Nick Tucker  
Senior News Reporter

The Ellensburg nightlife may be lacking in options for students who can't drink or choose not to. Many students who attend CWU and live in Ellensburg either aren't old enough to legally drink, choose not to or simply don't want all of their entertainment options to involve alcohol. One of these students is 18-year-old freshman Natalie Rae.

"Unless you are 21-plus there is almost nothing to do at nights, especially on the weekends," Rae said. "[CWU] doesn't have a lot of events on weekends and the only thing I can do is go on a hike or watch Netflix." The Observer asked 15 students for their opinions and out of their responses, all of them said that Ellensburg doesn't have enough entertainment options for students that don't involve alcohol.

Those same students were asked for their ideas on what they would like to see. "If Ellensburg could remodel and reopen the bowling alley, that would be sick. Or maybe something like an arcade?" Rae said. "Something that anyone can go to downtown, not just another bar."

Nine of the students questioned mentioned that they would like a bowling alley, and six mentioned an arcade. Ellensburg did have a bowling alley in the past, the Rodeo Bowl on Wildcat Way.

Continued on Page 3
Appreciation shown with concerts, food

CWU is introducing “Wild Fest” to Student Appreciation Day on May 23 from 1-10 p.m. Live music, games, activities and food will all be free for CWU students to show appreciation for their hard work throughout the school year.

Campus Activities moved the usual location of the event from Barto Lawn to the Student Recreation Sports Complex across the street from Tomlinson Stadium. Special Events Coordinator for Campus Activities Avery Cortinas said the bigger space will help provide multiple stages for more student and DJ performances. The goal is to create more of a music festival type experience for CWU students.

Wild Fest kicks off with the hip-hop vibe where break dancers from around Washington state will perform on open dance floors. DJs, rap battles and graffiti showcases will also be put on in the complex. Graffiti art and merchandise will be made available for purchase throughout the event.

Music performances will start around 3 p.m. CWU student performers Mikey O’Malley, Sp3rrow, Peregrine Spane and Gutrixx will perform while Seattle-area bands DedElectric, Bed and DoNormaal will continue the musical action on multiple stages until 6:30 p.m.

Yard games will be available throughout the event as well. Life-size Jenga, Yatz, cornhole and archery tag will be put on in collaboration with the Recreation Center. Kat Balyeat, intern at the Rec Center said Wild Fest will help serve as a grand opening of the new Recreation Complex instead of the usual Barto Lawn.

The main stage opener is CWU student John Thomas who starts at 7:30 p.m. As for the main concert, California based headline Hobo Johnson and The Lovemakers will look to wrap up the event. No personal water bottles are going to be allowed inside. Free water and sunscreen stations will be located throughout the complex.

Wild Fest is open to CWU students only. Students will have to swipe their Connection Cards in order to get into the event unless they are transparent, and no students will be allowed to enter the Recreation Sports Complex after 8 p.m. for safety purposes.
The night is dark and full of bars

Ellensburg nightlife is considered dull by students, with few places staying open. Some of the businesses open late are bars such as Blue Rock and Club 301. This does not leave students under 21 with many late night activities.

Continued from Page 1

However, it was closed in 2013 and bought by Kittitas County which has used it as a storage facility for the rodeo grounds. Since then, there hasn't appeared to be any plans to reopen the Rodeo Bowl specifically, but Ellensburg students may still be in luck. According to CWU’s Executive Director of Student Involvement Jeff Rosenberry, students expressed their desire for more entertainment options in a survey conducted by the SURC in early March.

“One of the things that we are hearing from students as a result of the first survey is that they want to have a gaming center somewhere on campus,” Rosenberry said. “We’re looking into that as an opportunity to expand services, whether that be an arcade or a bowling alley.”

As well as long-term additions, at the beginning of the academic year, Rosenberry and his team have created a task force to look deeper into late-night programming and ways to make sure students have the services they need. As a result of student interest, the SURC extended its hours at the beginning of fall quarter, closing at 11 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. At the beginning of spring quarter, opening hours were changed from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m., and late-night dining options were increased with more of the Central Market’s venues open late at night.

One concern was brought up by Charles Griscom, a 19-year-old history major. He said that the City of Ellensburg’s 10 p.m. noise ordinance makes it difficult to host or attend social events, with a high risk of getting reported for a noise violation.

Exceptions are sometimes made for the university, according to Rosenberry, who said that the Office of Student Involvement sometimes submit requests to the city to waive the noise ordinance for specific events.

“Our campus activities team works very closely with the city for a variety of different programs throughout the year, making exceptions for student programming,” Rosenberry said. “We work closely with the social media outlets and the local media to let the city know when we are going to be going past that ordinance to be respectful to the community.”

Some examples of events that have warranted an ordinance exception are the Wildcat Welcome Weekend Paint U music event in Fall 2018 and the upcoming Student Appreciation Day on May 23.

Ellensburg does have a movie theater which often plays late-night movies on weekends, however, some students who don’t have cars may feel that it is too far away. However, CWU students do pay a $3 per quarter fee which pays in part for the Ellensburg transit system which runs directly from campus to the theater.

“Between that, the events we host on-campus that you can find in Hype, there are lots of late-night things for students to do,” Rosenberry said. “We are continuing to add more, and I encourage students to always come by my office and express what they’d like to see.”
Student fees, if you please

Nick Tucker
Senior Reporter

For a full-time student at CWU, almost a quarter of what is paid to the university at the beginning of each quarter is not tuition, but fees. These are charges that pay for on-campus services and amenities like technology, Recreation Center, transit and the health center. Some are smaller like the $3 transit fee and $10 library fee, but they add up to hundreds of dollars which students then have to pay on top of tuition.

