weapon to commit a crime.

If a weapon is obtained through illegal entry, the owner of the firearm will not be guilty of community endangerment.

Rich Coleman, manager of Kittitas County Trading Co. Pawn and Gun is not happy with this law. Coleman believes that the background checks and training courses are just going to cause more problems for people like him that have experience with guns. However, he also understands that people who are inexperienced with firearms need the training.

Ed Fernandes, the co-owner of Grizzly Safe Co. in Ellensburg, believes that the “safe storage” provision would help prevent children from easily obtaining their parents’ guns.

“If you have a pistol, a pistol safe will protect kids,” Fernandes said.

Editor: Hanson Lee

Men's rugby enters 2019 season on a mission

By **Dez Rodriguez**
Senior Reporter

The CWU Men's Rugby team finished with a 17-8 record last season, good enough for the number 15 seed in the D1A Rugby playoffs. There, they fell to the number two seed, and eventual champions, Life University in the opening round.

Now trying to build up from where they left off, the team is returning only four seniors and 30 underclassmen. CWU Men's Rugby head coach Todd Thornley is ready to take on a new challenge with the young guys.

“We have to respond now and hopefully we can make the changes we need to be successful moving on.”

Cole Zarcone, senior

“It takes time to mature as an athlete and to mature as a complete player,” Thornley said. “I think they are kind of ahead of the curve because of the experience they are getting right now in terms of the high-level rugby that they're playing against.”

The team opened up the season by defeating UC Davis convincingly, before losing to Saint Mary's on the road. Despite the mixed results, Thornley



Heather Stewart / The Observer

After the recent Tomlinson Stadium renovations, the turf now has lines which allow CWU's Men's Rugby team to practice on the turf at any time of day under stadium lights.

took note of what he believes is going to stay consistent throughout the season: the team's physicality.

“Even for how young we are, we're going to be very physical,” Thornley

said. “It's definitely a glass half full situation because the problems that we had are easily fixable, it's just going to take time.”

So how do you develop the talent

in a short amount of time? Thornley said it starts with the three main core skills in rugby; the ability to catch passes, the ability to tackle and the ability to retain position, aspects CWU senior wing Cole Zarcone stressed need to be fixed following the recent loss.

“We just have to focus on the little things,” Zarcone said. “We've got our scrum pieces, our set pieces, our basic structure on attack and defense. We've learned a lot from that game losing like that so we'll be able to take a lot away.”

The team is gearing up to take on Cal Poly University in California on Jan. 19 before returning home to face Washington State on Feb 2. It will be the first game the men play at the newly renovated Tomlinson Stadium.

“We have to respond now and hopefully we can make the changes we need to be successful moving on,” Zarcone said.

Next up:

@ Cal Poly University:

When: Saturday, Jan. 19

Where: San Luis Obispo, California

Men's rugby tackles new era with young roster

By **Dez Rodriguez**
Senior Reporter

Forty one players on the roster, 30 underclassmen, 19 of those being first-year students. The CWU Men's Rugby roster is very young, but CWU head coach Todd Thornley believes in the potential the team has.

“They are a group of very, very talented guys and they're really hard workers,” Thornley said. “It's just going to take some time to develop.”

Former walk-on-turned-co-captain Cole Zarcone is one of only four seniors on the team. Initially joining CWU to play football, he made the decision to switch to rugby at the conclusion of his freshman year.

“I went home that summer and learned how to play rugby,” Zarcone said. “A buddy here knew the local rugby coach back home in Camas, so I was able to go home and he taught me the basics.”

Zarcone's brother played rugby through college so he had some knowledge about the new sport. After getting a firm grasp, Zarcone played in local seven on seven tournaments. There, he was able to create enough highlights to send to CWU Men's Rugby head coach Todd Thornley.

“Todd gave me a shot and it ended up working out,” Zarcone said.

Zarcone earned the Men's Sevens Collegiate All-American D1 Honorable Mention at the conclusion of last season. Now at the start of the new season, he has been voted as co-captain by his teammates and coaches.

“It's an honor,” Zarcone said. “It's really cool to see that the guys look



Heather Stewart / The Observer

CWU's Men's Rugby carefully listens to Coach Thornley's instructions at their evening practice. The team will be headed to California to face off against Cal Poly University on Saturday, Jan. 19.

to me and value what I say and that I lead by example. They can look to me whenever they need help.”

One of the new guys looking to Zarcone for advice is freshmen flanker Vanya Sturm. Born in New Zealand, Sturm grew up playing every sport he had time for.

“I played rugby, tennis, squash,

boxing, soccer, cricket, I can go on,” Sturm said. “I've been playing rugby all my life since I was five and always stuck with it.”

Sturm played Rugby last year at Iowa Central Community College. There, he played a pivotal role in winning the junior college national championship. Thornley took notice and

invited Sturm to join his program at CWU.

Playing rugby for over 13 years, Sturm believes his experience can help the young team moving forward.

