Shooters 2.0 closes

Shooters 2.0, more commonly referred to as just “Shooters,” has now permanently closed its doors at its Ellensburg location. The bar is relocating to Cle Elum in the same location as Warrior’s Den, a restaurant and lounge for adults and an after school hangout for kids. Owner Mike Morgan was the idea behind both of these places.

The main reason behind the relocation was the uncertainties of COVID-19. They closed their doors on March 22 and began the relocation process to Cle Elum. It will no longer be called Shooters 2.0, so when it reopens following the current stay-at-home order, if people want to travel to Cle Elum to get their gaming kick, look for the name Warrior’s Den instead.

Morgan said the choice to go forward with this relocation was less difficult than it was essential.

“I think it was just the next step,” Morgan said. “I think it wasn’t a difficult decision but probably the only one decision besides closing them both. Having the revenue come in is the thing we were most worried about.”

While the name and location are different, Morgan plans to keep some of those key Shooters aspects in the lounge side of Warrior’s Den.

“The lounge has a lot of the Shooters stuff in it that we brought down and just rebuilt and put in here so it kind of feels like Shooters,” Morgan said. Warrior’s Den does provide some things that Shooters didn’t offer to its customers. One new feature is an area for people under 21 to play. Morgan said Warrior’s Den has a program with mentors who bring the kids they mentor to play some games and hang out.

Continued on Page 10

34 new COVID-19 cases

Bailey Tomlinson
News Editor

Kittitas County has 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of May 10, with that number subject to change as more test results come through. All who have tested positive are currently stable and none have required hospitalization.

Out of 169 Twin City Foods employees who have been tested so far, 34 have tested positive with the majority showing symptoms, according to a Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) press release. Employees who did not receive testing cannot return to work until after a 14 day quarantine period.

The Incident Management Team (IMT) began mass testing for all employees at the Twin City Foods location on May 8 after being notified that one employee had tested positive. According to a KCPHD press release, over 20% of the Twin City Foods employees have tested positive.

The county’s variance application remains on hold. According to an email from the Washington Department of Health, Kittitas County is currently the only application still listed as under review.

Continued on Page 3

Transit service continues with new safety measures

Michelle Reyes
Staff Reporter

On March 23, the Central Transit Facebook page announced they would be increasing safety and social distancing practices in an attempt to protect customers and agency employees. The precautions will be in effect until further notice.

“We do not have any plans to reduce any services at all. We can see by the amount of people that are riding that those riders are using it for essential services,” Betsy Dunbar, City of Ellensburg transit manager said.

Central Transit is a City of Ellensburg service that contracts with Hope Source, who provides drivers and buses, among other services. The transit is a free service for the public and is accessible for anyone, including those with mobility challenges.

There is a complementary paratransit service available for anyone who cannot access public transportation due to a disability, injury or illness and they can qualify for a door-to-door service within the city’s limits.

Mark Holinsworth, the director of operations at Hope Source said they have safety measures within the building for the drivers. The safety measures include hand sanitizer inside the building, masks to wear while in the building, spacing of six to 10 feet in the rest area and then every hour disinfecting everything the drivers touched.

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Free Wi-Fi available to community

Ty McPhee
Staff Reporter

The City of Ellensburg announced on their Facebook page free Wi-Fi will now be available in certain locations for community use.

The post said the city was working together with CWU, Kittitas County and the Ellensburg School District (ESD) to provide free Wi-Fi via drive up access with hot spots.

A map was linked to show what areas have Wi-Fi available for users. All Ellensburg schools are a part of this new initiative along with other public areas for more widespread coverage.

An announcement about an end date to the community Wi-Fi accessibility has not been made.

The City of Ellensburg wrote in their post that the intention is to provide access for those in the community who are in need of Wi-Fi to, "engage in online lessons, to access telehealth services, maintain connections with family and friends, and to be able to work remotely. Never has access to the internet for all been more critical than it is now."

Students and families who don’t have reliable access to the internet now have a public and accessible avenue of connecting online to continue with work, schooling and communicating with loved ones from afar. The community Wi-Fi can also be found at the Upper Kittitas County District Court in Cle Elum for those in Kittitas County who aren’t near Ellensburg or unable to travel there.

Those who are north of Helena Avenue have CWU and Mount Stuart Elementary as the closest places available to them, while those who are near downtown Ellensburg have many more options. The Stan Basnett Youth Center and Ellensburg Public Library are listed as additional community Wi-Fi locations.

CWU, though not listed on the website, has a public Wi-Fi network available to those who aren’t students of the university. Students are still able to access the private Wildcat network by using their CWU login credentials.