Among these are fees for amenities, like athletics and the Wellness Center. Some students have expressed frustration that they are continuing to pay for services that they may not personally use, such as 20-year-old economics major Theo Fisher.

"I get it for the people that use it, but why am I paying for something I don't use?" Fisher said.

Throughout CWU’s history, student fees have increased at a constant rate. During the 2014-15 academic year, full-time students were charged $385 per quarter adjusted for inflation, while in the 2018-19 year students were charged $634. According to CWU’s CFO/Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs Joel Klucking, one factor contributing to this raise in fees is the fact that CWU is continuing to get larger and adding services and amenities for students such as building the SURC in 2006.

"When I went to school here 30 years ago, we didn’t have any of the services here. Over time with the students collectively at [CWU] and across America, you see these additional services being requested," Klucking said. "It’s an evolution over time that started probably back in the [1930s] and [1940s] and slowly but surely, those services have been added on."

Klucking said that when he went to CWU there was no SURC or Recreation Center, and Nicholson Pavilion was open to students a few hours each day. Students now pay for things like maintenance of the SURC. Another factor in the SURC fee, is that many of those services have been added relatively recently.

"We borrowed $50+ million to build that facility and we have to make the bond payments. We can’t stop charging the SURC and the rec fee until the bonds are paid off," Klucking said. "But once that happens, then the students could decide what they’re interested in.”

This means that once the bonds are paid off for things like the SURC, students may only be paying for the maintenance or day-to-day costs of those services, most likely much less than the current $171 students pay quarterly for the SURC and Recreation Center. However, CWU sends out surveys every few years asking what changes or additions students are interested in. The most recent surveys indicate that students are still interested in expanding the SURC. While the bonds for the SURC may eventually be paid off, if CWU keeps making additions and updates to buildings and services then they will need to take out future bonds which will be passed down to the students.

"It is [CWU’s] position that having things like the rec center, the health center, help all of the students,” Klucking said. "It’s the whole concept of self-governance. The students have a voice, a very important voice, about the things that they want.”
Mariachi del Centro creates sense of belonging

Continued from Page 1

When it came to events like Wildcat Day, Licon said, “Latino parents like [our performances] because they know that [CWU] supports Latinos. They can be a part of this club that represents them.”

Many individual members have their own personal reasons for being a part of the club. For Danilo Cedeno, he appreciates the cultural and historical impact of mariachi, but in particular the uniform they wear, the charro, when they perform. “It’s like wherever you go, if I’ll always be there. You’re taking a little bit of Mexico wherever you go,” Cedeno said. “When we wear the uniform, we’re representing the whole country. It’s symbolic.”

He also appreciates the fact that many Mexican adults in the United States have a deep rooted connection with the mariachi sound.

“The music brings back memories to the parents and to the grandparents,” Cedeno said. “Some of the parents have even cried. They haven’t been in Mexico in so many years and to hear that music again, they feel like they are at home.”

For others, like Pilar Cuevas, mariachi gives her the strength and confidence to uplift her life from her childhood struggles.

“When I put on the charro suit, I feel like I can express myself more,” Cuevas said. “Back then I hadn’t really found myself. Mariachi really helped me get out of that.”

Fellow member Maria Christina Castorene echoed sentiments of the deeply powerful bond that the music and club community provides.

“My sister went through the same thing,” Castorene said. Her sister participates in the University of Washington’s mariachi club.

“It gave her a sense of community and gave her family she doesn’t have. Our family [lives] far away and you’re in college. With mariachi you have all these people you’re always around to bond with,” Castorene said.

Outside of regular practices and performances, the club constantly meets as a form of bonding. Whether it’s at a barbecue at a band member’s house or at a retreat, usually planned by Cedeno, this group maintains a strong bond that is more resemblant of a family than a club or friend group.

They practice twice a week for two hours each day. The club performs at numerous events throughout the school year, including the Dia de los Muertos event and most recently at the College of Arts and Humanities Awards Banquet. They are currently preparing for the first ever CWU Mariachi Festival, held in the SURC Theater on May 24 at 5 p.m. The club encourages all CWU students and faculty to come and enjoy the festival, which will feature traditional Mexican folk songs and as well as music from other mariachi groups. If you want to join the group, message them on Facebook.

Mariachi del Centro performs at several events throughout the year including Dia de los Muertos. Their next performance will be at the first CWU Mariachi Festival on May 24 at 5 p.m. in the SURC Theater. The club encourages students of all backgrounds who want to learn more about Mariachi to reach out to them.

Thursday Thinks

Transitional Soul:

The “Soul Train’s” travel through the U.S. and Beyond

May 23 | 7:00 p.m.
Iron Horse Pub: 412 N. Main St.

Masonya Bennett

Africana and Black Studies Program

This presentation explores the significance and global impact of the Black American Soul Music Movement in the U.S. and beyond. The musical aspects of the Soul movement cannot be explored alone, instead it entails the role of black visual artists, athletes, dancers, poets, and political activists. The 1974 fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman, forever known as “The Rumble in the Jungle” brings these expressions and outlets to the forefront amidst on-going global political transformations underscored by race.
**Families experience college life**

**Mariah Valles**  
Editor-in-Chief

Every spring families are invited to visit campus for a weekend and participate in the college experience. This year Family Weekend was hosted May 10-12 and over 700 people were registered to attend. For one mother, it was an opportunity to experience a university alongside her last daughter to leave home.