“Its teaching the new players to not feel pressured and to keep our minds down to the ground,” Sturm said. “Basically just get down and dirty.”

Editor: Hanson Lee

Women's basketball sees best start since 2015 season

By Hanson Lee
Sports Editor

Classes are back in full swing for Winter quarter and so is women's basketball as the Wildcats are already nearing the midway point of their 2019 season. The team currently boasts an overall record of 8-3 with a GNAC record of 3-1, their latest win coming on Saturday, Jan. 5 against GNAC competition Concordia University.

"We've been learning from every game," said head coach Randi Richardson "In each game, our team has done a great job of being self-reflective and figuring out ways where we can continue to be better."

Richardson noted that offensively, the team has been able to find a solid rhythm together as a unit and that on the defensive end, the team needs to work on maintaining consistency day in and day out.

Junior guard Alexis Pana has been a key ingredient when it's come to the Wildcat playbook so far this season. Pana leads the Wildcats in scoring, assists and steals, averaging 14.5 points per game, totaling 60 assists and 22 steals on the season thus far. Pana has also shown considerable improvement beyond the arc, shooting 48 percent from three point range out of her 46 total attempts on the season.

"A big thing from freshman year that I struggled with, and still a little bit last year, was my confidence," Pana said. "Being able to see what I was able



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Head coach Randi Richardson-Thornley watches the team intently during drills. Coach Randi proves to be incredibly attentive as the team has a so far win/loss record of 8/3.

to do and see what other people see in me is a big thing that helped me out this year."

One of the unique strengths for the team this year has been the fact that everybody on the team works just as well off the court as they do on the

court. For Pana and her teammates, it's all about having that next play mentality and keeping a high level of focus through the game's ups and downs.

"When things get rough and things get down, we do a better job of coming together," Pana said.

Senior guard Sadie Mensing is one of only two senior Wildcats this season and is the only senior in the starting lineup. Mensing is currently averaging x points per game for the Wildcats while totaling x assists on the year.

"This is one of the better starts we've had and I think it's really come a lot from how well we've been playing together and how much we share the ball," Mensing said.

As a senior, Mensing is preparing to have an even greater impact on her team this season, both offensively and defensively. Mensing expressed that as one of the lone seniors on the team, it's imperative for herself to use her experience to lead by example on and off the court in front of her fellow teammates.

Up next, the Wildcats will prepare for a four-game homestand with conference opponents Saint Martin's University (SMU), Seattle Pacific University (SPU), Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) and Montana State University Billings (MSUB) all coming to town. With an impressive home court record of 4-1 this season, the team will look to stay locked in at Nicholson Pavilion.

"Whether we're playing home or away, a conference game is big time," Richardson said. "Each team has 100% of our focus because that's what each team in the GNAC deserves."

Men's basketball sets sights on second half of season

By Hanson Lee
Sports Editor

Men's basketball is well underway as the Wildcats have already put together a 7-5 overall record on the season under the tenure of new head basketball coach Brandon Rinta. With last season marking the end of an era, after the departure of former men's head coach Greg Sparling, the Wildcats have branded themselves with a new identity, incorporating a new coaching staff and rostering a new look.

Rinta expressed that the team has already been through its fair share of ups and downs, but that the strength of this Wildcat pack is nothing to look down upon.

"I like where our guys' heads are at," Rinta said. "They've been continuing to work hard and improve and they're showing a tremendous amount of resiliency."

It's worth noting that the Wildcats currently hold a 1-3 record within the GNAC, but have stood tall with an impressive 5-0 start to the season at home. In their latest match-up, the Wildcats were able to defend their home court once again, outlasting GNAC opponent Montana State University Billings (MSUB) by a score of 111-102 and earning their first conference win of the season in an overtime thriller.

"The GNAC is looking tough this year, so any win that you come by is a big one." Especially at home, you have to find a way to protect the home court."

True freshman forward Malcolm Cola has shown high potential on the season thus far, averaging 10.8 points and 5 rebounds per game in 12 starts this season. Cola is one of multiple highly anticipated recruits to have joined the team this season and has stayed sharp for the Wildcats through their first 12 games. Cola emphasized that with all the new guys on the roster this season, the team has done a great job of building chemistry and coming together on the floor.

"I love this group of guys," Cola said. "We've molded like brothers."

Senior guard Malik Montoya continues to be a presence on the court for the Wildcats. The fourth-year senior is currently averaging 10.6 points per game to along with 3.4 assists per game on the season.

As a leader, Montoya is striving to maintain a high level of production on the court and be that spark for when his teammates need him.

"I've had a couple good games and I've been great offensively," Montoya said. "Personally, I've struggled defensively the past couple games, but overall, I think I'm very efficient for the team."

With some extra years under his belt, Montoya is one of the remaining Wildcats to have experienced this team's growth and change over the years. Montoya said with all of the transitions that occurred, especially since the end of last season, the team has done a good job of remaining positive and making a strong effort



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Head coach Brandon Rinta carefully watches to advise his team at practice as they currently rank 7/5 win/loss for the season.

to buy into what Rinta and his coaching staff have to offer.