"Users are asked to practice social distancing by remaining in their cars during their visits to the hotspot areas," the post said.

Never has access to the internet for all been more critical than it is now.

- City of Ellensburg Facebook

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COVID-19 updates

Continued from Page 1

Though the application has been put on hold, KCPHD Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson asked residents to begin preparing for phase two activities. The 34 people who have reacted positive are currently in isolation. There are 116 additional people under quarantine, including household members of those who tested positive. Additionally, 19 people considered critical workers at Twin City Foods despite the plant being closed are affected and remaining home.

“We are handling this response,” Kittitas County Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson said. “We have not exceeded our capacity to respond to this situation.”

Anyone who is exposed to COVID-19 is encouraged to isolate or quarantine in their own homes, but the Kittitas County Incident Management Team (IMT) will work closely with those who cannot feasibly do so to find an appropriate location.

Public Information Officer Ka- sey Kautson said that numbers on the Community Impact Dashboard may not reflect numbers being reported because the dashboard counts only those who have an address in Kittitas County. The IMT is working with both Grant and Yakima county health jurisdictions to respond to cases for those not living in Kittitas County.

The IMT is continuing to respond to the outbreak at Twin City Foods and is contacting people regarding test results. Both positive and negative test results will receive contact from the IMT. Twin City Foods will remain closed until May 19 and will be visited today by Larson to receive assistance in how to prevent any further outbreaks.

The IMT is working personally with those who tested positive to gain more information about health status, onset of symptoms, potential contacts with others and any needs they may have. Businesses can access resources for creating safety plans on the county website. Individuals and households can also prepare by planning ahead for the possibility of having to quarantine or isolate and identifying loved ones or organizations that can assist in supporting them.

General questions can be directed to the Emergency Operation Center at 509-933-8315 or 509-933-8305. Information is available via the county website and the Kittitas County Public Health Department Facebook page.
Orientation tentative as summer nears

Abigail Duchow
Senior Reporter

Orientation is one of many campus activities impacted by COVID-19. To follow the Stay Safe, Stay Healthy guidelines set by Gov. Jay Inslee, CWU has had to create new plans for orientation. These new plans will impact incoming students, including freshmen and transfer students. New students coming to CWU in fall 2020 will be experiencing a different orientation structure than in the past, Orientation Director John Mounsey said. Orientation will be making a shift to virtual events and interaction, with the possibility of eventual in-person activities near the end of summer in accordance with changes to the stay-at-home guidelines. All plans are subject to change based on COVID-19 restrictions.

"Everything from here on is still in development and may change as final decisions are being made," Mounsey said.

Mounsey said orientation has had to change from the previous in-person sessions, while keeping in mind how to preserve the core values of the program. These values include access, inclusivity, student success, engagement and safety.

According to Mounsey, another thing orientation staff aims to acknowledge when creating new plans is how to make the orientation program work while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Part of creating new plans also includes acknowledging residual fear and anxiety students, parents and staff may have as COVID-19 restrictions eventually lift.

Mounsey said orientation staff is working on putting students into Microsoft Teams groups. The groups would be led by CWU ambassadors that would include returning students, academic advisors, student success staff and any other appropriate faculty. The purpose of these groups would be to allow students to connect with their orientation leader, student services and other students.

According to Mounsey, the groups of students will be made based on factors such as their major, residence hall, athletics participation and specialty programs.

"Our hope is to hold weekly meetings for each group so that students can begin forming personal relationships that will help [CWU] feel a little more like home once they move to Ellensburg," Mounsey said.

Mounsey said orientation staff is also hoping to host something on campus during the month of August in small groups if restrictions allow it. He said this program will help students connect with their orientation leader, student services and other students.

There are several other tentative plans for orientation subject to change as COVID-19 restrictions change. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in August the orientation staff might host optional in-person orientation sessions with a 100 student capacity. As of now, Sept. 18 will be first-year residence hall move-in day and the start of Wildcat Welcome Week.

Orientation Coordinator Teerra Felder said she feels optimistic about the plans for switching to a safe environment for students and faculty.

"I hope we can still provide an environment via Microsoft Teams for incoming students to connect with folks and receive the information they need to prepare them for their first quarter," Felder said.

Felder said the orientation team is already receiving positive feedback from incoming students and support networks about their Wildcat Wednesday livestreams, which cover topics like financial aid, housing and student success.