Angela Jones, mother of freshman Katrina Jones-Morales, attended community college but never attended a university. "This is all totally brand new to me, the whole university experience," Jones said. "It’s really cool just to see what this is all about.

The family lives in Bremerton, Washington which is about a two hour drive from Ellensburg. Jones-Morales is the youngest sibling in her family. "She’s growing up," Jones said. "I have an older daughter as well but this is my last one leaving the nest.”

Jones-Morales said she sometimes struggles with being homesick. She said after about a month of not being near her home, she tends to go back for a visit. At the start of Family Weekend it had been about a month since Jones-Morales had gone home.

"My mom is honestly one of my best friends," Jones-Morales said. "It’s very true. It's kind of cliché and cheesy but it’s very true. My mom and I are really close and I love having her around.”

Jones-Morales, who is auditioning for the musical theatre program, is in the ensemble for the “Hunchback of Notre Dame” musical. She’s excited to perform in front of her mom for the first time at the collegiate level.

When Jones-Morales is not performing in the musical, the family will be visiting art exhibits, the farmer’s market and other in-town events. They also plan to visit the planetarium and Barrio Fiesta, a Filipino celebration.

"[CWU] is a beautiful campus," Jones said. "There’s just really great people here and I’m excited for the next three years.”

Freshman Hunter Pohl, a special events coordinator at Campus Activities, hopes Family Weekend is a memorable time for students and their families.

"It’s one of those times where [students] can relax from school and hang out with their family," Pohl said.

Pohl and his three team members at the Campus Activities office spent about two months putting family weekend together. The students reached out to different places, such as the planetarium, and created a schedule for the weekend. According to Pohl, the team of students had control over a majority of the event.

Pohl, who has been involved with Campus Activities since October, said the best part about coordinating events is watching the behind-the-scenes portion of event development. Pohl hopes the event will talk about even after returning home from Family Weekend.

Sophomore Avery Cortinas, also a student coordinator, said the event went well and about 150 different families showed up.

Cortinas’ part in planning the event included contacting the Ellensburg Downtown Association, Thorp Mill and Wildcat Shop. She contacted the Wildcat Shop to put coupons into giveaways and took charge in all other giveaways for prizes such as bags and sunglasses.

The best part of the weekend for Cortinas was seeing families take photos together at the Mother’s Day Brunch on Sunday.

"It was really cool to see all of the families taking their picture together," Cortinas said. "We’re so busy, you know, we’re college students you don’t get a lot of time to get a family picture.”

Planning the event came full circle for Cortinas because the first event she worked on as a new hire last year was Family Weekend.

"The biggest lesson I learned is that you’re going to deal with a lot of different personalities no matter what the event is," Cortinas said. "You just have to be prepared for that and have a positive outlook even when things go wrong.”

Cortinas said the team received comments about Family Weekend being hosted during Mother’s Day Weekend. This is a change Campus Activities has taken into consideration. Cortinas said a lot of events happen in spring and Ellensburg is the most beautiful in spring, which makes changing the event to another weekend or quarter challenging.

"We always try to work to offer more of our most popular events,” Cortinas said. “The river float is always really popular so we try to create as many opportunities for that as possible.”

Cortinas said because there isn’t a lot to do in Ellensburg, Family Weekend is an opportunity for a weekend filled with events.

"If your family has not come for Family weekend you should definitely do it at least once," Cortinas said. “It’s a really fun time to show your family around the campus.”

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*Editors' Note: The story was updated on May 16, 2019 to correct a number of errors.*

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**Editor:** Cassandra Hays

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The Barrio Fiesta on May 10 was one of many events that families had the opportunity to attend during Family Weekend. The fiesta showcased Filipino music, culture and food. About 150 families attended Family Weekend to get the chance to experience what Ellensburg and CWU has to offer.

The Ellensburg Farmers Market was another activity included in Family Weekend on May 11. Family Weekend provided activities and events for families to attend such as river rafting and comedy shows.
Girls Night Out highlights women in community

Emma Johnson
Staff Reporter

Ladies dressed in floral print and leis walked the streets of Ellensburg as they were getting pampered by the local businesses. The Ellensburg Downtown Association hosted Girls Night Out on Thursday, May 9, from 5-9 p.m. This event takes place twice a year, once in the winter around December and once in the spring around May. The event included several local businesses across downtown Ellensburg.

Girls Night Out is sponsored by Artisan Collectives, which sells local and regional handmade items that are also eco-conscious and fair trade. Lant said that she has items in her store that are from 17 different women-owned stores. Lant said one of her favorite things about Girls Night Out is the festive tone. Lant was a vendor at Girls Night Out as a featured artist for four years before opening her own store, and this is her first year being a shop owner during the event. Lant said that having events that draw people downtown is important for the small businesses, and some people say they never knew her shop was there until an event.

“Having a thriving downtown is important for the community,” Lant said.

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

The 1891 Bistro stays open 24 hours a day to CWU students. The environment lets students relax while studying or socializing.

“Large mint chocolate smoothie for Allie,” a barista calls out to the room. The ponytailed girl walks up to the counter to retrieve her smoothie. It’s a nice resource. “I don’t have a laptop, I can’t afford one,” senior Sophie Winnett said. “I always check one out from the library or from [the Bistro]. It’s a nice resource.”

