Coffee beans and big dreams

D&M Coffee owners Donna Malek and Mark Holloway started the company in a scamp van. Today, they have five locations in Ellensburg and own multiple businesses in town.

On April 5 at 1 p.m. the protest group Patriot Prayer stood in front of Black Hall to voice their opinions on primarily First and Second Amendment rights. The group held American and "Don't Tread on Me" flags. About 100 people attended the event.

Counter protesters were present. People were handing out earplugs, candy, bubbles and chalk to write messages on the concrete outside of Black Hall. At one point, there was a group of people playing a game of hacky sack.

According to a statement by President James L. Gaudino on April 1, Patriot Prayer is not considered a hate-based organization, but others representing extremes on both sides of the political spectrum have used Patriot Prayer events to draw attention to different subjects.

Gaudino spoke on free speech in regards to the organization protesting at CWU.

"I remind you that while Patriot Prayer has the right of free speech, each of you has the right to decide whether to engage or not to engage with members of the group," Gaudino said in the statement.

CWU Police were present on campus during the event. "Our role today with any type of activity on campus is to make sure that everybody has the ability to express their views in a safe manner," CWU Chief of Police Jason Berthon-Koch said.

In the past, Patriot Prayer has worked with police departments. Some students questioned if CWU Police were present to protect Patriot Prayer as a priority.

"We're not here to support one group or the other, we're neutral and that's what we do," Berthon-Koch said. "To make sure that we provide a safe area for people to voice and use their first amendment.

Some students held signs during the open debate. Hannah Oliver held a sign that said, "Ignore them come pet my dog" and brought her dog for people to pet. In about 30 minutes, Oliver said about 50 people pet her dog.

Continued on Page 8

New offensive coordinator looks to make impact on and off the field

The CWU football team has had much success in the past couple seasons. Since 2016, the team is 21-3 in GNAC conference games, including a perfect 8-0 record in the GNAC in 2017. Part of CWU's successful football team is their offense, and that's what new Offensive Coordinator Kelly Bills will be taking control of.

Bills spent five seasons as an assistant coach for Brigham Young University (BYU), two seasons as an offensive coordinator at Willamette University, one season as an assistant coach at Utah State University and three seasons as an assistant coach at Weber State University.

Wildcat head coach Chris Fisk has known Bills since his time as an assistant coach at BYU. Fisk knew as soon as he became the head coach for CWU this offseason that Bills was one of the top candidates for the offensive coordinator spot.

Continued on Page 13
On Monday, there was a small unity rally on the Science lawn put on by ME-CHA. One of our online & social media managers covered the event.

I attended all Patriot Prayer events except for the event at Memorial Park. I was informed that very few people showed up for the event. Overall, there was minor interaction with Patriot Prayer other than students during the first gun rights open debate on Friday.

I'm proud of the way The Observer staff has covered the immense amount of tough topics this school year.

On another note, The Observer staff has brought home four Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence awards. Washington state is in SPJ's Region 10, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Jack Lambert - Photo Illustration, large schools (10,000+ students)
Mariah Valles - General Column Writing, large schools (10,000+ students)
Eric Rosane - General News Reporting, large schools (10,000+ students)
Austin Lane - Sports Column Writing, large schools (10,000+ students)
Alexa Murdock - General Column Writing, large schools (10,000+ students)
Hanson Lee - In-Depth Reporting, large schools (10,000+ students)

I'm proud of the awards we've brought home, and look forward to improving more and more.

Best,
Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief
Distinguished alumni honored at banquet

Nick Tucker
Senior News Reporter

CWU alumni were recognized for their achievement and philanthropy at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on April 5. After pleasantries and dinner, board member of the CWU Alumni Association, Jada Rapley, opened the award ceremony, saying “welcome home” to the many dozens of CWU alumni and their guests. The first awards of the night were the 4 Under 40 Leadership Awards, given to CWU alumni under 40 years old who are making outstanding progress in their career and contributing to their communities.

Jason Goetz, who graduated in the class of 2001 who now works as the commercial software engineering HR lead for Microsoft, Nolan Teasley who graduated in the class of 2007, currently the director of pro personnel for the Seahawks in the Seattle area. He credits CWU and specifically the construction management program with giving him the skills he needed to succeed, such as an attention to detail and a work ethic towards accomplishing his dreams.

“It’s a great honor to be a part of [the 4 Under 40], for me personally it comes from the school that helped me progress my career and now they’re turning around and recognizing the accomplishment that have been made, it means a lot,” Goetz said.

Also honored with the 4 Under 40 Award were Jennifer Schwope from the class of 2001 who now works as the commercial software engineering HR lead for Microsoft, Nolan Teasley who graduated in the class of 2007, currently the director of pro personnel for the Seahawks in the Seattle area. He credits CWU and specifically the construction management program with giving him the skills he needed to succeed, such as an attention to detail and a work ethic towards accomplishing his dreams.

The first awards of the night were the 4 Under 40 Leadership Awards, given to CWU alumni under 40 years old who are making outstanding progress in their career and contributing to their communities.

Next was recognition of the classes of 1968 and 1969 who were hosting a reunion as a part of the alumni dinner. CWU Provost Katherine Frank invited members of the two classes.

Robert Dowlie who graduated in the class of 1969 recalls his time in Muzzall Hall which has since been torn down. He shared the hall with the current US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, who he said he “didn’t know that well but well enough that he signed my birthday card.” Dowlie says that his floor is one of the only ones that has kept in contact over the years and regularly holds reunions.

“It’s been 50 years since I graduated and that means a heck of a lot. A lot’s happened to the country and to us graduates in the last 50 years,” Dowlie said. “The campus has changed tremendously and I hope they’ve invested as much as construction because it is, after all, a learning institution.”