With more action to come, the men will gear up for a two-game homestand with Simon Fraser making a visit on Thursday, Jan. 10, followed by rival Western Washington University coming to town on Saturday, Jan. 12. Rinta stressed that his biggest focus for the team at the moment is to continue getting his guys better defensively as well as with rebounding.

"It's gonna be a good test for us," Rinta said.

Next up:

vs. Simon Fraser University:

When: Thursday, Jan. 10

Where: Nicholson Pavilion

vs. WWU:

When: Saturday, Jan. 12

Where: Nicholson Pavilion

Editor: Hanson Lee

Opinion: Seattle Mariners offseason trade report card

By Austin Lane

For the Observer

After finishing last season with a final record of 89-73 and missing the playoffs for the 17th straight season, the Seattle Mariners faced a tough decision this offseason. General Manager Jerry DiPoto and the rest of the organization chose to have the Mariners gutted from the inside out, trading 11 players so far this offseason. Many fans are split on this decision to rebuild, with some being happy they're finally doing something they feel the team has needed for a long time in order to make the playoffs, and others feeling that DiPoto is betraying the fanbase by sending away their favorite players for younger talent. Looking at each trade value-wise, some ended up being good for the future of this team, while others were a bit of a reach. Let's start over from the beginning and reflect.

Seattle Mariners trade C Mike Zunino, LF Guillermo Heredia and LHP Michael Plassmeyer to Tampa Bay Rays for CF Mallex Smith and CF Jake Fraley.

Zunino is a great defensive catcher, earning Wilson Defensive Player of the Year for the Catcher position for 2018. His bat is where he came up short however, batting just .201 last season and having twice as many strikeouts as he had hits (150 to 75). After posting a 1.1 in Wins Above Replacement (WAR) in 2017 (8th on the team), Heredia finished with a -0.1 WAR in 2018 (4th from last on the team). Mallex Smith finished last season with a 3.5 WAR, second on the Tampa Bay Rays. All in all this was a great move by Jerry as he sent away two players showing no signs of improvement or promise, and got back a speedy CF that can hit for contact and is still developing as a player.

My grade: A

Seattle Mariners trade LHP James Paxton to New York Yankees for LHP Justus Sheffield, RHP Erik Swanson and CF Dom Thompson-Williams.

After suffering yet another injury in a game on July 12 against the Los Angeles Angels, after pitching only 17 pitches and giving up three earned runs, James Paxton would return later in the month on July 30, shutting out the Houston Astros over seven innings in one of his best performances on the season. But on August 14, at Oakland, Paxton threw 13 pitches, gave up two runs, a home run, and re-injured himself. On the other side of the trade is one of the biggest prospect names in the majors right now, Justus Sheffield. He's number 41 on Baseball America's list of top 100 pre-2018 prospects. Last season in AA and AAA leagues he finished with an Earned Run Average (ERA) of 2.48. His pitching shows potential, but in the end, this trade is risky giving up a good starter for one that Seattle hopes will be a great starter once he's fully developed.

My grade: C+

Seattle Mariners trade RHP Alex Colome to Chicago White Sox for C Omar Narvaez.

I'm a little surprised that Jerry DiPoto didn't want to keep Colome for one more season to be the temporary closer. Colome had his second-best



Courtesy of Flickr

season in his career outside of his 2016 all-star season. Narvaez is the complete opposite of Mike Zunino as he can hit .275 and is actually capable of doing something other than hitting a home run or striking out at the plate. Another young and promising player that has room to get better and DiPoto's GPA has just gone back up.

My grade: B+

Seattle Mariners trade SS Jean Segura, RHP Juan Nicasio and LHP James Pazos to Philadelphia Phillies for 1B Carlos Santana and SS J.P. Crawford.

Jean Segura was one of, if not the best hitter on the Mariners last season, and outside of Nicasio and Pazos, this trade screams culture change to me. DiPoto saw the internal problems of the clubhouse in 2018, reported to be mainly between Jean Segura and Dee Gordon, and got to work fixing said problem. J.P. Crawford is another prospect that is supposed to be a good player, but you never know which guys will pan out the way you hope. If there was a problem in the dugout between the two, I would've rather seen Gordon get traded than Segura, but in the end I understand the trade. It's just unfortunate it had to happen.

My grade: C-

Seattle Mariners trade 2B Robinson Cano, RHP Edwin Diaz and cash to New York Mets for RF Jay Bruce, RHP Anthony Swarzak, RHP Gerson Bautista, CF Jarred Kelenic and RHP Justin Dunn.