Cassandra Hays/The Observer

The 1891 Bistro officially opened on business on Jan. 6, 2016. There are a variety of seating options, a coffee stand complete with a convenient selection of food and snacks and even a kiosk with rentable Macbooks. The spot quickly became a favorite for late night study sessions among CWU students. In September 2018, the Bistro extended its hours to be open for 24 hours a day. One might expect a hush in customer traffic during the late night hours, but that’s clearly not the case. In fact, 1 a.m. early Monday morning seems like the perfect time for students to come use the facility. Nearly every booth and table is being used by students cramming in a late night study session or eating and socializing with their friends. In the back, a large projector plays “Guardians of the Galaxy.” Baristas are constantly filling orders for coffees and smoothies and keeping the place tidy.

“Having a thriving downtown is important for the community,” Lant said. The event is fun and shows off the businesses that I love to help you sleep better, and it could be applied directly on the skin. Crits said she has participated in every Girls Night Out since she opened in 2015.

Cassandra Hays/The Observer

The 1891 Bistro serves coffee and other beverages 24 hours a day. It’s a nice resource. The environment lets students relax while studying or socializing.

The 1891 Bistro lets students study, relax any time

The event is fun and shows off the businesses that I love. "I like to come [to the Bistro] to study where I can’t get distracted,” Hawkins said. “When I need to pull an all nighter or something, I come here so I don’t keep my roommate awake all night.”

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

The 1891 Bistro serves coffee and other beverages 24 hours a day. It also offers a selection of sandwiches, flatbreads, muffins and Wingers ice cream.
Ellensburg Farmers Market brings community together

Story by: Mary Park  
Design by: Will Yi  
Photos by: Shawna Hettick

Buy fresh produce, sample a wine or cider, indulge in a macaron or two, watch musicians perform and you would still only be halfway through the list of things you can do at the farmers market.

On Saturday, May 4, the annual Ellensburg Farmers Market held its first market day of the 2019 season. The market will run until the last Saturday in October.

Starting at 9 a.m., more than 50 new and returning vendors lined up on East 4th Ave. between Pearl Street and Ruby Street, showcasing goods like fresh farm products, salmon, coffee, baked goods, jewelry and more.

Concession stands served foods like churros, tacos, blueberry pancakes and pork and chicken skewers.

Local residents, visitors of all ages and dogs – lots of dogs – filled the street.

Lemon Thyme Macarons

Charmaine Mosiman, owner of Lemon Thyme Macarons, was one of the new vendors at the farmers market.

Mosiman is a baker from Roslyn, Washington, and she presented her “sumptuous” and “not too pretty to devour” macarons—as written on a sign at the booth—to the market for the first time.

According to Schane, the Driveline Dry is a dry cider made from bitter apples and is a nice champagne substitute in mimosas.

“I’ve had customers from last year who come back and say, ‘Your starts were the best, they grew really well,’” Johnson said.

At a small farm located about half an hour outside of Ellensburg, chickens freely roam around a pasture and rows of vegetables like spinach, baby bok choy and carrots are harvested.

Ellensburg Farmers Market

Ellensburg Farmers Market holds its annual market days in the summer of 2017.

The owner, Karyn Merritt, said the spread is made from a family recipe and can go on anything from cheese-pistachio, animal crackers and lemon.

Lavender, fruity pebbles, crème brûlée, flavors are s’mores, honey...sad because the yolks are pale and mine are bright orange, and the whites are runny and mine are firm.

Country Crow Specialty Coffee

Country Crow Specialty Coffee, described as a “small-batch artisan roastery” on their label, returned to the market for the fifth time, offering freshly roasted coffee at $2 for each cup and $4 for nitro cold brew.

“Mix and match, that’s my goal, to give folks a good product for the price, freshly roasted coffee just in Kittitas County,” Owner Candace Wetzel said.

Wetzel works as a dental hygienist during the week, and on Fridays, she roasts the beans that have arrived from Seattle. She said she roasts just enough to sell for the week so that her products don’t sit on the shelves and go stale.

Wetzel said because she doesn’t have a storefront, the Ellensburg Farmers Market allows her to showcase her products and interact with her customers.

The 12-ounce pouches of whole bean or ground coffee for $12 can also be found at Vinmar’s Bakery and at Daily Bread and Mercantile.

Hunter & Holdens (H&H Creations)

A long lineup stood behind H&H Creations’ table, where 8-ounce tubs of cheese spreads — Jalapeno and Cheddar — and loaves of sea salt baguettes were on display.

The owner, Karyn Merritt, said the spread is made from a family recipe and can go on anything from cheese-
burgers, crab melts, tuna melts, grilled cheese and baked potatoes. “They’re great to cook with, and if you can’t have bread, they’re great with fruits and vegetables,” Merritt said.

She and Karen Loftus, her co-worker and friend of 20 years, started H&H Creations six years ago when Merritt wanted additional income to help fund her son Hunter in college.

Merritt said the farmers market gave her a social life and she has seen her daughter Holden, whom she brings along every year, grow at the market. “It’s fun work because you’re talking with people, and they’re talking about upcoming events,” Merritt said. “[And] you’ve seen their kids grow with your kids over the summer.”

Community Impact

John Martinez, an Ellensburg local who moved from the westside about three to four years ago, sat on a bench holding a bag that contained fresh bread, cheese spread and a bunch of asparagus. “We live in town so we come every Saturday to give him a walk,” Martinez said, pointing to his Pomeranian named Dookie.

Martinez said he also visits the market to support local businesses. “These local people care about us because they live here,” Martinez said. “Why would you [go to] big corporate places that don’t even care about us?”

