Shoemaker moves on from CWU, joins EWU as offensive coordinator

Hanson Lee
Sports Editor

CWU head coach Ian Shoemaker is parting ways with the Wildcat football program after accepting a coaching position as the offensive coordinator for the Eastern Washington University Eagles. After five seasons with the Wildcats, Shoemaker has compiled an overall record of 38-14, playing a pivotal role in the growth of the program during his Wildcat tenure.

Since his arrival back in 2014, Shoemaker and the Wildcats have strung together an offensive attack that has averaged 447.3 yards of offense per game and 37.3 points per game. Most recently, in 2018, the Wildcats boasted 11 First Team All-GNAC selections and showcased the likes of GNAC Newcomer of the Year Michael Roots and GNAC Offensive Lineman of the Year James Moore.

In 2017, Shoemaker led the Wildcats to the NCAA DII Super Region 4 playoffs after being named GNAC champions with an overall record of 11-1 and a GNAC record of 8-0. Shoemaker's 2017 performance earned himself both the 2017 Don Hansen Super Region 3 Coach of the Year Award and the 2017 GNAC Coach of the Year Award.

Last year, Shoemaker and the Wildcats capped off their season with an overall record of 8-3 and a GNAC record of 7-1. Despite missing the NCAA DII playoffs, the Wildcats still earned themselves the title of back-to-back GNAC champions.

“I don’t get this opportunity if our kids don’t play well,” Shoemaker said. “We’ve been very fortunate to have guys that play at a high level and that makes my job a lot easier as a head coach and an offensive play caller.”

In the wake of Shoemaker’s departure, Wildcat offensive coordinator Chris Fisk will assume the head coaching duties for the Wildcat football program. Fisk initially joined the Wildcats as an offensive-line coach and a co-offensive coordinator back in the spring of 2016 and has since been able to build a strong bond with Wildcat football and CWU’s athletic program as a whole.

Fisk said that his new head coaching role is permanent, but that at the moment he will still maintain his responsibilities as the offensive coordinator until the athletic program is able to go through the process of hiring a new candidate for the position. Fisk emphasized his gratitude towards Shoemaker and his new position as the head coach of Wildcat football.

“I really appreciate that he brought me up here. You come across people in your career and you meet people in your career that help you along the way and coach Shoe helped me get to Central Washington and we had an amazing three years together,” Fisk said. “Coach Shoe will always be one of my close friends, dear friends, and I’m excited to see what he can do with our style of offense up at Eastern Washington.”

Shoemaker had high praise for Fisk and expressed that he hopes that he just continues to be himself in his new role on the football field.

“This is Central Washington football, he’s gotta be the leader and take this thing over and I think he’ll do a great job,” Shoemaker said. “I’m excited to see where the program goes and how he continues to develop as a coach around the pretty good housing of the program. I think he’s gonna do awesome, I’m so glad that that was the decision of the administration to hand the job to [Fisk].”

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Students voice opinions about diversity

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

On Feb. 19, black students, faculty, staff and community members had the opportunity to come together to share their stories, thoughts and experiences about life on campus and in the Ellensburg community.

The “Being Black in Ellensburg” event was a public discussion put on by the Museum of Culture and Environment in conjunction with the Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) and CWU’s Africana and Black Studies (ABS) program. The purpose of the event was to discuss several important questions: what does it feel like to be a minority in a mostly white, rural community such as Ellensburg? What do effective networks of support look like, and how can Ellensburg residents promote a culture of inclusivity?

Throughout the event, 15 different words were displayed on a projector located at the front of the room, including “Belonging,” “Education,” “Representation,” “Culture” and “Change.” Students, faculty and staff got the chance to share their thoughts and experiences related to these words. Those who did not wish to speak were able to write their thoughts down anonymously on provided notecards.

Dr. Masonya Bennett is an ABS professor. She discussed why it is important for people of color to have a safe space to share their experiences, particularly in a rural town like Ellensburg.

“The students...are constantly searching for safe spaces, for representation, because it is a different experience,” Dr. Bennett said. “If you come from a place like Tacoma or Seattle you have access to other people that look like you, or I should say you’re used to seeing people who look like you. And then you come here and that sort of shapes your experience.”

Continued on Page 5
All departments now offer online applications

Payton Parke
Staff Reporter

Students can now apply for majors and minors online with a new E-Form. Students can also drop majors or minors in this same E-Form.

This E-Form is for all majors and minors that CWU offers. It will go to the specific department which will contact the student after the form has been filled out and submitted. Some specific departments have offered some kind of E-Form in the past for applying for majors and minors that allowed students to submit all their requirements and then meet with an advisor. With this new program, students in all departments will be able to apply online.

A student will start out by providing all of the information needed and any letters of approval or refusal they have. From there the E-Form goes to the specific department and major in question and is reviewed.

According to Gail Mackin there are three things that can happen when the E-Form is being reviewed. The advisor will receive your information like the students GPA, students transcripts and course history and then they can accept you into the major, and give you a new advisor. Your request to add or drop a major or minor may be put on hold, then you will be asked to meet with your advisor in person or send them additional information if needed. Your application may also be denied, in which case you will be sent a list of additional requirements to fulfill in order to resubmit your request.

Gail Mackin, the Associate Provost of Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs, implemented applying for majors and minors online.

“That was something that I noticed when I first came here a year and half ago, that students were carrying pieces of paper around to add and drop majors or request a major or minor. I just thought it would be something to work towards and have something that was more streamlined and readily available for students,” Mackin said.

This is a change for CWU, switching from the old paper-in-hand method to an online E-Form, allowing students to choose how they handle their majors and minors. The change will make it more accessible for students with this online format.

“I was hoping that students would feel that they had more control about their education, and I think in particular the adding part, students feel comfortable with that. I wanted to make sure it was all captured within the system. Nothing got lost, nothing got waylaid. Because of a piece of paper, things will get shoved behind a desk etc. This way it is all record and all in there,” Mackin said.

Students who do not want to go into their previous hall or office and talk to their advisor or department head can now drop majors and minors online. This allows students to handle their major and minor in their own way.