In the blockbuster trade of the

offseason, DiPoto traded away Cano, the player that came to Seattle when they had basically nothing, and Edwin Diaz, the undisputed number one closer in the major leagues. Getting rid of Cano is huge as his contract was way too high, he is getting old and his production next season is questionable. It's unfortunate that it took Diaz to get rid of Cano, but relief pitchers are the most inconsistent position in all of baseball. In return, outside of Jay Bruce, the Mariners got a slew of young talent, headlined by Jarred Kelenic. Kelenic was the sixth overall pick in the 2018 MLB Amateur Draft, was named MVP of USA Baseball's U-18 team that won gold at the Pan American Games, played in the Under Armour All-America Baseball Game, and played for Team USA in 2017, winning a gold medal for the second consecutive year. Time will tell if this trade was a good one, and it very well may end up being the best trade DiPoto has made in his time in Seattle, but for now, it's rough to get rid of two of your best players.

My grade: C

Cleveland Indians Trade DH Edwin Encarnacion and Future Considerations to Seattle Mariners; Seattle Mariners Trade 1B Carlos Santana to Cleveland Indians; Tampa Bay Rays Trade cash to Seattle Mariners.

In a three-way trade, DiPoto traded away Santana, a piece in the trade earlier this offseason with the Phillies, for Cash from Tampa Bay and Encarnacion from Cleveland. Encarnacion will either be the team's DH for next season, or DiPoto could flip him in a

trade for other prospects later this offseason as it doesn't make much sense to keep an old veteran when the game plan seems to be getting young prospects.

My grade: C

Milwaukee Brewers traded RF Domingo Santana to Seattle Mariners for LF Ben Gamel and RHP Noah Zavalas.

I may be biased in my grading on this trade, but man this one stung. My favorite player on the Seattle Mariners, through all the young talent, older veterans, new guys, old guys, was Ben Gamel. I will never forget in 2016 when the Mariners were making a push for the playoffs, and Ben Gamel (who we had on the team from a trade with the Yankees for only about a month at the time) hit an RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the eighth to tie up game 161 on the season against the Athletics. I was at that game and had never heard Safeco Field explode like that. It sounded like CenturyLink Field during a regular season Seahawks game. Domingo Santana is coming off an injury-ridden season, and looks to bounce back to where he was two years ago, when he hit .278 and 30 home runs. But I guarantee Santana will never have a moment in my heart like the one Gamel did.

My grade: D

Overall GPA: 2.33

Editor: Hanson Lee

Opinion: Seattle Seahawks - the lost season that wasn't

By Ben Wheeler

Online Editor

To say the Seahawks had a rough off-season before the 2018 opener would be putting on a thick coat of sugar.

Richard Sherman said the Seahawks lost their way after he was released. Rumors dropped alleging Seattle's supposed coddling of star quarterback Russell Wilson. Earl Thomas was contemplating holding out, and even if the front office could convince him to play, the historically great "Legion of Boom" (LOB) was essentially dead; a relic on a mountain peak that the franchise was destined to slide off of. Not only was the LOB gone, but disruptive defensive linemen such as Michael Bennett, Sheldon Richardson and Cliff Avril no longer donned blue, green and gray uniforms. Exit Darell Bevell, Kris Richard and Tom Cable (OC, DC and O-Line coach respectively), enter Brian Schottenheimer, Ken Norton Jr. and Mike Solari.

These distractions had a large influence on how the media viewed the Seahawks heading into the 2018 season. SI's website had the Seahawks racking up a 7-9 record, USA Today's website had them at 4-12 and ESPN's online publication had projected them to finish at 8-8.

Early indications were that the media pundits had it right. After an opening 27-24 loss to the Denver Broncos where the Seahawks' mistakes canceled out their spectacular successes, they were embarrassed in Chicago on Monday night in week two. Russell Wilson threw an beautiful TD pass to Tyler Lockett to get Seattle back in the game in the



Courtesy of Flickr

second half, only to throw a pick-six on the Seahawks' subsequent possession in an error that proved to be the ultimate back-breaker. The problems were easy to highlight; the defense was vulnerable in its efforts to gel with a variety of new starters, they weren't running the ball effectively often enough and Russell Wilson was uncharacteristically shaky. A QB that almost seemed to always make the right decision with the ball was now holding onto the ball for too long, staring down receivers and running right into opposing defensive

linemen for easy sacks. Rumors of an undisclosed injury to Wilson began to swirl.

Then something happened. After two uninspired wins over the Cowboys and Cardinals that did show a re-commitment to running the ball with Chris Carson and Mike Davis (and later with Rashaad Penny), week five against the Los Angeles Rams shocked those watching. These seemingly unimpressive Seahawks began exchanging (metaphorical) right-hooks with the NFC West division-leading Rams at CenturyLink

Field. A few late mental mistakes (including a bad late timeout from Pete Carroll) allowed the Rams to secure a 33-31 victory, but it was impossible to not feel the mood change in and around the team; players, coaches and fans alike were starting to believe.