Diedra Petrina, a local who has lived in Ellensburg for 19 years, said she and her family come to the market to see friends and to support people in the community. “[What] I like about the farmers market is really getting to know the people who have the small businesses, people who grow your produce,” Petrina said. “Learning about how they grow their produce, you’re learning their stories and how much love they put into [their work].”

Nonprofit Organizations

Around 20 nonprofit organizations also joined the market to introduce their services to community members. Colin Lamb, the farmers market coordinator, said he wanted to allow the Ellensburg Downtown Association to bring nonprofits to the first market of the year since many customers show up that day. “We have over 400 nonprofits in this county,” Lamb said. “And the market is a good way for them to introduce themselves to populations that [they] generally don’t get introduced to, [and] people who have no interest or think they have no use for nonprofits.”

Naomi’s Hope was one of these nonprofits hosting a booth at the market. Rita Johnson, the board of director secretary at Naomi’s Hope, said their nonprofit is an organization that “walks alongside women and children in crisis in Kittitas County.”

According to Johnson, the name Naomi’s Hope is coined from Naomi and Ruth’s story in the Bible. “Ruth walked alongside Naomi and in the trials of her journey in life and it’s based around that,” Johnson said. “Just companionsing with someone, staying with them and helping them through the transition and obstacles that they have to overcome.”

Johnson said the non-profit’s future goal is to raise funds to secure transitional housing for women and children. The organization’s website indicates that volunteers can help out by donating their talents such as landscaping, gardening or cooking skills.
Delete tweetbook and snapstagram

Nick Tucker
Columnist

A week and a half ago I deleted social media apps from my phone, and since then the results have been significant enough that I feel comfortable telling people that they should seriously consider doing the same.

I’ll clarify that I didn’t cut social media out of my life. I still have different messaging apps to keep in contact with people and when I get home at the end of the day, I’ll still open Facebook or Reddit on my computer and scroll a bit while I decompress. While I think that social media in general has many positive and negative effects on the human brain and society in general, that’s not what this experiment was about.

What I wanted to solve is the mindless opening of an app and scrolling just because it’s easy and there’s nothing better to do. I’ve increasingly noticed over the past few months a compulsive tendency to open Facebook, Instagram or Reddit and scroll through them, not even looking that hard at anything that passes by. I’m just using it as a filler during a moment when there’s nothing to do. That subconscious anxiety, that need to fill empty space, is what I wanted to correct.

So, I deleted those apps, and this is when the real introspective nightmare began. For the days following my purge, I would regularly go to mindlessly open the apps only to be struck with the realization that not only were they not around to save me from a boring or awkward moment, but also how much I was truly compulsively reaching for them. I could do my best to notice my own behaviors during normal times, but when it was so clearly put on display, I was shocked by how much of my time had been thrown into a void.

This isn’t even because scrolling is bad. The problem is that it was unintentional. It seems like people like to think they’re aware of everything they do, totally in control of their decisions, but this experiment has shown how untrue that can be with certain mental processes. It makes sense, the apps are designed to grab your attention so you become a perfect advertisement-watching machine, but it is disturbing to realize about your own mind.

I was bored a lot. I knew it would happen, but it’s still worth mentioning. This isn’t even necessarily a good or a bad thing, but I found that I suddenly had a lot more free time sitting and waiting around that I had been glossing over. I had two new things to do. Number one: suck it up and just be bored when there was no other option. Number two: for the longer breaks in my day, I had to find something else to do since I couldn’t just sit around when there’s a half-hour break between class. For instance, I began to read more and realized how much of my life the tweetbook and snapstagram had been taking. I used to read all the time. I loved it. But until recently I hadn’t touched a book in far too long.

My attention span changed. Reading more showed just how much my brain had a hard time focusing for a long period of time. I would go a few pages before the intrusive impulse to check my phone began to worm into my mind. This is one of the biggest negative effects of social media. Most of what I had been reading for a long time have been only a few sentences of a Reddit post or Facebook rant. If you have the slightest twinge of relatability when I talk about wanting to read more, or a decreasing attention span or impulsive scrolling, I highly recommend you at least try it. I promise, if it throws your life into shambles, the apps will be waiting with open arms.

I’m a disappointment, but so is CWU

TyYonna Kitchen
Columnist

Twice this quarter I have been told that I will not graduate, resulting in an emotionally exhausting first three to five weeks. The first time that this was told to me I was upset, and rightfully so, but I only needed six more credits of my choosing. I was given three more credits this quarter and decided to take on the other three during the 2019 summer quarter. There was no rush and I could still walk without a problem, it only cost me an extra $150 and weeks of catching up in unfamiliar topics. I am now an unofficial music major I am struggling with certain concepts like scales, melody, meter (that is unrelated to poetry) and anything having to do with another person’s vocal capabilities.

I should have kept track of my own credits, which would have nipped this problem in the bud before it even started. The first time that I was told that I would not graduate went over well enough, better than the second time anyway.

About a week after finding out that I would not graduate my advisors told me that my minor was incomplete. An unexpected issue that came up, blindsiding me with five extra credits.

The five credits missing from my minor could easily cover the remain- ing three credits for my graduation requirement. It does not seem like such a heavy-handed blow without mention- ing five things.

1. This time was not something that I could help. If I had kept track of my credit as I should have, this would have happened anyways. No matter what I did, I did not and still do not want to deal with. 4. It caught me off guard and I cried for somewhere between two days and two weeks. I was hurt and angry. I felt as though CWU had let me down.

2. I was given this information at a point in this quarter, about week four, when I could no longer add hundreds of dollars’ worth of classes to my schedule.