Distinguished Alumni Awards were then presented to Rachel Harry from the class of 2004, Amy Hanson from the class of 1990, Teresa King from the class of 2002 and Scott McGuane from the class of 1995.

In 2017 Harry, a teacher at Hood River Valley High School in Hood River, Oregon, became the third person to win a Tony Award for theater education. "The only reason I’m here is because of the Tony Award," Harry said. "And maybe not all, but 65-70 percent of the reason I was on that stage at Radio City Music Hall is because of my CWU education." Ben and Nancy Remak were present the Philanthropists of the Year award for their contributions to CWU students in the form of the Ben and Nancy Remak Scholarship. This scholarship has allowed many students to attend CWU when they otherwise would not be able to due to financial obstacles.

"As long as we have the ability to do so, we will continue to do so," Nancy Remak said concerning her family's donations. CWU President James Gaudino concluded the evening by presenting the Alumni of the Year Award to Doug and Sharon Andrews. President Gaudino remarked on the pride CWU holds for its alumni, saying: "We like hanging our distinguished alumni from our flagspoles."
Degree checkout springing towards graduation

Lind Hall construction to make the building cooler

Construction in Lind Hall has blocked off one of the first floor entrances as contractors replace the old steel windows. The project is being run by Construction Coordinator for CWU Facilities, Bill Levensis. Levensis said that the windows won’t change the look of the hall, they’ll just be made of different materials.

“We’re putting a window in that kind of mimics what was there originally,” Levensis said. “We’re putting in a window with a better energy rating, kind of kill two birds.”

Levensis leads a team of six to eight contractors. According to Lovell, combatting the heat is going to be a multi-step process. After windows are installed, the next step is an air conditioning system for the hall. According to Lovell, the old ones have seen their day, “We’ve got a real issue with heat, during the summer the sun comes right through that whole side of Lind. Those are 1/8th-inch glass panes and they really let in the heat and trap it,” Lovell said. “The new ones are Low-E thermal panes windows that will cut down a huge amount of that heat.”

Construction is supposed to last until around mid-June according to both Lovell and the head contractor Matthew Levensis. Levensis says that the windows won’t change the look of the hall, they’ll just be made of different materials. “We’re putting a window in that kind of mimics what was there originally, the old ones have seen their day,” Levensis said. “We’re putting in a window with a better energy rating, kind of kill two birds.”

Levensis leads a team of six to eight contractors and said that CWU has allocated about $600,000 for the project overall. “It’s easier because they don’t need to be relocated. The ones that have been relocated have been put in Hebler 105,” Lovell said. “They should be applying well in advance for graduation.”

Applying for graduation

Students must apply for graduation the quarter that they expect to finish all of their degree requirements. If a senior has an internship to complete during the summer, then they should apply for graduation summer graduation. This can be done in person at degree checkout room 140 in Bouillon or online through MyCWU. The deadline for submitting graduation applications is 5 p.m. on the second Friday of the quarter before students expect to complete their degree. Malella said applications received after the deadline can only be processed for the following quarter. Applying for graduation costs $50 and can be paid at the cashier’s office or online via MyCWU. Should a student have any education petitions, it must be completed prior to applying for graduation.

Application process

As applications come in, a report is printed of the applicants that have applied online. Sarah King, student office assistant at degree checkout, records students’ application information, posts the charges on their accounts and takes the student files to the appropriate evaluator.

“I recommend students to come in person. Typically if they apply on paper, it gets processed much faster than our online query,” King said. “We pick a certain day and we’ll run it all the way through the last time our query was run, so those who applied online might not see their fee posted for a couple of weeks.”

The applications are then run through two sets of reviews by the credit evaluators. The first review looks at transfer credits and repeat reports, according to Malilla. This review makes sure the students are meeting their major requirements. The second review starts after the add/drop period passes for classes. This review is to make sure the student is taking the correct classes that they planned out. This is also where they receive the permit to substitute class requests after reviewing the faculty advisor, department of chair and the dean’s signatures. Students must be enrolled in or have already taken the class in order for the substitution to go through. It can take 4-6 weeks for the request to arrive at degree checkout, so getting started early is highly encouraged by Malilla.

“Once their evaluator gets their file and places them in review, it locks up their account so that we can do an official review and tell them what’s still needed for them to graduate six months down the road,” Malilla said. “They should be applying well in advance for graduation.”

Commencement

According to Malilla, the number of graduation applications is well over 1,700 this year. CWU’s 2019 Commencement will take place on Saturday, June 8. The ceremony for arts and humanities will start at 9:30 a.m. along with sciences. Business, education and professional studies will start at 2 p.m.

Summer degree applicants are able to participate in the commencement ceremony, but are not eligible to receive an honors tassel. For those students with a 3.5 GPA and above, honors tassels are available for pickup at the degree checkout office with their student IDs. The cap and gown must be purchased at the Wildcat Shop in order to participate in the ceremony. Commencement registration is available online through the CWU Bookstore website at https://cwucardshop.net/. Diplomas will be mailed to home addresses and can take 8-10 weeks after the end of the quarter to arrive, according to King.

Central Transit

Your Public Transit

Ellensburg’s Central Transit delivers fare-free public transit services. It connects to Ellensburg’s historic downtown, area retailers, parks, health care facilities and other regional transit providers including the Yakima Commuter, Appelline, Grant Transit, Greyhound and the Bellair Shuttle. Visit us online at https://ellensburg.wa.us/centraltransit

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About our services:
- Easy to ride
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D&M owners expanded in community

Continued from Page 1

According to the History of D&M Coffee Inc., they purchased and converted an old scamp van into a mobile espresso bar in 1990, the first of its kind in Ellensburg. Malek and Holloway would think about how to grow their business in the van.