“This also gives a more accurate account of who’s in what majors, which majors are active as opposed to inactive majors because I think students tend not to drop if it’s gonna be a bit of an issue,” Mackin said.

It took about a year to get this project completed on MyCWU, and a lot of communication between CWU Information Services and all of the associate deans and advisors.

“This is a part of the new dashboard Mackin implemented with the help of Information Services. It allows students to see who their advisor is, what majors and minors they are in, how many credits they are taking and how many they have in total.

“I thought it was important for each student to be able to see themselves as a student in a short little dashboard that says ‘here are my majors and minors, this is my advisor, here is my GPA [and] here’s how many credits I am carrying,’” Mackin said.
Dealing with the fumigation issue in Ellensburg

By Nick Jahnke

Hay and grain exporters in and around Kittitas County are attempting to cut processing costs by skipping fumigation of their timothy hay. According to the Organization of Kittitas County Timmy Hay Growers and Supplies President Carl Jensvold, growers and processors in Ellensburg are concerned that this is creating an uneven playing field.

Fumigation is the process of introducing chemicals to disinfect an area, or in this case, a container full of hay. According to Jensvold, the reason hay processors in the area are fumigating their timothy hay goes back to the 1970s when Japan put a hold on imported hay because of a particularly damaging insect, the hessian fly.

According to a Canadian study of the hessian fly, it is native to North America and uses cereal plants like wheat, barley, and rice as hosts for its larvae. The larvae migrate to the base of the plant and sap its nutrients.

According to Jensvold, hay exports infested with the pest caused Japanese importers to put a hold on incoming hay shipments and later impose a quarantine rule that stated that all hay imports needed to be fumigated.

Brad Habermann with Number 9 Hay said skipping fumigation saves processors about 5 percent of the cost per ton of hay. He said that he believes the processors who are trying to bring the cost down are mainly newer and smaller companies in the Columbia Basin. This cost is higher in the winter, because the containers must also be heated. He said that part of the reason they are doing this is that they haven’t been around long enough to understand the potential risks, and that cutting their costs allowed them to get into the highly established market.

“Pretty much everyone in Ellensburg follows that protocol, and it adds more cost to the price by the time it reaches the end customer,” he said. “If they aren’t doing it, it’s cheaper,” Habermann said.

Wesco President Bruce Grow said that fumigating is something Ellensburg timothy hay processors agreed to do decades ago. He said the issue with some processors bypassing the process is troublesome for two reasons.

“For companies not to do that [fumigate], not only does it not have a level playing field business wise and price wise, but it puts the organizations at risk. If they are not careful, they suddenly introduce doubt or concern on the Japanese side of receiving product that isn’t fumigated,” Grow said.

Jensvold said that losing hay trade relations with Japan is a risk to the local economy. He said that the hay industry brings in roughly $40 million annually and losing that could have trickle-down effects that range from farm workers losing their jobs to the cease of farmers and processors buying vehicles and equipment.

According to Jensvold, there are about 30,000 acres of hay fields in Kittitas Valley. He said that there are other states in the U.S. that grow hay, but it is mainly for domestic use. According to him, a large part of the industry’s success over the years can be attributed to Japanese importers.

Both Habermann and Grow said that their companies export about 80 percent of their hay crop to Japan. They said that they also export to places like Korea, Taiwan and the Middle East.

Jensvold said that the bulk of hay farming occurs on the west coast, and that locally there has been growth in the industry due to new processors trying to break into the market.

“We’re a gas station town, fast food town, college town and we’re an agricultural community…that’s what makes this community go,” Jensvold said.

In response to the fumigation issue, both Habermann and Grow said they are having talks with the USDA about those who aren’t following protocol.

Grow said they have also been reaching out to the processors that aren’t complying to discuss the issue.

“We, along with others, are reaching out the USDA, to make sure they are aware of the volume that is now increasing with additional exporters who are not following the protocol. They are protecting that relationship and the image of Washington and Pacific Northwest hay going to Japan,” Grow said.

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ASCWU offers chance to win $500 scholarship

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

At the ASCWU public meeting on Monday, Feb. 25, Vice President of Student Life and Innovations Jocelyn Matheny announced that ASCWU had recently opened up a feasibility survey to students. The survey is meant to collect data regarding what students would like to see and be able to do if the SURC was expanded. She said that students who take the survey will be entered in a drawing for a $500 scholarship.

Matheny said that the feasibility survey went out to students Tuesday, Feb. 26. She said the survey will be available for 10 days before it is closed down and the winner of the $500 scholarship is chosen.

Matheny also announced that ASCWU, together with university staff, are undergoing interviews with potential candidates for the Chief Information Officer (CIO) position. Currently, Vice President of Operation Andreas Bohman still holds the position. Matheny said that the CIO oversees the activities of CWU’s information technology staff.

Vice President of Legislative Affairs Leah Mobley announced that applications for the student trustee position are now available. According to Matheny, students can apply online for a seat on the board of trustees. She said the student trustee has the same voting power as the rest of the board and can affect change.

ASCWU Executive Vice President Kane LeMasters said that ASCWU is working on a draft for the Top Cat scholarships. Matheny said that the scholarship is completely separate from all other CWU scholarships, and once the draft is complete, they will open the application to any student who wishes to apply. According to CUN’s website, the Top Cat award is for the overall achievements and hard work of students.

Rojas said that the applications for student government candidates are due on March 15. Mobley added that potential candidates should visit ASCWU board members that currently hold their position to make sure they know what they are getting into. Rojas also mentioned that they are beginning discussions on whether smoking should be banned throughout campus. ASCWU also announced two candidates for student senators have been chosen, Macy Byron for aviation and Ben Hanson for psychology. Along with that, ASCWU recognized a new club: the music industry club.

Update to academic alert system

Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

The academic alert system CWU currently uses was introduced in 2015-2016. Before the current system was put in place faculty had to log in via email to reach students who were in danger of failing to attend classes. After that they would be taken to another page to enter information about students. That data would go back to the developer who would send a list of students in danger of failing to advisors.