3. I was given this information at a point in this quarter that made sum- mer quarter feel too close. I needed to breathe, not to force myself into going to a commencement ceremony. Besides completing a linguistics minor outside of an academic school year, i.e. during the summer quarter, would have been an extra hoop to jump through. A hoop that I suddenly had a lot more free time sitting and waiting around that I had been glossing over. I had two new things to do. Number one: suck it up and just be bored when there was no other option. Number two: for the longer breaks in my day, I had to find something else to do since I couldn’t just sit around when there’s a half-hour break between class. For instance, I began to read more and realized how much of my life the tweetbook and snapstagram had been taking. I used to read all the time. I loved it. But until recently I hadn’t touched a book in far too long.

My attention span changed. Reading more showed just how much my brain had a hard time focusing for a long period of time. I would go a few pages before the intrusive impulse to check my phone began to worm into my mind. This is one of the biggest negative effects of social media. Most of what I had been reading for a long time have been only a few sentences of a Reddit post or Facebook rant. If you have the slightest twinge of relatability when I talk about wanting to read more, or a decreasing attention span or impulsive scrolling, I highly recommend you at least try it. I promise, if it throws your life into shambles, the apps will be waiting with open arms.

I was never going to graduate this spring. There was a simple glitch that made my credits look completely fulfilled, if not slightly wonky. My advisor didn’t notice this glitch last year nor this one and I suppose it appeared to be the blind leading the blind.

2. I was given this information at a point in this quarter, about week four, when I could no longer add hundreds of dollars’ worth of classes to my schedule.

3. I was given this information at a point in this quarter that made summer quarter feel too close. I needed to breathe, not to force myself into going to a commencement ceremony. Besides completing a linguistics minor outside of an academic school year, i.e. during the summer quarter, would have been an extra hoop to jump through. A hoop that I could easily cover the remaining three credits for my graduation requirement. It does not seem like such a heavy-handed blow without mentioning five things.

1. This time was not something that I could help. If I had kept track of my credit as I should have, this would have happened anyways. No matter what I did,
No summer plans? Here are five good reasons why you should take classes this summer:

1. Pell grant funding is now available for summer quarter.
2. Live at home and take classes online.
3. Save money. Shorten your time to graduation.
4. Improve your GPA. Retake a class.
5. Sample a new subject. Try something new.

Be sure to register early as courses fill up quickly. Log into MyCWU to register. Search for classes offered by visiting cwu.edu/summer and clicking on the Search Class Schedule link.
Athletics to hold 36th Hall of Fame inductions

Nick Jahneke
Sports Editor

The 1986 NAIA National Championship Men’s Swimming Team finished their season with 381 points and eight national titles. They won three relay races and five individual titles. Stan Vela was awarded outstanding swimmer.

According to Athletic Director Dennis Francois, Krissy Tandle-Richerson was one of the most successful athletes to grace the CWU pool. He said that Tandle-Richerson became the first CWU student-athlete to win a NCAA DII national championship in 2009, and remains the only Wildcat to hold the title to date.

Tandle-Richerson competed in indoor shot put at the NCAA Division II Winter Sports Festival in Houston, Texas, and won with a 14.87 meter throw, according to a March 26 CWU press release. It also said she beat the second place competitor by nearly a foot.

According to a CWU press release, Russell Ferguson won no less than three All-American titles each year from 1976-79. He won second place twice in the 200-meter breaststroke and won the 100-meter breaststroke at the 1977 NAIA National Championship.

Francois said Ferguson was a 23-time All-American and that after he won the national title in 1977, CWU’s Swim Team became dominant in the 100-meter breaststroke as well as other events. They won national titles for every year from 1984-89.

The 1986 NAIA National Champion Men’s Swimming Team finished their season with 381 points and eight titles, according to CWU’s press release. They won the 400-yard freestyle relay, the 400-yard medley relay and the 800-yard freestyle relay. One swimmer, Stan Vela, was named the 1986 Outstanding Swimmer after winning the 500-yard freestyle, the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard backstroke.

Francois said the Hall of Fame nominations are done both internally by the Hall of Fame Committee and online, allowing anyone to submit nominations. Hall of Fame inductees can not be nominated for at least 10 years after their college career comes to an end, according to Francois. Krissy Tandle-Richerson, who won nationals in 2009, is being inducted right at that ten-year mark.

“Tandle-Richerson accomplished special things during their time here, and making that literally the first year they’re eligible,” Francois said.

Francois said the Hall of Fame Committee has been working hard to go through records and looking at national champions and championship teams.

“When you achieve at that level, the best in the nation at your sport or your event, it deserves that recognition in my view,” Francois said.

The Hall of Fame awards.

Francois said the Hall of Fame inductions begin with a social at the President’s University House. Francois said the purpose of the social is to give the inductees some time to relax and socialize so they aren’t thrown into the proceedings right away.

Doors open to the main event at 5 p.m. at the SURC Ballroom. According to Francois, the event will feature a hosted bar, as well as a silent auction and live auctions. He said the proceeds from the auctions will go towards student-athlete scholarships and the cost of the event.

Francois said the silent auction will include items like restaurant gift certificates, baseball tickets, wine packages and more. He said the proceeds will go to the Hall of Fame Endowment Scholarship.

The live auctions will feature a live auctioneer and multiple packages. According to Francois, some of the packages going up for auction are a tour and dinner for eight at Ellensburg Brewery, Mariner diamond club tickets and an expenses-paid trip to San Francisco, which includes access to the Philadelphia Phillies on-field batting practice. Another package offered is a day with the Grant County Sheriff’s Department, where up to four people will be able to experience the department’s driving course and will have the chance to fire different weapons at their firing range.