Continued from Page 1

Hollinsworth said drivers sanitize the bus at the beginning of shifts at each stop as a safety precaution. He added that there are five routes running and each of those circuits have a time stop which is a designated stop where passengers get on and off the bus. During the time stop, the drivers are sanitizing surface areas, doors, guard rails and seats every 15 minutes.

"We have also blocked off sections of our seats so that we have good distance spacing for those who ride," Hollinsworth said. At the end of the day, the drivers thoroughly clean and disinfect buses with a spray of 40 to 60% alcohol approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which is effective against coronavirus according to Dunbar.

Margaret Reich, communications and government relations officer of the City of Ellensburg said the federal government has not given them any requirements. They are following the best practices they have received from the transportation safety administration.

Reich said the drivers have hand sanitizer, masks and safety vests on at all times, and they are taking advanced precautions by watching for passengers who are coughing or unwell and encouraging them to stay home. If passengers need personal protective equipment, the drivers can provide it.

"From the first two weeks of March to the first couple weeks of April, [riders] have dropped probably from about 1,100 riders to 750 riders in the week," Dunbar said. "And it is now starting to pick up slowly but there hasn't been a huge increase yet."

According to the Central Transit Facebook page, passengers are encouraged to use open seats away from others, practice good hygiene like covering coughs and sneezes and avoid the transit if symptomatic.

Reich said transportation is an essential service that needs to continue.

"A lot of our drivers have taken this job because they have a service heart. They want to do a job that they make an income on," Hollinsworth said. "But they want to do something that makes a difference in their community to support their brother, their neighbor... they feel an obligation to make sure that people have access to food, hospitals, medical care and nutrition."

Public transit remains available

Daily News
The Observer
@CWUObserver cwuobserver.com

Graphic by Teagan Kimbro

Bus drivers like William Webster continue to drive to help those who rely on transit.
Diving deeper into the New Horizons game during the stay-at-home order

Samantha Cabeza
Staff Reporter

College students are playing Ninten- do’s new game, Animal Crossing: New Horizons (ACNH), that was released on March 20. Students have flocked to this game in hopes of still being able to con- nect with friends and family.

The stay-at-home order has restrict- ed people from having social gatherings, which means students can’t get together and socialize.

ACNH has become a way for students to be together without breaking the stay- at-home order. They can run around, ex- change fruit and trade goods. Facebook groups have been created since the game has been out to help players trade goods they have or Bells. Bells are the currency used in the game.

They can be used to buy wallpaper, furniture or materials like wood and star fragments. They can also purchase these items from other players using Bells. ACNH caused Nintendo Switch mod- els to go out of stock on certain retail store websites due to the high demand from people of all ages wanting to play the colorful game.

There are four previous Animal Crossing games released over the years that had a large following. Josie Gallup, a senior English major with a specializa- tion in professional and creative writing, said she thinks ACNH became popular extremely fast because it’s a social game. She said it’s a fitting game for stu- dents during this time, especially during the pandemic.

“Instead of texting or FaceTim- ing somebody, you can ‘physically’ run around and spend time with your friends. You can show them your island and what you have been working on while you are at home,” Gallup said. “It feels like you are actually there, and you can’t get that from texting or calling.”

Gallup is involved in the trading world of ACNH. She is in a Facebook group to get design codes for her island and uses the website Nookazon to pur- chase in-game items she is looking for. Nookazon is an online website play- ers use to buy and sell furniture and DIY cards they no longer want. It is a source for all players to use when they’re looking for items or no longer want them. Nookazon also trades villagers, which are animal neighbors who eventually leave to go to the next island. If a player’s villager is moving out, they post a picture and tell other players they need a new home.

The player who wants the character will purchase the villager using in-game currency and let them move into their empty plot on their island. Nookazon uses Discord, a messaging app, to contact in-game sellers to close a deal on an item.

The buyer then sets up a DodoCode, which is a passkey for the seller to be able to come to their island. They then drop off the item, exchange Bells and go on with their day.

Gallup said a foolproof way of selling is to set up a fence around the airport en- trance so the seller can’t run around the island and mess anything up. Trading and selling has become more popular the lon- ger the game has been out.

Players have a way of trading without having to buy anything which is called “cease and desist.” This means the player has a way of adding the item to their inventory and then removing it, giving it back to the original owner.

Later on, when they are ready to pur- chase, they use the in-game service “Nook Shopping” to order it when they have enough Bells.

Sellers have gone to eBay to sell game currency. Certain sellers will sell players over 10 million Bells for $6.50 or more on eBay. Gallup purchased 8 million Bells from eBay and was able to pay off a house loan in the game and purchase furniture she’s been wanting for a while.