Carolyn Thurston, M.A., Director of Academic Success Initiatives Office of the Dean of Student Success believes the warning system plays a role in CWU improving retention rates.

"Of course, absolutely anytime there is a program that is developed to intervene and help students, it’s going to improve student retention," Thurston said.

Thurston said about a third of the faculty are regular users of the system. The goal is to have 100 percent of the faculty use the system, if 75 to 85 percent of faculty use the system next quarter it would help students.

The updated system was created with two goals in mind, user friendliness and accessibility. "Faculty can go into their [class] roster pull up students in the class hit button next to their name if concerned," Thurston said.

Hitting the button next to the student’s name will take them to another page. This page has two boxes, attendance and academic, used depending on the reason for concern. Thurston also said teachers can leave comments for the students.

Once the instructor sends an academic alert email, they receive a confirmation email. Within 24 hours an email is sent to the student and their advisor(s) in the CWU email system. According to Thurston the system is a tool that gives feedback beyond the classroom.

The academic standing icon in MyCWU was developed three years ago. Before that visual was put on MyCWU, students would say they didn’t know they were in academic trouble according to Thurston.

Student progress reports have been used for 100- and 200-level courses, which includes most general education courses. The progress report system was introduced in the fall of 2018. According to Associate Provost Bernadette Jungblut, CWU is trying to keep an eye on freshmen who are transitioning to college life.

"Providing students every opportunity to be successful and to earn a degree is everyone’s responsibility at Central," Jungblut said.

According to Jungblut, the new progress reports are part of a comprehensive plan by CWU to increase student retention rates. The progress reports come out once a quarter. Going forward, the provost’s office hopes to have the progress reports completed around the fifth or sixth week of the quarter so students have time to decide whether they need to drop a course before the uncontested withdrawal period closes in week six.

"We have preliminary results that suggest the progress reports are helping our students. We will know more by the spring term," Jungblut said.

Before Jungblut came to CWU three years ago, she worked at West Virginia University, where they used the progress report system.

CWU administration has made it clear they want to improve student retention, according to information released by the CWU Institutional Effectiveness office provided by Jungblut. From last fall to winter quarter CWU has retained over 90 percent of the freshmen. In fall 2017 to fall 2018 the retention rate of freshmen was 69.3 percent (close to losing 1 out of every 3 students). CWU’s retention committee has researched ways to improve, implement new student programs or systems like progress reports that have shown to be successful at other universities. Jungblut said the committee is trying to improve the inventory of resources currently available to students and those resources are as effective as possible. A comprehensive inventory of all the student programs should be available this spring.

"You can’t help students if you don’t fully understand what they need to be successful," Jungblut said.

One of those student resources is tutoring. According to Brooks Library Director of Learning Commons Katie Boswell, the library has seen an increase in students needing tutoring.

From winter 2018 to winter 2019 (to date), there was a nine percent increase in the number of students seeking tutoring, and a 46 percent increase in the total hours of tutoring provided according to the tutoring center.

According to faculty senate chair Amy Claridge the goal of the progress report and the early alert system is to be proactive in getting students the academic support they need.

"Without this intervention, they may be unsuccessful in their courses and drop out," Claridge said. "The goal is that with intervention, we may be able to help them be successful and stay at the university."
Students given safe space to discuss experiences

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Bennett added that black people in Ellensburg are the minority, with only about 1.5 percent of residents being black. She said she rarely sees black students off campus, which made her question what kind of experiences they were having. She added that having a safe space to share those experiences is necessary to foster an environment of inclusiveness.

"I just think that representation is important and inclusion is important and we need a place where students and faculty and staff can feel welcomed and not feel like an outsider," Dr. Bennett said.

There were many common concerns expressed by multiple students during the discussion. Several people commented that they often feel uncomfortable in Ellensburg, particularly downtown. One student discussed constantly feeling the need to be conscious of how he is being perceived by others in the community. Several others agreed, adding that most of the time they don’t feel as if they belong here.

Another concern brought up during the discussion was the need for more people of color within CWU faculty. One student pointed out that after three years attending CWU, she had not had a black instructor.

"I should see someone that looks like me daily," the student said.

She went on to say that it is important for students of color to have role models and mentors who look like them to look up to. One proposed solution was to have a diversified pool of students involved in the search committees that choose faculty members. Students pointed out that many people of color are qualified to teach at CWU, but more effort needs to go into finding and hiring those people.

Another issue brought up was that CWU lacks places to gather with people of your culture. The DEC was recently moved from the SURC to Black Hall, which raised concerns among the students, staff and faculty involved. Moving the DEC away from the place where students are meant to gather "felt like a slap in the face," according to one student. It was expressed that CWU should work harder to provide safe spaces and promote diversity across campus without being asked.

Students commented that CWU usually waits for "diversity months" such as Black History Month to celebrate culture, but more effort should be made towards promoting inclusivity all year long.

President Gaudino and Ken Wade, Ellensburg Police Chief attended the event. Chief Wade said he wants to take action and make moves towards a more inclusive and equal environment in Ellensburg, but he needs to hear the opinions and experiences of minority students in order to make that happen.

"We’ll never be successful without your guys’ help," Chief Wade said.

Gaudino acknowledged the concerns expressed by students in regards to hiring and recruiting more people of color as well as the relocation of the DEC. He wants to listen to the concerns of minority students and continue to find solutions to promote diversity and a feeling of inclusivity across campus, but it won’t happen overnight. He compared the process to "pushing a really heavy ball up a hill," to which students responded that they want to push that ball with him. Several students pointed out that a number of promises have been made to promote diversity and a feeling of belonging on campus, but actual action needs to be taken. People in positions of power and privilege need to be the ones to promote that change and take action.

"You can’t go to the oppressed to fix their oppression," one student commented.