Francois said that half the proceeds from the Sheriff’s package will go towards a memorial scholarship in recognition of the late Deputy Ryan Thompson’s service.

The induction ceremonies include an introduction of the inductees’ achievements at CWU, followed by a 15-minute acceptance speech. According to Francois, the speeches can get emotional and people often get choked up.

“It’s so nice to see those people in some of their proudest moments,” Francois said. “For most of them, to a T, it’s probably the best time of their lives.”

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If you are staying in Ellensburg this summer, you may be wondering how to stay active. There are activities offered this summer both from Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) and CWU Intramurals.

According to CWU’s website, OPR offers many different rentals for all types of summer activities from water activities to hiking, climbing and camping. OPR offers rafts to rent and inner tubes for floating the river or any other bodies of water. The prices go by student prices to non-student pricing and then by how many days you want to rent the gear. For example, if you wanted to rent a raft for one day as a student it would cost you $36 and if you wanted to rent it for two to three days the cost would be $51. OPR encourages students to get out and utilize the rentals available this summer. According to OPR’s website, the other gear offered to students helps to make more activities open to students. Sophomore Ava Barabasz, who works at OPR, said that there are still opportunities that they will offer before spring quarter is over, like the guided horseback riding event on May 19.

"During the summer most of our rentals are for rafting, but we also have people rent out paddle boards and tubes," Barabasz said. "We even have people rent snowshoes during the summer."

CWU Coordinator of Intramurals Jordan Bishop said they will continue to offer sports over the summer that students can sign up for starting on June 17. Intramurals will offer three vs three basketball, volleyball and kickball leagues this summer. Participation in summer leagues has been lower in the past, because of the number of students that go home for the summer. CWU Intramurals is trying to get the word out about the summer leagues.

"It needs people to sign up to get others to sign up," Bishop said. "This is our attempt at reviving summer intramurals."

According to the MyEllensburg website, there are other activities offered outside of CWU. Fly fishing classes are offered with gear provided. There is also the Ellensburg Rodeo, which will run on Labor Day Weekend starting Friday Aug. 30 and ending Sunday Sept 1.

Students like sophomore Caleb Bryant expressed their want to have more summer activities in Ellensburg. Bryant believes that Ellensburg and CWU could do more for students, but that there are still fun activities if you are creative.

"Being able to float the river and go fishing is something I enjoy in my free time," Bryant said. "I do wish that there was more to do here sometimes as well."
Bryce Weedman  
Senior Sports Reporter

If you don’t know who junior AJ Wood is, then you should remember the name. Wood is a pitcher for CWU Baseball, and according to his teammates and coaches, he is a stand out player, and human being.

Wood attended C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento, California. He did not have his father around much growing up so his mother was the one looking after him, which, according to Wood, is why they have such a close relationship. Wood has one sister who is two years older than him and was a college athlete as well, playing soccer at Chico State University. Wood also has a half brother who graduated from the University of California Los Angeles. Wood also has a step sister who is two years old. Finally Wood has a nephew who does not have a father figure in his life, and Wood has taken over as the man being.

"Baseball has been an out for me. Like my mother, Wood has always been known as a good athlete. He loves sports already. I’m trying to push him into baseball, but he is really into soccer, said Wood's sister.

He grew up in a single parent household, and not living in the greatest neighborhood, said that he didn't surround himself with the best types of people. Wood said he wasn't doing the best things and was living the street life.

"Wood is a three sport athlete playing football, basketball and baseball. Football was Wood's main sport throughout high school. He played as both a defensive end and a tight end. Wood was able to get a handful of college football offers, but his senior year he tore his left labrum and decided to take the baseball route. Wood ended up getting C.K. McClatchy's Male Athlete of the Year in 2016 which helped him get collegiate baseball offers. Right off the bat, Wood took his first offer to go play baseball at Oregon Institute of Technology. After one year, Wood transferred back to his home state of California to play baseball. After a good year there he decided to transfer up north to play for CWU.

According sophomore Mitch Lesmeister, Wood has always been known as the guy on the team to make things relaxed and enjoyable. Wood's teammates feel that he is one of the funniest guys on the team, and there is never a dull moment when it comes to Wood. They also said always has their backs.

"I like the idea of being the guy that makes you laugh, and being the guy that you can talk to if something is serious," Wood said. "I have been that guy that you can talk to, but also when I feel you need to step up, I’m going to say something, and hold you to a higher standard."

For Lesmeister, this was his first year playing with Wood. Lesmeister said that the role Wood plays is extremely important to the team's dynamic.

"AJ is probably one of the most funny guys on the team. He’s a smooth talker when it comes to the game of baseball," Lesmeister said. "There is never a dull moment when it comes to AJ. He's a great guy and a leader on the team."

Wood said that his main goal was to make it to the big leagues, and he is now giving up on that dream. According to Wood a scout for the Yaku-ma Pippins, a semi-pro baseball team, has been at CWU baseball games, and liked what he saw out of Wood. Wood has offered the chance to try out for this summer with the Pippins. Wood said that he has a lot of potential as a pitcher. However, Wood has decided to not go to the Pippins and instead play at CWU.

"AJ is a great guy. Very competitive, wants success for himself and his teammates," Storey said. "He is a very likeable person and a very social person."