It showed; the Seahawks have gone 8-3 since that first game against the Rams. The formula was simple: run the ball effectively, play tough, simple defense and sprinkle in some Russell Wilson creativity for good measure. The numbers speak for themselves, according to the NFL stats section on ESPN's website: the Seahawks boast the number one rushing offense in the NFL at 160 yards per game, they have their first 1000 yard rusher since 2014 in Chris Carson and Russell Wilson has gotten back into his groove for 35 TD passes to only 7 interceptions. The defense, while not statistically great, does create enough plays to come in at 16th overall in yards and 11th in points allowed in the NFL. The team finished 10-6 in the regular season, winning six of their last seven games, the one loss taking place in overtime against a scrappy 49ers team in San Francisco. The Seahawks' record allowed them to wrap up the NFC's number five seed, good enough for a wild card bid against the Dallas Cowboys.

Despite the team's bid to reach the playoffs, the Seattle Seahawks fell to the Dallas Cowboys by a score of 24-22. With the team now heading into full offseason mode, it'll be interesting to see what comes next for the Seahawks organization.

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Editor: Alexa Murdock

The modern Superman

A look at the evolution of the superhero archetype

Rune Torgersen
Copy Desk Chief

It's no secret that we live in a golden age of superhero films. In the early to mid-2000s, movies about what were widely considered modern fairy tales for children suffered from that label, often ending up as unpolished, cliché-heavy flops, like "Daredevil" (2003) starring Ben Affleck, or "Catwoman" (2004) starring Halle Berry. Besides Batman and Superman, who had at that point featured in enough big-screen productions for production companies to consider them a safe bet, superhero movies were to the box office then as video game adaptations are to it now. Everyone knew they were going to be bad, and nobody was surprised when they turned out to be precisely that.

Sam Raimi's Spider-man trilogy, followed by the first Iron Man film in 2008, changed all that. Marvel managed to make their heroes more nuanced than they had appeared in the past, and therefore, the movies made for better narrative experiences. Tony Stark is a hero, sure, but he's also an ego-driven jerk. Spider-man has super strength and can climb on walls, but he's also chronically behind on rent and gets pushed around at work by his blowhard of a boss. Rather than telling the tales of extraordinary people who are better than the rest of us in every single way, films started to focus more on the ways in which these "superhumans" are still human (or humanoid aliens.)

This shift was one of the reasons the Marvel Cinematic Universe broke through in such a big way. After taking a couple of movies to establish these deeply sympathetic characters, all the audience wanted was to see more of them in action, so when the first Avengers film was released, people were absolutely over the moon. All the characters they had come to love were joining forces to fight aliens! The movie made silly amounts of money (\$623 billion at the box office alone), and the market heard the message loud and clear. Superhero films are a gold mine, the perfect storm of nostalgia, action, and character development, when done right. All the stories have already been written, it's just a matter of adapting them to the big screen and you have yourself a license to print money.

Of course, since then, we've seen the genre take on a life of its own, as innovation is necessary to keep the magic alive. Since a superhero flick is inherently about its central character(s), as opposed to some larger event (like in a disaster movie for example), the change has primarily been in how we define a hero.

Most of this has come about within the last couple of years, starting, in my opinion, with the "Defenders" (2017) Netflix series, and continuing on to the big screen in the form of non-heroic

heroes like Wolverine in "Logan" (2017) and Deadpool in, well, "Deadpool" (2016). Neither of those guys are afraid of good old-fashioned murder, and mostly tend to do things for their own benefit. Likewise, straight-up villains seem to be getting a larger share of the spotlight as well, such as in "Suicide Squad," "Venom," and the upcoming Joker origin film starring Joaquin Phoenix.

Protagonists no longer have to be sympathetic, at least not from the beginning of the film. It's possible to write a compelling narrative starring someone society might define as "evil," and if this trend of innovation within narrative conventions continues, our superhero films will continue to improve in complexity and intrigue.

"Avengers: Endgame"
(April 2019)

"Avengers: Infinity War"
(April 2018)

"Wonder Woman"
(June 2017)

"Suicide Squad"
(Aug. 2016)

"Deadpool"
(Feb. 2016)

"Iron Man"
(May 2008)

Superhero Movie Timeline

This timeline is a collection of select popular Marvel Cinematic Universe and DC Extended Universe movies.

Timeline is not an inclusive list of movies nor is it to scale.

"Aquaman"
(Dec. 2018)

With the exception of "Wonder Woman" (2017), the DC Extended Universe has been an utter and complete mess. Films such as "Suicide Squad" (2016) and "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" (2016)

"Justice League"
(Nov. 2017)

were widely panned by everyone except the most devoted DC fans. Even "Justice League," (2017) a film that was supposed to be the culmination of the previously mentioned films (including others),

"Logan"
(March 2017)

received a lukewarm reaction and fell victim to the same issues that plagued many of its DC predecessors. For me, its version of Aquaman/Arthur Curry, played

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice"
(March 2016)

by Jason Momoa, was one of the weaker parts of the film. His lines were awkward, his scenes felt forced and his motives within the film changed without reason.