"[We] basically went with Donna's savings and my MacGyver creativity," Holloway said.

At the Gorge Amphitheatre, they sold coffee during concerts, as well as across the street from CWU's campus during the weekdays. Just a year later, they opened their first main location at the old Wippel Service Station on Main Street.

"All our friends were like, 'You're going to do drive-thru coffee? That's crazy,'" Holloway said.

Holloway said at the time there were very few drive-thru coffee shops let alone espresso machines in Ellensburg at the time.

Despite the lack of encouragement from friends, the location thrived and the two were able to start roasting their own coffee shortly after. The small company went from distributing through a regional distribution company to eventually taking full control of their own distribution network, 10 years after opening their first location.

Malek said D&M's unique perspective towards coffee is part of what makes it so special.

"When we roast our coffees, we approach the coffee bean like it's an individual," Malek said. "We don't just roast coffee. We treat it like it's a little piece of art."

Even through the many years together not only as husband and wife, but co-business owners, Malek and Holloway remained close.

"When you're a couple, you always want to rise each other up and move forward," Malek said. "We as a couple, neither one of us came from money. No one paid our ways. We've always been super good at work and we both are hard workers."

Their passion allowed their business to grow, as today their wholesale business has accounts spanning from Alaska to Montana to Japan according to the History of D&M Coffee Inc.

In addition to their work in coffee production, Holloway and Malek have gone into other business ventures. In 2013, the two opened Cornerstone Pie, a pizza restaurant in town. The reason behind the creation of the food place was clear to the owners.

"Our goal with starting Cornerstone has always been bringing something fun and unique to Ellensburg," Holloway said.

Malek and Holloway opened Cornerstone Pie because the couple enjoyed going to places when they were out of town. The fire-roasted pizza place has live music sporadically on an outdoor patio area and serves D&M coffee.

The work by Malek, Holloway and their staff has not gone unnoticed. In the near 30 years the couple have been business owners, they have won numerous awards. According to the History of D&M Coffee Inc., in 2006, the coffee shop was a recipient of Kittitas County Economic Development Group's Business of the Year Award. In 2015, Cornerstone Pie was listed as #2 by Fodor's Travel Guide in the Central Washington region. More recently in 2018, Malek and Holloway were awarded the Community Diversity Award at the 2018 Diversity! Awards.

"The community part is big for me," Holloway said. "I like the diversity that the university brings to our community."

Inside their main downtown store, college students Scott Engelhart and Kyersten Hunt stand by the barista, smiling with coffee in hands. They frequent D&M because of their love for the product.

"I really like the setting and being able to get off-campus but also see familiar faces and students that you see everyday," Hunt said.

The two CWU students explained that they make frequent trips to D&M to stay in touch with friends who work there.

"You can go to Starbucks but it's not really the same," Engelhart said. "It's the environment I guess too. It's the whole vibe. I like it because it's more kind of homie than kind of corporate-this."

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Iron Cat Games incorporates elements of CrossFit

The Iron Cat Games started April 1 and will run through May 13. Students will compete in high intensity exercises for the chance to win prizes.

Emma Johnson
Staff Reporter

As CrossFit becomes more and more popular in the fitness realm, CWU is working to incorporate more of those people in the recreation community and events.

“CrossFit is a type of work-out and/or community that has become more popular I would say in the past five to seven years,” Claire Cox, the marketing or community that has become more popular in the fitness realm, CWU is working to incorporate more of those people in the recreation community and events.

“CrossFit is a type of work-out and/or community that has become more popular I would say in the past five to seven years,” Claire Cox, the marketing and health programming coordinator at CWU, said.

The CWU Recreation Center has incorporated what is now called the “Iron Cat Games.”

Brian Harvey is a health programming intern at the Recreation Center. Cox is also involved in the Iron Cat Games as she oversees Harvey and all of the personal trainers and group fitness instructors for the Recreation Center. The games were a combination of the efforts of Harvey, Cox and Jordan Bishop who oversee intramurals and special events that the Recreation Center puts on.

“It’s a little bit more CrossFit like, it’s a bit of a niche community that we wanted to appeal to,” Cox said.

“It’s even more appealing because the competitors get exposed to the Cat Den, which is a room normally used for group classes and personal training sessions.”

“It allows us to get the general population up there so we can expose them to what we have to offer,” Cox said.

“It’s gonna test their strength, endurance, see how fast they can get things done, and how many rounds they can complete,” Harvey said.

Harvey and Cox decided to set up an event that spanned once a week for a little over a month to find the strongest, endurance driven athletes out there. For every workout, there is a points system, and the number of points the competitor has will tell which place they are in. The points will then be averaged out at the end of the competition, and whoever has the highest number of points out of the men and women’s sections respectively will win prizes.

First place gets 100 points for each category, and the point system will decrease in value every place lower. Harvey and Cox decided to do the Iron Cat Games because they wanted to target students who are interested in CrossFit. The response for the Iron Cat Games from the CWU students was “slow at first” according to Harvey, but now more people seem to be interested in the event. Harvey is hopeful that if the Recreation Center were to hold the Iron Cat Games next year there would be more of a following.

“This is the first time so we don’t really know what to expect,” said Harvey.

Some of the workouts the students will be doing are box jumps, kettlebell swings, deadlifts, box and circuit type workouts that will be judged by time or rounds. CrossFit is a “combination of both High Intensity Interval Training training (HIIT), as well as strength training too, with some Olympic-type lifts and more complex body movements.”

What the competitors will expect is something similar to what would be seen at a CrossFit games event, but the difference is that CWU’s personal trainers will be programming all of the workouts, giving them an opportunity to get a different kind of learning experience, as well as exposing different people to the Cat Den.

“It’s all high intensive,” Harvey said.