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Eastern Arizona College, Bolton played Kent, Washington. He led Kentwood Arizona College. Prior to that, he graduated from colleges spending two years playing for Eastern and is coming back to Washington after returning to the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) in his senior year. With over 2,000 career points in high school and a 2A state championship in 2016, Pollard comes in as the only true freshman in this offseason’s recruiting class so far. Head coach Brandon Rinta is excited for Pollard’s career for the Green River Gators with 22 points per game and 10 rebounds per game, and finished top 10 in the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) in points per game, rebounds per game and blocks per game. Baker decided to become a Wildcat. "I was a leader on and off the court at my last school and I want to bring that same energy to CWU," Woody said.

Rayvaughn Bolton, Guard, Eastern Arizona College
Rayvaughn Bolton stands 6-foot-3 and is coming back to the team next season is Tariq Woody. Another player adding length to the team next season is Tariq Woody. Woody is also 6-foot-8 and comes to CWU as a sophomore. Woody shot 64.2 percent from the field last year and had a season-high 18 rebound game against West Virginia Wesleyan College. The most rebounds in one game for CWU last year was 15 by Gamaun Boykin against Cal State Monterey Bay.

According to Rinta, Bolton “makes us better defensively immediately.”

Coach Rinta listed Gilson as another player who will help the team out with size on the court this upcoming season.

Amari Stafford, Guard, Eastern Arizona College
Joining Rayvaughn Bolton on the trip north from Eastern Arizona will be Amari Stafford. Stafford is a 6-foot-6 guard that shot over 40 percent on three-point field goals last season. Stafford got hot late in the season. He shot for double digits in 10 out of the first 25 games. He then closed out the season shooting double digits in all of the final six games, including a season high 25 point game.

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Tweets of the week

This week in Observer history

On May 21, 2009, it was reported that a religious protest took place on campus involving two evangelists by the names of Robert Ephrata and Jed Smock.

Students congregated to challenge the reason behind the protest and their teachings against loose morals.

THURSDAYS, MAY 16
Bicycle Repair Clinics
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. • OPR East Patio
Drop in to work on your bike with our trained staff at this FREE clinic!

THURSDAY, MAY 16 - SATURDAY, MAY 19
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
May 16, 17 & 18 at 7:30 p.m.
May 19 at 2 p.m. • cwu.edu/tickets
This musical, based on Victor Hugo’s classic novel, has been wowing audiences since it opened on Broadway in 1996! CWU’s production is particularly special as one of our students is a member of the cast!

FRI. MAY 17
IM Backyard Game Series: Spikeball
3 - 6 p.m. • Recreation Center Lawn
Drop by with your friends to play Spikeball and celebrate the weekend!

Korean Culture Night
6 - 9 p.m. • Wellington Event Center
Enjoy K-pop, Gimbop, hip-hop and food samples! Learn about Korean culture and history, and Korea-related courses/events at CWU next year.

MON. MAY 20
ASCWU Public Meeting
1 p.m. • SURC Pit • Last one this year!

Movie Madness: How to Train Your Dragon 3
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/$3

TUE. MAY 21
Spring Blood Drive
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • SURC 137
One donation could save three lives! Walk-ins welcome. Coordinated by American Red Cross, CLCE and Kappa Sigma.

WED. MAY 22
Lunch N Learn: African Diaspora in the United States
12 - 1 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free
Learn about the experience of emigrating from Africa to the United States.

Student Loan Repayment Workshop
1 - 3 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free
Learn about the process, and your rights and responsibilities as a borrower. Free pizza!

Evening of Recognition
Congratulations to tonight’s recipients!

ESC Night Market
6 - 9 p.m. • SURC E. Patio • Free
It’s a showcase and celebration of cultures, with performances, spoken word and more. Cultural food available for purchase (cash sales.)

SAVE THE DATE!
Student Appreciation Day presents WILDFEST May 23 at the RSC!
(Recreation Sports Complex)
Free music, games, hip hop rodeo, food for CWU students. #wildfest19

APPLY! CHAVEZ-KING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Applications are due by 5 p.m. May 24. Visit SURC 256 for more information.

FALL REGISTRATION OPEN
Choose Gen Ed track and register!

MOVERS AND SHAKERS
Sign up to help move in first year students next fall. cwu.edu/housing

ASK RUNE
The “Ask” column is written by one of our Staff members. Opinions in this column are meant to be lighthearted.

Dear Rune,
I always have wondered what it would be like to experience a different era in American history. The 1960s, the 1970s, the 1980s might have been cool, but what do you think? If you could time travel back to any time period, or theoretically forward for that matter, what year would you pick and why?

Sincerely,
Temporarily Displaced

Dear Displaced,
If I’m visiting as a sort of disembodied observer, separate from the events I’m witnessing and unable to influence history in any way, I’d say I want to visit the mid-1970s. I’ve always felt I needed proof that leg-warmers and mullets were indeed popular, and seeing it would put to rest my theory that pop culture made them up to make us feel better about ourselves.

If I was visiting in a capacity wherein I’d be able to interact with and influence the world around me, I’d probably go to the mid-1990s, around the time of my own birth. I’d probably try to run into my parents at a bar or something and convince them that “danger” would be a great middle name for a baby.

If my choices in time travel could have lasting historical impact, I’d hit up ancient Egypt, convince them I was a god using my knowledge of the future and command them to build giant triangles in the desert for no reason. Then again, on returning, I might find it difficult to make people believe that those desert-triangles were my idea, and if I can’t get any glory out of it, what would even be the point? I might just visit yesterday to eat that pizza I had for dinner again. Life’s about the small pleasures after all.

Sincerely,
Rune Danger Torgersen

Submit a burning question you have.

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

Call for reader work.

Do you have a letter you want published?

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