Those who attended the event are committed to creating change in Ellensburg and on the CWU campus for generations to come. Students said that a sure way to promote change and inclusivity is to continue to educate one another. While attending the discussion and listening to the concerns of students, faculty and staff is a good first step, the only way to make a real difference is to take action within the community.
Jazz program to perform series of concerts

Scott Wilson
Staff Reporter

The CWU jazz program will be putting on two separate performances in the afternoon and evening on Saturday, March 9. This is an event put on at the end of every quarter in the Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building that usually draws a crowd of up to 400 people. CWU students and alumni get in for $7 and everyone else must pay $12 for a ticket. One ticket will get you into both shows.

Chris Bruya, director of jazz studies and two of the big bands, describes the afternoon performance as a vocal jazz celebration. This will feature two vocal jazz ensembles that each have around 15 vocalists starting at 4 p.m. The evening show is a big band celebration that includes three big bands and starts at 7 p.m. Since 2014, the jazz program has split up the concerts into an afternoon and evening show, giving the audience a break in-between shows.

The musicians and vocalists are CWU students and are required to audition to be in the program. Apart from these end-of-quarter performances, the top vocalist and big band group go out and perform in the community. The groups have performed in Reno, Nevada, Spokane and multiple times in Seattle.

Bruya has been directing jazz with CWU for 17 years now and the new talent every year. “It’s trying to keep the standard, which is very high, consistent from year to year and so the fun of it is trying to pick music for the group that will fit the various strengths and inspire students to play at a high level,” Bruya said.

Graduates from the program have moved on to play at a higher level. Bruya explained that some are playing on cruise ships and some are music directors. Most students go on to teach music in public schools. Bruya explained that the music that the groups play may not always be understood by the audience, but he wants the music to speak to them on an emotional level.

“If we play the music effectively, the way it was originally written to be played, there will be an emotional reaction,” Bruya said. “Sometimes that’s sadness, sometimes that’s just getting into the groove.”

Daniel Hendrick, one of the trumpet players in the big band, is graduating at the end of winter quarter and will be moving on to student teaching in the spring. Working in the Tri-Cities area, Hendrick will teach jazz band at a school alongside a teacher and hopes to have his own music program in Washington or Oregon by the fall.

After being involved in jazz band every quarter since attending CWU, Hendrick said the program has meant the entire world to him.

“There’s this feeling when everything is grooving and jamming and you’re just making music with each other. It’s a feeling you can’t get anywhere else,” Hendrick said.

Another graduating performer in one of the big bands is trombone player Sascha Burckhardt.

He will be attending graduate school in trombone performance. Burckhardt explains that jazz band at CWU has been the best time of his life.

“Being able to really improve and hone my musicianship skills while being able to make great friends [and] connections have ultimately been some of my favorite memories,” Burckhardt said.

Thursday Thinks showcases faculty members

On the last Thursday of every month, a faculty member from the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) holds an hour long activity at the Iron Horse Brewery. These nights are called Thursdays. The overall purpose of the event is to get students and community members to see professors outside of the classroom setting.

Jason Dormady is an associate professor of history and the host of Thursday Thinks, which he started four years ago. Dormady wanted to create a place where faculty could talk about anything they wanted with out restrictions and where the community could ask anything.

“The goal is to exchange and to be interesting. I hope. This is to get the community and college together,” Dormady said.

Dormady looks for faculty members who are doing something that the community might be interested in.

“I will ask other professors who is a dynamic speaker, who is doing work with students.” Dormady said.

When looking for a professor, Dormady does not want to see someone who is just going to lecture.

“I don’t want them to use power points. I want somebody who is interested in being interactive and has something that they are passionate about to share,” Dormady said.

Student feedback has been positive because students get to see their professor in a less formal setting, according to Dormady.

Jamie Gilbert is a professor in public relations and nonprofit organizational management. She will be doing the next Thursday Thinks on Feb. 28. Gilbert will discuss how CWU students can use dance and music as a communication tool to overcome cultural and language barriers.

CWU student Vicente Garcia will lead the audience in Zumba routines he choreographed and used while studying abroad with Professor Gilbert in Ireland last August.

“We tend to think that the person sitting across from us thinks the same way, and when the barriers appear or when you find out that they don’t agree with everything we tend to just shut that person down,” Gilbert said.

Vicente Garcia is majoring in elementary education and minoring in dance.

“My goal is to try to get students to go out to the world and experience opportunities like study abroad in their fields because you don’t know how much of a difference it can do to your life,” Garcia said.

Garcia is the dance instructor at the recreation center on campus. If he had not studied abroad, he would never see how Zumba would not only change his life, but others as well.

“The icing on the cake is being able to do this with one of the students, especially one who is so passionate about his life,” Gilbert said.

CWU sends out a mass email about Thursday Thinks and there are posters around campus.

Iron Horse Pub posts about the event on their social media sites as well. The event takes place in the back room of the Iron Horse Pub from 7-8 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. Anyone who is under the age of 21 is welcome as long as it is before 8 p.m.

Vicente Garcia teaching kids Zumba during the CWU summer 2018 trip to Dublin.

Meghan Gilbert/For The Observer

Meghan Gilbert/For The Observer

Jamie Gilbert holding a lamb in Dublin during her study abroad trip summer of 2018.
CWU students, staff, faculty and alumni are encouraged to propose their ideas for the Ghostlight Lab Series, which gives them a chance to share their voices and ideas. The Ghostlight Lab Series is a branch of the theatre department that creates diverse shows. The series stemmed from the Ghostlight Project that started over two years ago after the 2016 presidential election. According to Dr. Emily Rollie, founder of the Ghostlight Lab Series, the Ghostlight Project was a national initiative led by theatre artists concerning inclusion, diversity and acceptance in the field and in the nation at large.

“They encouraged us to symbolically light the ghostlight. To gather outside our spaces, and then pledge ourselves to be interested and devoted to creating diverse, safe, brave spaces for artists of all backgrounds,” Rollie said. “It's an experimental space for students and faculty to create art about social issues and talk about diversity and inclusion, and to be brave when talking about these issues by using art to open up those conversations, and having more productive, inclusive conversations.”