“The faster you go, the harder you go, the more exertion you’re gonna have and you’re gonna get tired out quickly.”

“Their idea is to verify the best of the best,” Harvey said.

There will be a first, second and third place for both the men and women categories. The first place will receive a gift card for the Wildcat Shop. The winner will receive an Intramural Champion shirt and a pair of Wildcat socks, while second place will receive a pair of socks.

According to Bishop, previous esport events have included Madden NFL, NBA 2K and Fortnite. The FIFA tournaments, which were first held in spring and fall quarter last year, have been the most popular so far with the largest turnout of 28 people.

“We start to see familiar faces come to our events,” Bishop said.

He added that whether it’s a “gam- ing-specific crowd, or a sport-specific crowd,” people with a common passion in esports come together to have fun and to compete against each other.

Akira Wong, a sophomore in biology, said he went to the first and second FIFA tournaments after reading about it in the Hype magazine.

“I never got far, but it was fun,” Wong said.

“But it’s also intense, you know. Everyone’s trying to win.”

Wong, who plays competitive soccer in real life soccer, said he went to the first and second FIFA tournaments after reading about it in the Hype magazine.

“I never got far, but it was fun,” Wong said.

“But it’s also intense, you know. Everyone’s trying to win.”

Wong, who plays competitive soccer

Students compete for prizes in esports tournament

Mary Park
Staff Reporter

Cristiano Ronaldo’s face on posters around campus announced a call for gamers. The call was for FIFA 19 players and Rocket League players, the newest addition to the esports events that have been held on campus.

While FIFA needs little introduction, Rocket League, which is basically soccer with cars, is much newer. However, its popularity rivals that of the decades-old classic in the esports world.

The upcoming competition hosted by CWU Recreation will be held on April 11 for FIFA, and on April 18 for Rocket League. Both tournaments will take place from 6-10 p.m. in SURC 201 and 202.

Jordan Bishop is the coordinator of intramurals and special events at the Recreation Center, and is the organizer of the event.

“It’s free to join, so all you have to do is show up,” Bishop said.

Anyone with a CWU Recreation membership can pre-register on imleagues.com/cwu, but those who haven’t registered can do so at the doors from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on the day of their chosen event.

“We’re going to start with pool play so that no one is getting eliminated right off the start,” Bishop said. “We value play, and we want everyone to get a solid amount of game time.”

Competitors will play simultaneous games on four consoles to help speed up the process and limit the downtime between transitions.

The top competitors from each pool will be put into a single elimination bracket in a battle to determine the champion.

The winner will receive an Intramural Champion shirt and a pair of Wildcat socks, while second place will receive a pair of socks.

According to Bishop, previous esport events have included Madden NFL, Hype magazine.

“I never got far, but it was fun,” Wong said.

“But it’s also intense, you know. Everyone’s trying to win.”

Wong, who plays competitive soccer
Pre-Med Club attends conference, brings back knowledge

By Mariah Valles

Editor-in-Chief

Being a member in a club on campus is something Pre-Medical Club President Marie-Helen Willis and club member Scott Engelhart say will lead to extended resources and opportunities.

Ten members of the Pre-Medical Club attended the American Medical Student Association conference in Washington D.C. from March 6-10. This conference offered keynotes, workshops, sessions and resources to prepare students for medical school.

The club fundraised about $500 by selling hot cocoa, Krispy Kreme doughnuts and valentines in order to work their way to D.C. It was a requirement for the 10 students who wanted to attend the conference to help fundraise.

"It makes every member who is going kind of work for it...it shows their commitment to going," Willis said. Engelhart volunteered about 37 hours of his time to volunteering and organizing the trip.

Engelhart was in a car accident about four years ago. He said his experience with physicians during that time inspired his interest in working in the medical field. His dream job is to become a trauma surgeon.

Willis said that when a student decides to pursue a medical job, they should join the Pre-Medical Club.

"You come into contact with a lot of other pre-med students who are maybe farther along than you are," Engelhart said. "Coming into contact with different resources is really helpful."

While the club did fundraise, both Willis and Engelhart said it would have been impossible to attend the conference without Student and Activities (S&A), Student and Activities (S&A) committee to represent his fellow classmates.

"I just want students to be able to learn, to experience, to come back to Central and teach what they learn and pass it on to other students," Bennett said.

As a student, Bennett wanted to join the S&A committee to represent his fellow classmates.

"I don't think that any event or student requesting money is more important than the other."

"I don't think that any event or student requesting money is more important than the other." Bennett said.

As a graduating senior, Willis' time at CWU is nearing its end.

"It's bittersweet," Willis said. "I've only been here two years and it went by so fast. I definitely wish I could've had more time here."

Willis said that students in their early years of college should seek opportunities and resources available to them. She said that oftentimes seniors join the club during their last year.

"One year is definitely not enough to take advantage of resources," Willis said.

Willis' advice to students is to take an opportunity if one comes your way.

"Take it right away if you're really serious about it," Willis said.

Willis hopes to be accepted to and graduate from medical school. She hopes to come back to CWU afterward and share her experiences with Pre-Medical Club members. Willis said she plans to keep in contact with the club's advisers and be available as a resource to club members even after graduating from CWU.

The Pre-Medical Club meets every Monday in the Science building in room 207. Willis and Engelhart encourage students to attend and participate in the club.

The Pre-Medical Club meets every Monday in the Science building in room 207. Willis and Engelhart encourage students to attend and participate in the club.
"I think free speech is important," Oliver said. "They should be able to say the things they want as long as it's not hate speech and we should be able react in any way we want as long as it's not hate speech."

According to Oliver, "hate does not belong at CWU or anywhere else."