"The Avengers"
(May 2012)

Things couldn't be any more different in the ocean-dwelling hero's solo story "Aquaman," which dropped this past December. This Aquaman solo film showcases Curry's journey to discover and come to peace with his ties to Atlantis and relationship

"Spider-Man"
(May 2002)

with its people, along with discovering his true inner strength. Parallel to Curry's journey is the tale of the greed

"Aquaman" renews an old character

Ben Wheeler
Online & Social
Media Editor

and vengeance-filled actions of Curry's half-brother Orm (Patrick Wilson) who brings chaos to the seven seas in an attempt to wage war on the surface world. Eventually, these two stories meet and intertwine to determine the rightful ruler of Atlantis.

What stands out most about this film is the beautiful cinematography and imagery. Director James Wan and his creative team picked the subtlest marine blues and greens to contrast with the bright neon colors of Atlantean architecture, clothes and weaponry. The result of this combination is an array of scenes that seem to touch on many different areas of the full color spectrum without overwhelming the viewer. The scenes that take place in the desert are nearly as gorgeous as the aquatic scenes.

A close second in this film's strengths is the score. Many of the underwater scenes are synced to up 1980s style synth, and the immersive effect is dramatic. Other musical choices include more tame pieces with a more "classical" style, and the discord between these and the synth pieces is incredibly in-tune with the action/dialogue we see on screen. However, there are few cringeworthy moments, such as Pitbull's version of Toto's "Africa." Need I say more? I think it was in there at least partially as a joke, but that doesn't make it any less horrific.

Honestly, what I loved most about this film was the pacing. I could probably write another page about how the visuals massaged my eyes and the score massaged my brain, but the pacing is a true win for this movie. Other DC movies always rushed towards fantastic set pieces, but "Aquaman" takes a lot of time to breathe, especially in scenes where Curry and Mera (Amber Heard) work together and slowly become a team. Don't get me wrong, there are the fantastic set pieces and big action sequences in Aquaman, but Wan understood that they needed to be a part of the movie, not the whole.

That isn't to say this film isn't without flaws. While the film has an awesome cheesy 1980s action-adventure feel to it, watching it gave me the impression that not everybody involved bought into the direction the film took. There are some scenes that involve some serious over-acting, and the quality of the writing comes and goes in waves more vicious than those atop the Atlantean sea.

Still, the good outweighs the bad by a sizeable margin, and the film is extremely light and fun.

Editor: Alexa Murdock

How to: get the parking spot

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

This is a story nearly every student at CWU has told. Class starts in ten minutes and you're still circling the parking lot looking for a spot, you think you see one up ahead, but alas, someone drives up and takes it before you can get there. You end up walking into class ten minutes late after finally finding a spot across campus, armed with the common excuse that you couldn't find parking.

It's no secret that the parking situation at CWU leaves a lot to be desired. It's an issue that students who commute have to face on a daily basis. Every day is a struggle to find a parking spot and make it to class on time.

It's understandable why students are so fed up with parking. For one, it's expensive! A parking pass for the year—from September to September—will run you \$224, a price that many students think is outrageous considering it will not guarantee you a parking spot. Parking Services usually sells more passes than there are spaces available, working under the assumption that not every student will be on campus at the same time. As a result, the parking lots tend to be completely full during popular class times, meaning students have to fight over a spot. With about 11,500 students at CWU, many of whom drive, it is understandable that there will never be enough parking spots for everyone. Still, it is extremely frustrating as it seems like little is being done to improve the situation.

The truth of it is, the lack of parking deters students from going to class. I know countless people, myself included, who have just given up and gone home rather than drive around a full parking



Jack Belcher / The Observer

Parking lots fill up fast in the mornings. Preparing for this scenario is essential in finding a parking spot.

lot for 20 minutes. Many students will even park in the designated 30-minute parking spots and risk getting a ticket if it means getting to class on time.

So, what can you do to help ease your frustration with the parking at CWU? One of the most obvious and simple solutions is to leave the house earlier. Leaving an extra 10 to 15 minutes early for class will give you time to circle the numerous parking lots and hopefully find a spot with time to spare before class starts. Another option is to park a little farther away. Some parking lots are more popular than others, so you are more likely to find a spot in one of the farther lots. The majority of parking lots are located north

of campus, so you will likely have better luck parking there. Just be sure to account for a couple of extra minutes of walking!

Another solution is to stop driving altogether and opt for walking or biking to class. Not only will you avoid the parking struggle, but you will also get the benefits of daily exercise.

The final solution I have to offer is to pick less popular class times if your schedule allows it. Generally, most students like to take classes in the morning, or from around 8 a.m. to noon. Planning your classes for the afternoon or evening means you will be more likely to get parking due to less people being on campus.