The shows hosted by the Ghostlight Lab Series can be experimental in style and location. A Ghostlight Lab Series project can be anything from a play to a flash mob, it just depends on the proposals sent in by the students. There are endless possibilities as to what a Ghostlight production can be and where it can take place. In the past, shows have taken place in McConnell Hall, the 1891 Bistro and Hertz Hall. The show being presented in the spring, “Round The Mountain” was written by recent CWU alumnus Cameron Houg and will be hosted in the Tower Theatre.

Libby Akin, a senior on the Ghostlight Lab Series steering committee majoring in theatre arts design and production, was elected and nominated to be on the committee last year. Akin has a lot of experience producing entertainment after working on shows such as The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Akin loves to see people’s work come to life and to be a helpful hand in making that happen. She discussed why students should come to see future Ghostlight Lab Series productions.

“We offer something that you’re not going to see on the main stage from the theatre department and it’s also a chance to see up-and-coming artists and fresh ideas. A lot of the stuff we do has been written by students and designers who work here, so all of it is something really new, interesting, edgy, cutting edge and fun,” Akin said. “You might be inspired in a way that you never thought you would be.”

There are two faculty members on the committee, Emily Rollie and Jason Tscholke, and two students, Libby Akin and Riley Allen. Allen is a senior majoring in theatre design and production.

“I like that we are really open to actively trying to engage students to bring in a bunch of different ideas. Between last year and this year, we have had a number of really fun projects spanning a variety of topics. I enjoy that we're bringing in a bunch of different ideas,” Allen said. “I saw that there were a lot of voices and ideas in the department that could use that opportunity and could use somebody that was motivated to help get them up off the ground.”

If you have an idea for the project, the committee can help bring it to life. To propose a project, email cwughostlight@gmail.com or talk to one of the members of the steering committee.

CWU is an AA/EEO/Title IX Institution.
For accommodation: DS@cwu.edu
The Wildcat Shop’s bookstore has seen changes over the past few years, most notably the Fall 2017 introduction of the textbook counter, which is fully staffed by employees who retrieve items for students. This contrasts with the previous system where students would simply walk through the shelves and get the books themselves.

The changes came as a result of conversations had by the Wildcat Shop staff about how to make the shopping experience more enjoyable and efficient for students. These conversations included Sara Senter and Scott Harper, CWU students and textbook store supervisors at the Wildcat Shop.

“The lines going up from the textbooks all the way to the register, they were ridiculous. Now it’s still a line but it’s usually not that bad,” Harper said.

According to student employee Zach Phillips, who has worked at the textbook shop as a cashier since March 2017, the changes have made the process run a lot more quickly and smoothly.

“I think this is a lot better. I only worked one ‘rush’ (textbook season) and I saw how crazy it was, but with the textbook counter I think it’s a lot more streamlined,” Phillips said. “I think it’s gone to an 8-minute wait. A lot of people think it’s slower because they have to go in two separate lines, but that’s better than the 20-minute wait in one line.”

Phillips said that the new system is a lot more accurate as well, with one bookstore employee picking the books and having aisles clear of students helps them do so quickly.

“Before, people would have to pick their own books and they would make mistakes and have to refund it and sometimes they would miss the deadlines for returns,” Phillips said.

Senter said that since the introduction of the textbook counter, returns have gone down. One of the big problems with students getting the wrong book is that they might be keeping that book from a student who needs it.

However, not all prefer the textbook counter. According to CWU student Crystal Nambo, some parts of the process are now more difficult.

“The wait, I feel, is worse and it’s harder to move around in the bookstore,” Nambo said. “You can get confused about where you’re supposed to go.”

As we approach the end of the quarter, students are starting to think about selling their textbooks back and getting back some of the money they spent. However, according to Harper and Senter, the number of students doing textbook buyback is going down. One reason is that the university is increasingly renting out books that are frequently reused rather than selling them to students who sell them back at the end of the quarter. Another is the rising prevalence of ebooks as opposed to traditional textbooks.

“We still offer the same amount for buyback, 50 percent of the new book price if they’re reused,” Harper said.
The Wildcat Shop is located in the SURC and sells physical textbooks, eBooks, course access codes and coursepacks. A coursepack is a collection of readings and worksheets compiled by a professor for use in a class. Coursepacks can be required in place of a traditional textbook or alongside other texts. New coursepacks are only available for purchase through the Wildcat Shop.

The Wildcat Shop switched from self-serve textbook buying and rental to a full-service desk in fall 2017. Students are presented with a list of textbooks according to their professors’ recommendations. They can choose to rent, buy or not purchase their books. The books are then gathered from the shelves by a staff member and taken to the register.

Textbooks and course materials can be ordered on the Wildcat Shop website. The books can either be shipped to the buyer or for pickup in-store. According to the website, orders usually take two to three days to process but can take longer during the rush at the beginning of each quarter. There is a separate service counter for online orders at the back of the store.

Both new, used and rental textbooks are offered at the Wildcat Shop. Used books are sorted with a yellow “used” sticker on the spine. Used books are often cheaper than new textbooks but are not always available. Rented textbooks must be returned by the first Monday following finals week of the quarter they were rented for. The Wildcat Shop does not accept late returns.
Fixing climate change begins with you

By Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

Climate change is real, and it’s a problem. While there are still plenty of climate change deniers, including the President of the United States, it’s difficult to dispute concrete facts and evidence. According to NASA, the rate of Antarctic ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade. Global sea levels have risen about eight inches in the last century, with the rate in the last two decades nearly doubling that of the last century. The acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent, and the amount of carbon dioxide being absorbed into the upper layer of our oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year. Although our president may disagree, climate change is an issue that affects all of us. It is time to take personal responsibility for the environment and take steps towards leading a more sustainable lifestyle.

One of the biggest things you can do to live sustainably is to avoid consuming meat and dairy. A recent study published in the journal “Science” suggests that the meat and dairy industry is the most significant factor driving climate change. The industry also makes a considerable negative impact on air and water pollution, land use, deforestation and fresh water use. In fact, the livestock industry generates more carbon emissions than the entire transportation sector combined, and it takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce a single pound of beef. While going vegan or vegetarian is a major lifestyle change that many are not yet willing to make, just consuming less animal products and more plant-based foods is the best way to make a positive impact on the environment. Consider “meatless Mondays,” in which you choose not to eat meat for one day each week. Choosing a plant-based diet for just one day a week makes a significant impact when it comes to reducing your carbon footprint and conserving natural resources.