Alyssa Bang, Patriot Prayer Portland Liberation member, said the group came to CWU because Joey Gibson, the founder of the organization, is a graduate of CWU. According to Bang, the group's message is to work against the gun control initiative I-1639.

Bang supported First Amendment right of free speech.

"[With] free speech, anybody should be able to say whatever they want wherever they want," Bang said. "Just 'cause somebody said something bad doesn't mean everybody else doesn't have the right to also disagree with them."

"We are not violent. We are not discriminatory," Bang said. "I'm trans and they accepted me with open arms."

On Saturday, April 6, Patriot Prayer held a flash rally at 5:30 p.m. at Memorial Park and a freedom march at 8 p.m. starting at The Tav. About 20 people attended the flash rally.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chi-pana/o de Aztlán moved their planned unity march to Monday, April 8 at 3 p.m. at the Science lawn from April 6 at 11 a.m. According to a student who doesn't want to be identified, this was due to a threatening phone call. The nature of the phone call was not divulged to The Observer.
Patriot Prayer: hate wasn’t welcome here

TyYonna Kitchen
Columnist

The group known as Patriot Prayer visited CWU at 1 p.m. on April 5. The building up to the afternoon told me to prepare for the worst. Safe spaces were set up across campus. CWU faculty members sent out emails encouraging students to stay safe and inside during Patriot Prayer’s so-called “Freedom Weekend Party.”

I was going to heed that advice, stay inside and maybe read a book. But my peers and CWU Observer want me to report any news. I was going to be responsible because, though it is good to hear the points of views of others, people like those involved with Patriot Prayer are scary. Neo-Nazis and their affiliates are not people I want to give my attention to. However, on a last-minute impulse, I decided to attend their first event, an open debate on our First and Second Amendments, that took place outside of Black Hall. I had been walking to Boulion Hall when I saw the art that covered the ground in front of Black Hall. There were phrases drawn in chalk asking for peace rather than hate. Though some of the chalk may have washed away with the small amount of rain we received, the message was enough for me to spend an hour outside to watch this “debate.” This was enough for me to grab my press pass, cross my fingers and respectfully, maybe we can start listening to each other.

The debate started and a man associated with Patriot Prayer immediately tried selling the group to the students who were not participating, asking us if we no longer wanted our freedoms and if we wanted to be under the fullest control of the government. He was antagonizing us at our home away from home while still assuring us that he was not armed. He was assuring us that we were safe in his presence. Nothing makes me feel safer than a clear threat telling me that I am feeling the wrong way about him. His reassurance didn’t help.

What helped was seeing my peers still writing positive messages on the ground even as Patriot Prayer marched onto our campus with two flags reading “Don’t Tread On Me.”

What helped were the people holding a hacky-sack game right behind the unwelcomed demonstration. What helped were the people holding up colorful signs that said, “this is a hate group, don’t engage,” “spread positivity” and “feel unsafe, walk with us.” What helped was this campus taking a stand against hate.

Hate speech and its place in the First Amendment

Georgia Mallett
Columnist

In the events of the Patriot Prayer coming to town this past weekend, I heard many people say that they did not want them here and they did not want to hear what they had to say. Neither did I. Patriot Prayer is a group that is pro-First and Second Amendment and anti-government.

Although Patriot Prayer is not labeled a hate group, it did bring up a discussion amongst my classmates: should hate speech be protected by the First Amendment? We hear hateful words spread around social media, everyday life and on the news. As disturbing as it is to hear people saying hateful words about fellow American citizens, we all wonder if it should be allowed. Yes, even though I do not condone hate speech, it should be protected.

The main freedom people associate with the First Amendment is freedom of speech. This gives us the right to speak our mind freely and believe what we want to believe even if it is different from what our government or others believe. As there are some limitations and boundaries to this amendment, such as threats, most speech is justified under the First Amendment and anti-government.

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Watching films: why going in blind can be flawed

Ben Wheeler
Columnist

From my perspective, seeing films for the first time, especially in a packed house or theater, is an experience that can’t be replicated. Unless you’ve gone out of the way to spoil it for yourself beforehand, seeing the plot play out on screen without knowing what to expect in terms of visuals and sound design is a real treat. Using that logic, you would think that avoiding trailers, online clips and TV spots for a given movie would result in the optimum viewing experience. Essentially everything that happens on screen would come as a surprise since you wouldn’t have any previous perspective. However, I would argue that this concept is both flawed and risky.

It all depends on expectations. A quick example I love to refer to is the first American attempt at a “Godzilla” film, 1998’s “Godzilla,” directed by Roland Emmerich. I’ll be the first to admit, I am a huge Godzilla nerd. I own all the movies except for two I can’t stand, and I grew up watching the first generation of the Japanese “Godzilla” films from Toho, the production company who created the character, which ranged from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s. I didn’t see Emmerich’s iteration in theaters, nor did I see any clips or trailers.

Instead, I saw an overgrown, mutated iguana with no atomic breath attack NYC and then lay some eggs which hatched into offspring that had more in common with Jurassic Park’s velociraptors than anything Godzilla related. Worse yet, there was no other monster in this film about friendship between a young man and an odd alien creature.

Now, if you want to still skip movie trailers and clips, that is simply your prerogative. However, I would recommend that if you want to avoid experiences like the ones I described, you should at least watch a teaser trailer, so you can have a basic sense of what the movie is about and whether or not you are truly interested in watching it.

But going into a theater to watch a film you’ve never seen before, with no previous knowledge about the featured creature was only hinted at. It was a humorous instance, but it was still hard not to sympathize with my mom as she finished the film with a disappointed and frustrated expression on her face. What she expected to see was actually a ridiculous, but entertaining film about friendship between a young man and an odd alien creature.