Parking Pro Tips

1. Leave at least 10-15 minutes earlier than you usually would for class
2. Park further away from campus (don't forget the extra time for walking)
3. Stop driving. Walk or bike to class
4. Pick a less popular class time

Parking FAQ

1. **How much is an annual parking pass?** \$244
2. **Where do I pick up my parking pass?** O-5 parking lot at 1211 N. Wildcat Way
3. **Are there any free parking lots?** Yes, see cwu.edu/parking for a map of the free lots.
4. **Can I appeal a parking citation?** Yes, find details how on the Parking Services website.

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Editor: Alexa Murdock

WHAT'S HAPPENING
HYPE
JAN. 10 - 16, 2019

THU. JAN. 10

Open Mic Night

8 p.m. (7:30 p.m. signups) • 1891 Bistro
Enjoy the coffee shop atmosphere of this quarter's first Open Mic Night!

FRI. JAN. 11

Campus Feud

8 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free
"Survey Says..." it's time to play Campus Feud! Create your team and sign up in SURC 263.

MON. JAN. 14

ASCWU Public Meeting

2 p.m. • SURC Pit • Free
Learn about current issues and the efforts of your student government.

Monday Movie: Night School

7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3
Troublemakers attend night school in hopes of earning their GED.

TUE. JAN. 15

Clubs and Cocoa (Club Fair)

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • SURC 137 • Free
Learn about student clubs and orgs, meet new people and sip on some hot cocoa!

Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series presents Erin Stalcup

12 p.m. talk about publishing
6 p.m. reading and book-signing
Brooks Library Commons

Cold Weather Shelter food prep

2 - 4 p.m., advance sign up and food handler's permit required. Visit CLCE (SURC 256) for details.

Underground Concert Series

8 p.m. • McConnell 119 • Free
Singer-songwriter/producer Gavin Maher in a black-box studio performance.

WED. JAN. 16

Housing Priority Deadline

Secure your campus housing for next year! Visit MyHousing through MyCWU or cwu.edu/housing. Apply early and be entered to win free housing!

DEC After Dark:

Career Interest Card Sort

5:20 p.m. • Black Hall 101
Sift and sort through interests to identify potential career directions.

Magician Nash Fung

8 p.m. • SURC Theatre
Don't miss the mystifying act by this CWU alum who wowed the famous duo behind "Penn & Teller: Fool Us." Free show for CWU students.

NOW OPEN: REGISTRATION, APPLICATIONS, TICKETS

Free Group X Classes

Free with your Rec membership, check out Yoga, Pound, Zumba, Cycling and more at recreation.cwu.edu

Leadership Conference (Feb)

Featuring CWU alumni from Seattle Sounders, Google, Respect My Region and more. cwu.edu/leadership-engage

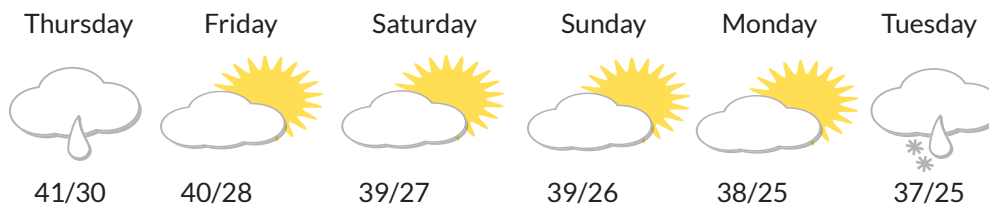
Resident Assistant

Help create positive experiences, support on-campus students by becoming an RA. Details: cwu.edu/housing

The New Civil Rights Movement

CWU students, get your FREE ticket to see social activist Shaun King, coming to CWU Feb. 25! cwu.edu/tickets

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast



Thursday: Chance of rain in the morning, mostly cloudy in the evening. High of 41.

Friday: Partly sunny with patchy fog at night. Freezing fog at night. High of 40.

Saturday: Patchy fog in the morning with afternoon sun. High of 39.

Sunday: Partly sunny with clouds in the evening. High of 39.

Monday: Partly sunny with clouds in the evening. High of 38.

Tuesday: Slight chance of rain and snow. Partly sunny. High of 37.

Weather data sourced from forecast.weather.gov. Information subject to change.

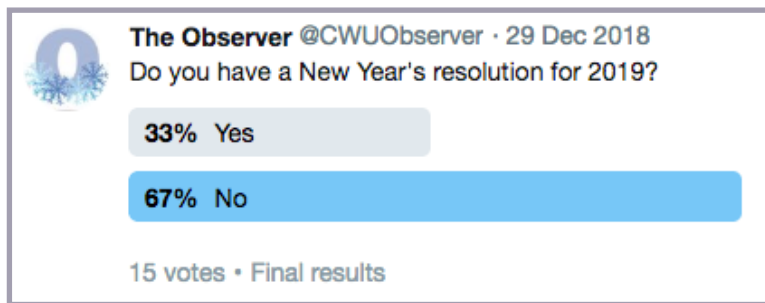
Ask Rune

The "Ask" column is written by one of our staff members. Opinions in this column are meant to be lighthearted and entertaining.