Aside from avoiding animal products, there are several other actions you can take to reduce your impact on the environment. You can choose to walk, bike or take public transportation to work or school. You can reduce plastic waste by using reusable bags, bottles and straws. About 18 million pounds of plastic waste flows into our oceans from coastal regions each year, and by using reusable items you can help to reduce this number. Be conscious of packaging waste, especially when it comes to food, and choose products with minimal packaging. About 40 percent of plastic produced goes towards packaging, which is used just once and then discarded. Conserve water by taking shorter showers, and turn off the tap when brushing your teeth; this alone can save about five gallons of water per day, which is the equivalent of 1.5 billion gallons of water across the U.S. if each person participates.

Save electricity by turning off lights and unplugging devices when they’re not in use, and swap out regular light bulbs in your household for energy efficient bulbs. Recycle whenever possible and start a compost bin. You can also choose to buy local products, which will help to eliminate the carbon emissions that come from the transportation of goods, and pick items and foods that are sustainably sourced when you go grocery shopping.

The best thing you can do to help the environment is to stay informed and be vocal. Don’t be afraid to educate others about the impacts that they are making on the planet and what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint. If we as a society want to make moves towards environmental conservation and sustainable living, the change needs to start with you.
By Jack Belcher
Sports Editor

I am afraid that no matter what I say, no matter what facts I use, people who don't believe in vaccines will refuse to listen to logic.

It seems that people who don't believe in vaccines only want to listen to whatever facts already support their opinions, and are more concerned with proving themselves right than finding the truth.

I could say that there are currently 66 confirmed cases of measles in the state of Washington. I could cite the Washington Post and say that most of these cases are located in Clark County, a place where nearly 8 percent of children had gotten exemptions from vaccines.

I could speak from experience in that I have been vaccinated, and have been given all of my shots, yet I don't have autism or any other “symptom” of vaccination, other than never having been diagnosed with measles, mumps or rubella. But still, anti-vaxxers will say that I am an exemption, and that I have been very lucky to not get autism from these vaccinations.

I could say that the idea that vaccines cause autism started when a man named Andrew Wakefield created a study to test if the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine caused autism. His study did find a link between autism and vaccines, but his paper was soon discredited and he lost his medical license.

It was also proven that Wakefield manipulated the results of the study. I could look back at the history of measles in the U.S. and point out that it was the leading cause of death in children, with over 6,000 reported fatalities each year.

This was until the first vaccine was invented in 1963. After the vaccine was perfected, measles was officially eliminated (there was a continued absense of disease transmission for over 12 months) from the U.S. in the year 2000.

However, due to parents not vaccinating their children, measles has returned to the U.S. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency, and the current number of measles victims is at 66.

People will argue that it is their choice, and that if they want to avoid a shot and risk getting measles than they should have that right. To be completely honest this is a good argument, why should people not be allowed to control what goes into their bodies?

However, I would argue that getting vaccinated is not just about protecting yourself or your own children, it is about protecting your entire community against a possible outbreak of measles.

The outbreak of 66 cases of measles in Clark County Washington has already cost the state over a million dollars. This is money out of the taxpayers pockets, sent to fight a disease that we have already eliminated.

I would also like to ask people who are against vaccinations: "Why?" Why do you believe that a vaccination will cause autism despite the mounting evidence against any link between the two? Do you think it is a conspiracy to "infect" people with autism? Do you think that it is a mistake that doctors are allowed to control what goes into a child's life.

I would also like to point out that people who are against vaccines: "Why?" Why do you believe that a vaccine is lying about vaccines? Why do you think people with autism? Do you think that it is a mistake that doctors are allowed to control what goes into a child's life?

Once you are infected there is a 90 percent chance that you will become infected. The vaccine only prevents people from getting the disease, and that once a person is infected it is much harder to treat, thus making it very important that people get vaccinated as early as possible. Being diagnosed with measles is tragic, simply because it is a preventable illness that could affect the rest of a child's life.

I am afraid that no matter what I say, no matter what facts I use, people who don't believe in vaccines will refuse to listen to logic.
Dynamic duos make a lasting mark at CWU

By Bryce Weedman
Staff Reporter

Many of us have a brother or sister, or best friend that we count as one of our siblings. Some of us have even been lucky enough to play a sport with them growing up. Consider the opportunity to play at the next level in collegiate sports with your brother or sister, or even your best friend. On the same team, in the same sport. There is something special and unique about playing a sport with a sibling or best friend, rather than just a normal teammate. It’s not only fun for the players, it’s a great story for the fans as well. These special players are called a “dynamic duo.”

"Sometimes coming to a new team can be uncomfortable because we don’t know anyone, but I have."

-Yi-An Pan, CWU baseball

CWU has a couple of these dynamic duos. If you’ve watched any women’s basketball in the last three years, then you may have noticed a blossoming duo on the court. Junior forward Taylor Shaw and senior guard Sadie Mensing have a strong relationship on and off the court. The relationship started back when Shaw was a freshman and Mensing a sophomore.

“We are pretty much the same person in all aspects,” Shaw said. “We are pretty funny too, like really funny.” They share the same passion for the game on the court as they do their friendship off the court, and that helps them to feel more comfortable on game day. Sometimes as an athlete, one just needs to have that person to push them in the right direction even when it seems like one isn’t doing one’s best, and that’s the kind of relationship that Mensing and Shaw have.

“Shaw gives me the tough love when I need it, and that’s something I’m not really great at,” Mensing said. “I think maybe I should be worrying more for me. Shaw does that for me,” Shaw said. “So it like a good a balance between us.”

Interestingly enough, the two have never had a moment where they’ve both scored a large amount of points in the same game. It seems that it’s one or the other who has a great game, which might be why both of these athletes seem to fit well together when playing on the court as they do their friend off the court.