I've come to recognize it as a decent giant monster flick, but what it is versus what I expected it to be has always felt like a betrayal. A second personal example isn’t as-devastating as it is humorous, but I feel it still proves my point. Back in 2016, my mom asked if my siblings and I were interested in watching a film called “Monster Trucks.”

I found it odd that my mom wanted to watch a movie centered around a young man and his truck powered by a friendly extraterrestrial squid-like being, but my sister and I thought it would still be fun to watch, so we joined our mom in viewing it.

About an hour in, after the main character had befriended the alien and the creature had displayed the ability to “drive” the character’s truck, my mom said, “I didn’t know there were monsters in this.”

As it turns out, my mom had only seen a glimpse of one trailer, where the featured creature was only hinted at. It was a humorous instance, but it still was hard not to sympathize with my mom as she finished the film with a disappointed and frustrated expression on her face. What she expected to see is actually a ridiculous, but entertaining film about friendship between a young man and an odd alien creature.

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Whittaker jumps into outdoor-season

Whittaker warms up his triple jump approach during practice. Whittaker is taking it easy after coming off a successful indoor-season and placing eighth in the GNAC championships, but is still working on improving himself.

Nick Jahnke  
Sports Editor

Zach Whittaker has been proving himself as one the Wildcats top jumpers. According to Wildcat jumps coach Bryan Mack, Whittaker is coming off a great indoor-season, which concluded with him placing in the GNAC championships in eighth place.

“At first it didn’t feel like anything special, and then when I saw the number come up and I was like, okay, cool. I’m not the worst one here,” Whittaker said.

Mack said that Whittaker has picked up right where he left off last season, and has been going strong since. Mack said that because of Whittaker’s skill, they have the freedom to work on specific aspects of his technique at practice so that they can push him to be a more complete athlete.

“He’s so good, especially in relation to the rest of the GNAC, that we can kind of take it easy because we know he’s going to make it into the conference and we know he’s going to be the top jumper,” Mack said.

Whittaker said one of his biggest challenges he faces with his performance is getting his jumps to count. He said about one in every six of his jumps end up counting.

Whittaker has only participated in one meet since the outdoor season began on March 9. Whittaker said he is a little banged up from the previous season. According to him, it’s nothing more serious than some tightness that accumulated over the course of the season.

“Coming off of nationals, [the coaches] wanted to give me a little break,” Whittaker said.

Whittaker’s track and field career began when he was in middle school. He said he joined the track team as a way to hang out with friends for a few hours after class, so it was mainly a way to socialize.

Some of the forces that have driven Whittaker to improve himself throughout high school and to keep competing in college, were his parents and friends. Whittaker said his parents were always supportive of his interest in athletics and his friends drove him to keep going.

In middle school, Whittaker got his start jumping in the high jump event. Once he moved into high school, his new coach decided that he was better suited for the triple jump event. He said he quickly realized he was good at the event and began to invest more into improving his numbers. After he earned second place at state two years in a row, Whittaker knew he wanted to continue competing.

Whittaker still has a few quarters of eligibility left before he leaves the Wildcats. He said he will most likely be back for the indoor season next year. After that, he plans to graduate with a degree in clinical physiology, and continue his education in graduate school.

Next up

EWU Pelleur Invite
Where: Eastern Washington University
When: April 12
 Continued from Page 1

Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

“T’ve known coach Bills for a long time and he’s a loyal friend...he’s innovative, I think he’s a great, young offensive mind,” Fisk said. “He’s hungry...he’s a guy that’s excited to show what he can do as a coordinator at a high level of college football.”

In his previous time as an offensive coordinator at Williamette University, Bills said that he had fallen in love with the Northwest. Bills knew that eventually he and his family would want to return and that this was a good opportunity to do so.

“It was hard leaving my players at Weber...but when [Fisk] made the call and actually officially extended the offer to me, it was a no-brainer really. It was a chance I couldn’t really pass up,” Bills said. On the football field, Bills will take care of offensive coordinators duties, such as calling plays. Off the field, however, Bills is a family man. He and his wife are parents to two sons with a third on the way in July. Bills’ coaching philosophy changed after having children, as he started to view his players like sons of his own.

As he spends time with the players everyday, Bills wants to coach them hard and hold them accountable, but also love them as family.

“I think you love them by spending time with them and by helping them and serving them everyday and that’s just very gratifying to me,” Bills said.

Part of Bills’ relationship with players off the field also includes his other title, academic coordinator. As academic coordinator, Bills will oversee all player grades in classes and make sure they are on track to pass classes each quarter.

Being an offensive coordinator isn’t just calling plays during the game. Bills manages the offense as a whole, which includes offensive coaches. He will work alongside coach Fisk and offensive assistant Reggie Long on the offensive line, assistant head coach John Picha on tight ends, offensive graduate assistant Jack Singer on running backs, as well as volunteer assistant wide receivers coaches Brandon Gibson and Subodh Kumar.

CWU has historically been a part of some coaches’ pathways to other coaching positions within college football. Most recently, head coach Ian Shoemaker took a position at Eastern Washington University. Part of coaching is taking other positions and white coach Fisk knows this, he would like to “hold onto [Bills] as long as we can.”

For Bills, CWU is a step down from Weber State, as he moves from NCAA Division 1 to NCAA Division 2. However, the lower division had little influence on Bills’ big decision.

“You don’t leave an FCS program just to go to some random school that has a losing tradition,” Bills said. “I thought this was a unique place enough where I can make that move.”

As Bills and his family finally settle into Ellensburg for his first season on the coaching staff, he has already seen glimpses of what he will enjoy in the college town.