Dear Rune,
My girlfriend keeps buying Betta fish to put on her desk but they keep dying. She's probably gone through four or five in the last year. I love her, but I'm concerned for these fish. What do I do?
Thanks,
Oh-fish-ially Done With This

Dear Oh-fish-ially,
Oh dear, sounds like your girlfriend needs to remember to feed her fish. Try leaving sticky notes absolutely everywhere with hand-drawn sketches of fish being fed. This may help to jog her memory, and will almost certainly leave an impact. If this visual memory life-hack turns out to be effective, you might even be able to use it for other situations in which it becomes necessary to remind each other of things, such as walking the dog, taking out the trash, or buying more sticky notes. Good places to leave sticky notes include, but are not limited to: the fridge, the tv, the inside of her glasses, the dashboard of a car, various places around CWU's campus, the forehead of her 9 a.m. professor, her dog, her dog's food, her presumably-empty fish-bowl and anywhere else you think she might spend a long time looking. Alternatively, you can casually suggest to her that maybe fish just aren't her thing, and she should try a less care-intensive pet, like a pet rock, or an imaginary friend.
All the best,
Rune

Observer Polls

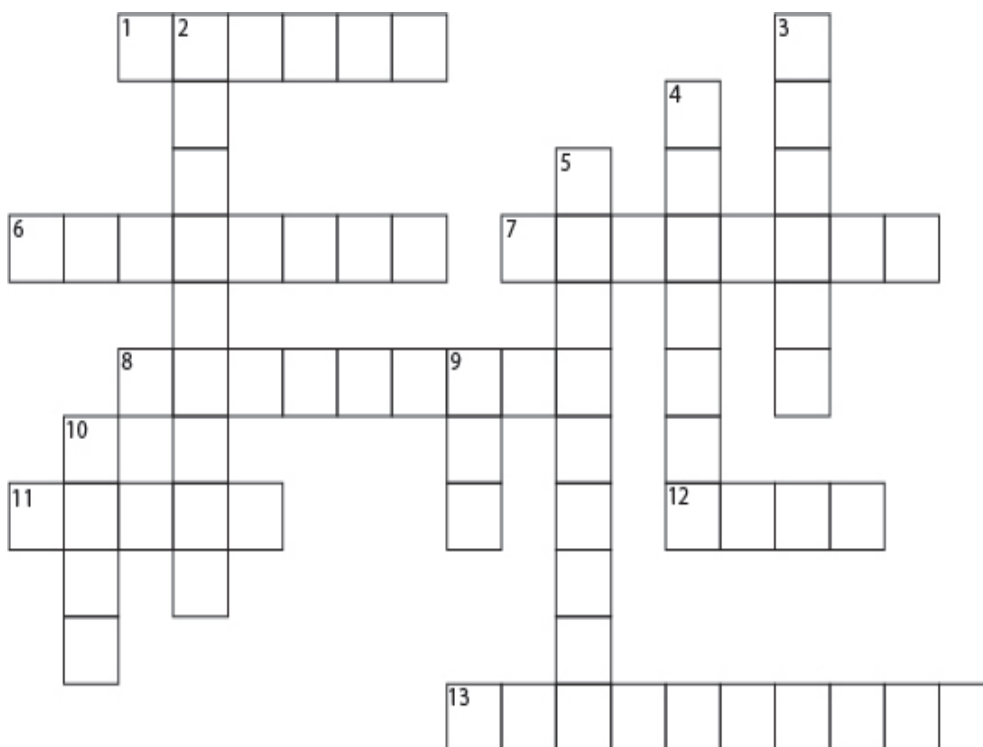


Watch our Twitter for a chance to vote in the next poll!

Call for a cartoonist!

Are you an artist? Do you love to doodle? Do you know someone who loves to draw?

The Observer is looking for a cartoonist. If you're interested, send work to cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M-Tu 5-6 p.m.



Across:

- Like the weather on New Year's Eve
- NYE event in New York that is watched on TV across the nation
- 12 p.m.
- Alcoholic drink with bubbles
- Square where ball is dropped
- "Happy New ___!"
- A decision for the coming year

Down:

- Many people resolve to be more _____
- Commemorate the new year with a party
- First month of the year
- Outdoor display shot off the Space Needle
- This place is packed on New Year's Day
- Failure to do this with another person at midnight may bring a year of loneliness

Answers: Across: 1. Chilly 2. Ringin' 3. Fireworks 4. January 5. Times 6. Champagne 7. Midnight 8. Kiss 9. Gym 10. Resolution 11. Times 12. Year 13. Resolution Down: 2.

Crossword

It's not too late to ring in 2019 with this week's New Year's themed crossword!

Fill out the puzzle, snap a photo and tweet us @cwuobserver for a chance to win a prize.

Call for reader work

Have a question for our us?

Do you have a letter to the editor or a burning opinion you want published?

We would love your work!

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M - Tu 5-6p.m. for inquiries.

#CWUHYPE