“I think Sadie worries more for me. I think when maybe I should be worrying, Sadie does that for me,” Shaw said. “We are pretty much the same person in all aspects,” Shaw said. “We are honest with each other and created a bond beyond the sport.”

The interesting thing about team sports is that it’s not just one person who gets the job done, it’s the whole team. Every piece of the team comes together to back each other up and be successful. Having players that have not only played with each other their whole life, but who have lived with each other and created a bond beyond the sport can help to build trust on the field.

“We are just comfortable with each other,” Yi-An Pan said. “Sometimes coming to a new team can be uncomfortable, because we don’t know anyone, but I have him.”

The effective way to make the plays. “Last year was the first time we didn’t play together because he tore his ACL,” Yi-An Pan said. “It was a little bit different, but I got used to it.”

"Sometimes accepting a scholarship to play at the next level means signing with a school far away from family and friends. There is a lot of stress when you have to start a new life playing college sports in a new state or country. That is what the Pan Brothers did when they decided to accept a scholarship to play college baseball for CWU. Yi-An Pan and Yi-Fan Pan are both juniors at CWU coming from Langley, British Columbia, Canada. Two brothers moving this far to play a sport together is something not typically seen at the Division II level. The pressures of moving so far away can be softened by having your twin brother on the team with you.

"We are honest with each other and there is no sugar coating with us because some coaches will try to be nice, but not with us. “Yi-An Pan said.

Most would wonder if two players that have always played on the same team year after year, would be able to make the adjustment to play separately on a different team, or without the other being able to play. That’s just what happened last year when Yi-Fan Pan tore his ACL.

"Last year was the first time we didn’t play together because he tore his ACL,” Yi-An Pan said. “It was a little bit different, but I got used to it.”

MLB.com says that one of the most successful dynamic duos in baseball history was Ken Griffey Senior and Ken Griffey Junior, which was a father son duo. Since then, there haven’t been many siblings or family members to play on the same team in college or professional levels which is why the Pan brothers have something to be proud of.

"We just trust each other,” Yi-Fan Pan said. “It’s not that I don’t trust my other teammates, but I know he’s always going to make the plays.”

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Men’s basketball to miss 2019 postseason

By Dez Rodriguez
Senior Reporter

The CWU men’s basketball team faced many obstacles at the start of the 2018-2019 season. Newly hired head coach Brandon Rinta embarked on his first year at CWU after previously coaching at Lewis-Clark State College for seven seasons. He started by revamping the roster, bringing 10 new faces to the team including true freshmen Zellie Hudson, Lewis Pope, Matt Poquette and Marcus Austin, all of which have contributed to a young roster filled with high potential for next season.

“We have a solid core of young guys that were thrown into the fire this year,” Rinta said. “They have kept improving all year and I think it’s only going to pay off in the long run.”

As it sits now, CWU is 11-15 overall and 5-13 in the GNAC with only two games left to play in the season. Only the top six teams at the end of the regular season get a berth to the GNAC Basketball Championships in Bellingham, Washington beginning March 7. Unfortunately, CWU’s record won’t be good enough to earn a bid this season.

The team is averaging 81.1 points per game, setting them at third in the GNAC. However, they’re tenth in the conference, giving up 81.1 points per game while being outrebounded 36.8 to 33.5. These are two main focuses that Rinta will continue to build on for next season.

“I think the emphasis that we’ve had all year has been defending and rebounding,” Rinta said. “That’s probably the biggest area that we need to improve on going forward.”

Junior newcomers Gamaun Boykin (12.3) and Jeryn Lucas (11.7) lead the team in points per game. For the freshmen, Poquette and Hudson have appeared in all 26 games so far, while Austin and Pope are right behind them with 25. The team has a promising future, with only three seniors set to graduate this June.

“This is one of the closest teams I’ve had since I’ve been playing basketball,” Pope said. “Right now, I’m just trying to learn as much as I can from the seniors because they’ve been through all of this.”

The team finishes their regular season at home vs Seattle Pacific University (Feb. 28) and Saint Martin’s University (March 2), two teams that have already clinched a playoff berth. Coming down the stretch, Poquette believes the strong bond the team has built will finish strong and continue through next season with the addition of incoming recruits.

“For having a completely new team at the start of the year, it felt like we’ve been playing together our whole lives,” Poquette said. “It’s been really fun getting to play with these group of guys.”

No matter where the team finishes in the standings at the end of the season, the experiences the young team has gone through together will help to build strong chemistry on and off of the court.

“We’re going to have a better feel moving to next year with who can do what and what people’s roles are going to be,” Rinta said.

Final games
• vs. Seattle Pacific University (Feb. 28)
• vs. Saint Martin’s University (March 2)

Fitness courses at CWU gaining interest amongst students

By Dez Rodriguez
Senior Reporter

For those students looking to get active while earning school credits, CWU provides an opportunity to pursue exercise as a part of their daily routines. They have a wide array of fitness courses that are designed to offer students different workouts with various levels of intensity to best suit their needs. The classes are broken up into five distinctive categories spread through different times of the year, and spots fill up quickly.

Active participation is essential for students looking to pass the class, so attendance is crucial. Some activity classes have an additional fee. This is to cover the use of equipment such as weights and the workout facilities used around campus. Some classes like bicycling and tennis require students to provide their own equipment.

For those students looking to get active without any additional cost or a quarterly fee, the Group X program is free of charge, since it’s now included in a student’s recreation membership fee. If three or fewer people are in attendance, then the class will be canceled and will resume on the next scheduled day. The different categories of classes are also seasonal. They are offered at different times of the year, and spots fill up quickly.

A variety of fitness courses are offered every quarter for CWU students. These courses may only be one credit, but provide a great opportunity for students to get into shape and meet new people.

Men’s basketball will look to close out their season with one final homestand when they host Seattle Pacific University on Feb. 28, followed by Saint Martin’s University on March 2.