“Honestly every place you go to, I don’t think it really matters where you go, there’s some really cool things about Ellensburg,” Bills said. “I have received a lot of support from people here on campus, people in our neighborhood, people that genuinely care and are willing to reach out. Coaches on the staff and their families have all been super supportive with the transition and that makes a huge difference as you go to a new place. You wanna feel that love and support from people and if you don’t have that, you can feel that too. In this profession you wanna have support and people you lean on and we definitely have that here.”

Jack Fisk, offensive coordinator, Ipswich and Subodh Kumar, volunteer assistant wide receivers coach for Weber State. Staff photo by Bram Wiggins/The Observer

Brandy Gibson, offensive coordinator, and Brandon Gibson, volunteer assistant wide receivers coach for Weber State. Staff photo by Bram Wiggins/The Observer

Kelly Bills is the new offensive coordinator. Bills the former assistant coach and quarterbacks coach for Weber University.

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Opinion: WrestleMania 35 begins hot, ends cold

Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

WrestleMania 35 last Sunday surprisingly began with the Universal Championship match between part-time wrestler Brock Lesnar and The Architect Seth Rollins. WWE finally took Brock off the belt and gave it to a wrestler that is there all the time (probably a good move for Vince McMahon). The match itself was pretty short, and three straight curbstomps by Rollins got him the belt. This match was a good opener to get everyone excited for the night but it looks like Brock’s career is running short.

Match Grade: 7/10

AJ Styles vs. Randy Orton was a letdown. Too abrupt of an ending and only one wrestler got them the belt. This match was a good opener to get everyone excited for the night but it looks like Brock’s career is running short.

Match Grade: 7/10

The smackdown tag team championship Fatal 4-Way was a great match, giving the USos back the belt. The Bar (Cesaro and Sheamus) put on a good show and I’m glad the young tag team of Aleister Black and Ricochet got good screen time, they deserved a push.

Match Grade: 9/10

Shane McMahon didn’t kill himself this year, that’s always good. Of course the Miz had to throw McMahon off of something tall or it wouldn’t be a WrestleMania. A shock

position all the way through his showdown and then he moved to the in-field by his senior year. Lesmeister said he likes to fish a lot and, he gets his hat-out and hits the lake to relax in the outdoors. According to Lesmeister, his go-to guy on the team is junior infielder Cameron McGrath who is now out for the season with an arm injury.

“he’s always been there for me and he has always been a good friend. When I was sick, he asked if he could bring me anything,” McGrath said. There will be more chances to see Lesmeister play the rest of the season. The Wildcats will play their next home game April 26 against Montana State University Billings, the first place team in the GNAC.

Match Grade: 7/10

The main event was the triple threat winner-take-all between Becky Lynch, Charlotte Flair and Ronda Rousey. For the amount of hype and buildup they gave to this fight, that ending was horrible. Becky Lynch has been getting a super hard push lately and deserved to end WrestleMania with a huge crowd pop. But that never happened, due to the length of the event (7.5 hours) and the way the match ended with the referee giving a three count when Rousey’s shoulders came up off the mat.

Match Grade: 7/10

If you made this event four hours and put the first half of the event as the second half, ending with Kingston winning, it would have been one of the better WrestleMania’s ever. The WWE had a chance to create something special, and fell just short.

Lesmeister shines in sophomore season

Bryce Weedman
Senior Sports Reporter

One of the players the Wildcats have turned to in this season is sophomore infielder Mitch Lesmeister. Lesmeister is hitting .345 average with three doubles, one triple and three home runs. Lesmeister has a .469 slugging percentage and .464 on base percentage. CWU Baseball hasn’t had the season that they have wanted to have so far, according to head coach Desi Storey. The Wildcats are 14-17-1 overall and 11-13 in the GNAC.

Mid-way through their season, they are sitting six games behind Montana State University Billings in the standings for first place in the GNAC. Storey believes that although CWU isn’t necessarily tearing the cover off of the ball right now, Storey said he believes that they can turn their season around. Storey pointed towards Lesmeister’s work ethic during practice as one of the reasons he is having such a solid season. Storey said he is seeing the ball better than he did in his freshman year, and is maturing as a player.

“It’s kind of what I expect to, be honest. I know why he is capable of doing so and the expectation is that he continues to grow and get better,” Storey said.

Lesmeister has also played well in the infield, gotten better with his foot work and glove work as the season has gone on, according to Storey. Lesmeister had somewhat of a slow start to the season, as did everyone else on the team, but now Lesmeister is finding himself. Lesmeister said he is always trying to get better and doesn’t know why everything is coming together for him all of a sudden, but he is happy about it.

“This year I just think I am more comfortable and obviously know everybody, and the coaches, and I am just trying to get better every week and improve,” Lesmeister said.

Lesmeister grew up in Walla Walla, Washington and played baseball at Walla Walla High School. Lesmeister said he had other options to play college ball for some junior colleges, but ultimately loved everything about Ellensburg and what CWU has to offer. Lesmeister said that he owes a great amount of gratitude to his parents for everything that they did to help him grow up. According to Lesmeister, his parents made sure he could travel for baseball and had everything he needed to be successful.

Lesmeister also has two older brothers who played baseball.

The medical field has always been something that has caught Lesmeisters eye. He knows that he wants to major in something that has to do with the medical field, and maybe attend dental school someday.

When Lesmeister was five years old, he watched his older brother play Little League Baseball. That’s how Lesmeister started playing baseball in Little League. Lesmeister said that he used to play a lot in the catcher position all the way through his sophomore year and then he moved to the in-field by his senior year. Lesmeister said he likes to fish a lot and, he gets his hat-out and hits the lake to relax in the outdoors. According to Lesmeister, his go-to guy on the team is junior infielder Cameron McGrath who is now out for the season with an arm injury.

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Softball heats up as playoffs get closer

Bryce Weedman
Senior Sports Reporter

CWU Softball is in the middle of a pretty good season, mid way through 2019. The Wildcats are in first place in the GNAC with a 22-12 overall record, and a 13-3 conference record.

A one game lead over Western Washington University has the Wildcats thinking playoffs. Head coach Mike Larabee said that “it’s one game at a time.” Larabee has had a team at CWU go all the way to the semi-finals in the playoffs and almost make the College World Series.

Larabee said this year’s team is the most complete team he has coached.

GNACsports.com said the Wildcats have played eight games at home so far this season. The Wildcats have played 34 total games, so over 75 percent of the Wildcat’s games have been played on away territory. Four of the remaining 12 games will be played at home, before the GNAC tournament begins. Coach Larabee said that there have been key players that have helped the Wildcats get to the top of the GNAC standings, although it has been a team effort to earn their success. Senior Savannah Egbert has had a standout season for CWU using her leadership skills to help push the women on the team. On top of her leadership, her bat has stood out as well, hitting a .442 batting average with a .496 slugging percentage and finally a .519 on base percentage.

Senior Savannah Egbert has had a standout season for the Wildcats.

“I think I’m just trying to go big for senior year, and focusing, and taking every at bat seriously,” Egbert said. “We are always chasing perfection, and catching excellence.”

Larabee has said the same message all year to his Wildcats, that they need to always stay positive. He said that after games when the Wildcats meet up in the outfield to go over the game, Larabee always tells them that they need to talk about only the positives of the game. Even if the Wildcats don’t have a great game that day, they can at least reflect on some of the positive things that they did. Larabee points to the work ethic of the Wildcats, and their ability to stay positive even when they have to face struggles, like not being able to practice out on Gary and Bobbi Frederick Field. The Wildcats had to practice in the field house until the snow had melted off. Larabee said that the team has prospered through all of its challenges.

“We’ve been housed up in the field house, so this is only our third practice out here on the field,” Larabee said. “It’s hard to keep up the enthusiasm and excitement, but they continue to work hard, and get better.”

Sophomore Theresa Moyle has been one of the leaders on the team according to Larabee. He said Moyle has been injured for the season and will likely play as many games as she can. Moyle said she is going to play as long as she can until her arm hurts too much, and she can’t play anymore. The injury may require surgery in the future. Moyle has played well through her injury hitting .444 batting average with six doubles and seven home runs. Even with the injury, she is playing well according to Larabee.

“What I’ve been doing recently, is playing as many games as I possibly can before its just too much,” Moyle said. “Usually it’s one game, pushing two, but after that I am pretty much done.”

Sophomore Maddy Zerr has also been a bright spot on the team, according to Larabee. Averaging .356 batting, with already six home runs on the season, Zerr is trying her hardest to help the team win games any way that she can. Moyle says that Zerr is one of the most vocal players on the team, and is always yelling on the field.

“Going forward I just want to step up as a leader on the team, and work on handling all of the pitches, and not always focusing on power, but being a consistent hitter for the team,” Zerr said.

Moving forward, Larabee says the Wildcats know that they have a very good chance at winning the GNAC, but know that there are still 12 games on their schedule. Larabee said that anyone can beat them on any given day, so playing each team to their full potential and giving enough respect to the other team is very important.

“I just know that if we come out and play to our potential, we can beat anybody in our region, and that’s a fact,” Larabee said.

The Wildcats will have an important four game series against Montana State University Billings in Billings, Montana on April 13-14.

Match stats:

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<td>Montana State University Billings</td>
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<td>vs Western Washington</td>
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Up Next: Montana State University

Senior Infielder Savannah Egbert has a .442 batting average and has a slugging percentage of .496. She also has a .519 on base percentage.

Sophomore Theresa Moyle has a .442 batting average with six home runs. Moyle is currently struggling with an arm injury.

Sophomore Infielder Maddy Zerr has a .356 batting average with six home runs. Zerr also carries a .519 slugging percentage into the second half of the season.
Editor: Hanson Lee

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast

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**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 12 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny with a 40 percent chance of rain and winds around 11 mph.

**Saturday:** Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and winds around 14 mph.

**Monday:** A.M. showers with a 30 percent chance of rain and winds around 8 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and winds around 10 mph.

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

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**CENTRAL PROTESTS**

Ever since we went corporate, HR requires you to fill out some paperwork.

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**This week in Observer history**

On April 13, 2006, CWU protests ensued regarding immigration laws and injustices against the Hispanic community. Issues are still being fought for on a national scale.

Students, staff, and community members took to Main Street, showing their support for equality.

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**Ask Shawna**

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

Dear Shawna,

Ellensburg’s winter frenzy lasted so long that I forgot what it was like to have fun out in the sun. Spring weather has shown up out of nowhere and I was wondering if you had any ideas about how I can take full advantage of the new season in a small town like Ellensburg. Are there any unique activities that I could pursue during this colorful season?

Sincerely,

spring enthusiast

Dear spring enthusiast,

Winter here in Ellensburg can be interesting. Freezing rain, snow or ice, we have it. But don’t forget that following winter is the endless spring weather of soft, breezy wind that may or may not knock you on your butt.

When picking a spring activity, you should keep in mind the weather. Going down to the river can be a very fun and relaxing option to get away from everyone, but the wind gusts can be on the strong side.

Going down Manashtash, you can see all sorts of wildlife. Deer are out and about, along with birds migrating back home. Watch out though because they are not the only wildlife. Cougars also enjoy hanging out there in places you would not expect them to be. If you go on a sunrise hike, be sure to go with friends and make some noise. Maybe take someone smaller and weaker so that person is the easy target.

Have fun, don’t fall and try your best not to get eaten.

Best,

Shawna

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**Submit a question**

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

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**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 Land H15 M-Tu 5-6 pm for inquiries.