Senior Reporter
By Dez Rodriguez

February 28, 2019

Shawna Hettick/The Observer

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Dez Rodriguez/The Observer

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OPR takes on Meadow Mountain snowshoeing

By Tianbai Dun
Staff Reporter

CWU’s Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) will hold another snowshoe activity in the eastern Cascade Mountains on March 2.

OPR staff member Kendall Kramer said that the OPR staff chose Meadow Mountain as their destination because they would prefer to stay local. Meadow Mountain ended up being the best opportunity to get off campus and go outside to try something new because the trip will provide a great setting for students to socialize with fellow participants.

According to Kramer, there is a pre-trip meeting scheduled to take place on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. Kramer said that the meeting will provide information on safety precautions and an overview of what to bring and expect on the trip. Kramer added that this is also a great time for students to raise any questions or concerns they may have about the trip.

“It is the beginning and intermediate level, and the trip leaders will help to use the ski sets, so students do not need to worry about it,” Kramer said.

Kramer also said that the trip will cost $32 for CWU students and $39 for non-students. The trip departs at 10 a.m. from the OPR office and gets back to campus at around 6 p.m. If students want to get more information about OPR adventure trips, they can go to the OPR office which is connected to the SURC and located to the left of the east patio off 11th street.

GNAC standings: Winter sports 2019

**Men's basketball**
- Saint Martin's 22-4
- Northwest Nazarene 19-5
- Seattle Pacific 17-6
- Western Oregon 19-8
- Simon Fraser 14-11
- Western Washington 14-13
- Alaska Anchorage 13-13
- Montana State Billings 13-13
- Central Washington 11-15
- Concordia 9-17
- Alaska Fairbanks 5-20

**Women's basketball**
- Alaska Anchorage 25-1
- Northwest Nazarene 25-1
- Simon Fraser 17-8
- Central Washington 16-9
- Concordia 14-12
- Western Washington 14-12
- Montana State Billings 11-13
- Seattle Pacific 8-17
- Western Oregon 7-17
- Saint Martin's 6-20
- Alaska Fairbanks 4-20

**Baseball**
- Western Oregon 1-0
- Saint Martin's 4-5
- Central Washington 3-4
- Concordia 2-6
- Northwest Nazarene 1-3
- Montana State Billings 0-4

**Softball**
- Western Oregon 3-0
- Simon Fraser 5-1
- Central Washington 7-4
- Northwest Nazarene 9-5
- Western Washington 6-5
- Saint Martin's 6-6
- Montana State Billings 6-7
- Concordia 5-8

Standings updated as of Tuesday, Feb. 26

Release your inner Wildcat

- Men's basketball vs. Saint Martin's (March 2)
- Women's basketball @ Alaska Anchorage (March 2)
- Baseball @ Saint Martin's (Mar. 2-3)
- Softball vs. Northwest Nazarene (March 8-9)
- Men's rugby vs. Colorado State (March 9)
- Women's rugby vs. Brigham Young (March 9)
When Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive is your plan a, you don’t need a plan b.

1-in-2 women may need to use emergency contraception. And when that time comes, Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive from the makers of Vagisil® is here to help you take control. Use as directed within 72 hours of unprotected sex or birth control failure to help prevent pregnancy before it starts.

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For more information visit Preventeza.com
### Ellensburg weekly weather forecast

- **Thursday**: 34/15°F, Mostly sunny with a high of 34. Low of 15.
- **Friday**: 34/16°F, Mostly sunny with a high of 34. Low of 16.
- **Saturday**: 30/12°F, Sunny with a high of 30. Low of 12.
- **Sunday**: 29/11°F, Mostly sunny with a high of 29. Low of 11.
- **Monday**: 29/11°F, Mostly sunny with a high of 29. Low of 11.
- **Tuesday**: 30/12°F, Mostly sunny with a high of 30.

Data sourced from forecast.weather.gov. Information current as of publication date. Weather subject to change.

### This week in Observer history

On Feb. 25 1988, CWU students and faculty wanted to regulate the speed of bicyclists and skateboarders on campus.

The Board of Trustees voted earlier in the week to regulate bikes on campus. One suggestion to enforce these new rules was posting a policeman on Walnut Mall to monitor students who were riding too fast. Another suggestion was to create a separate bike path on campus.

Administrators also considered the idea of making it unlawful to skateboard on campus. Those who did not comply would be cited for trespassing. Another suggestion was to start wearing a dunce cap to class. That way, the students paid to spy on you will quietly begin undoing the damage this situation has undoubtedly done to your social life and mental stability.

### Trivia from this issue

1. **How many pounds of water does it take to produce a single pound of beef?**

2. **Prior to 1963, how many people died of measles annually?**

3. **Why did Ellensburg Timothy Hay farmers begin fumigating their crop in the 1970s?**

4. **What year did Ian Shoemaker begin coaching CWU football?**

### 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,**

I think I’m going to fail my finals. What’s the best way for me to do damage control on my GPA while still putting in a medium-to-low amount of effort?

Sincerely,

Almost Failing

**Dear Almost Failing,**

Well, for starters, it sounds like your work ethic is just top-notch, so your current predicament definitely isn’t due to your slacking off all quarter, right?

Now that we’ve established that you’re a model student, the only underlying cause that might be behind your struggles is a school-wide conspiracy to sabotage your academic progress. The sheer power your brain holds would be a danger to the status quo if it were to be fully developed, which is why The Man is out to dumb you down and prevent you from learning. I’ll bet your professors don’t have office hours to attend, and post exactly none of their assignments on canvas. Or maybe all your humanitarian work is taking up too much of your time, so you decided to put the starving orphans above your studies on your list of priorities. Either way, you’re clearly being unfairly treated.

The quickest fix I can think of is to start wearing a dunce cap to class. That way, the students paid to spy on you will think you’ve already been successfully dumbed-down. Their goal achieved, your professors ought to return to their regular teaching policies, and you can quietly begin undoing the damage this situation has undoubtedly done to your social life and mental stability.

Or just start studying, what do I know?

Sincerely,

Rune

### Call for reader work

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 5-6 p.m. for inquiries.