“I basically had to call my bank and tell them everything was okay because my card was getting declined. I had to explain I was buying something for a game,” Gallup said.

Office of International Studies and Programs struggles to get students to participate in optional activities

Joseph Stanger
Staff Reporter

Not a single student showed up to eight out of the 12 events the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) put on this quarter. According to the OISP’s program coordinator, Kri- sisy Rasmussen, the results aren’t surprising.

“This is a little disappointing, but it’s understandable,” Geocks said. “Personal- ly, we each think the same thing: if this wasn’t my job, I wouldn’t be here right now either.”

Geocks believes online fatigue may be the main reason students haven’t been showing up to the events.

“It’s not just international students, it’s everyone, not even just students,” Geocks said. “They’re fatigued from having to be online and glued to a com- puter for eight-plus hours a day for edu- cation or work.”

Geocks has been trying to boost awareness for these events by sending direct emails to students and posting to their various social media accounts, but so far, Geocks said there hasn’t been much of a difference.

Yunus Timurtas, a political science major, junior, international student, and assistant to Geocks, moved back to his home country of Turkey for spring quar- ter due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“I’m planning the programs right now,” Timurtas said. “But I cannot attend because of the time difference.”

Time differences have likely been an issue for other international- al students as well, but the main reason is likely due to students not wanting to spend more time on their computers than they already have to.

“I’m not going to lie to you, I’m sit- ting on the laptop all day,” Timurtas said. “Why should I join an extra event?”

Haylie Rasmussen, a junior biology and chemistry double major, has been helping OISP with some of the different events they’ve been putting on. During the first event she organized herself, no students showed up.

“Due to it not really taking off and a lot of students not having an interest in it, I will soon be needing to come up with a new program,” Rasmussen said.

The event was called "Our Stories: Story Sharing Sessions," and it was in- tended to connect people and hear the stories and perspectives of others.

Some events, like game night, are more fun and relaxed, while others are a little more serious and focused.

Rasmussen also believes that the problem of getting students to participate in these optional events isn’t exclusive to the OISP.

“It’s just not fun to stare at a screen forever,” Rasmussen said. “I think once people are done with their work or their classes, they’re just too mentally exhaust- ed and tired.”

Geocks said they’ve been having success with getting people to look at their social media posts this quarter, but getting engage- ment on those posts has been difficult.

To get more engagement, at least from international students, OISP is planning on using WhatsApp.

The messaging service will allow OISP to directly text international stu- dents information regarding any events or informational sessions being put on. Although most of their events haven’t gathered a lot of attention, there are a few that have.

A recent event that saw success, called “Cultural Conversations,” was held by OISP in collaboration with the Brooks Li- brary and the Ellenburg library.

“We had quite a few Ellenburg citi- zens, CWU staff or faculty and a handful of students,” Geocks said.

According to the events description online, Cultural Conversations is an op- portunity for anyone to hear a different view, practice empathetic listening and speaking, learn a new culture through storytelling, and explore deep and rele- vant topics with others.

Krisisy said the informational events they hold also tend to get more engagement.

“We’ve talked about the changes that are happening into going online, or about [COVID-19] and the pandemic,” Geocks said. “[There are also] sessions about internships and working after you’ve graduated.”

Rasmussen said the hope for the OISP events is to bring people together and to connect with one another.

“All of our events are completely open to everyone on campus, not just the in- ternational students,” Rasmussen said. “We strive to connect our international students with our domestic students and bring that community across borders and across water.”
Being stuck at home may not have been what students expected this spring, and as a result it has led to changes in eating habits. Although eating habits and regimens have changed, some people are taking advantage of the time by planning meals to encourage better eating habits.

Enoch Bergeron, a senior business administration major with a specialization in leadership management, now limits the amount of food he eats due to having online classes. Enoch’s go-to method for getting food was based on the times classes started and ended.

Enoch said this spring has been difficult, especially getting into a routine. When classes are all online and everything is held virtually, it gives students the opportunity to eat more. Enoch knows he will over snack and has tried his best to not eat as much.

Being more mindful of snacking and eating, Enoch said this quarter has forced him to set specific times to eat meals. Enoch said having to think more has impacted how much he eats.

“The less I think about eating, the more I end up eating because I have no way to keep track,” Enoch said.

In addition to eating less, not having any social interactions with people has forced Enoch’s diet to be dependent on what he wants to eat. Since there’s no one on campus to socialize with, Enoch goes straight to get food and back to his dorm. Enoch’s favorite place to eat is El Gato Loco in the SURC because he knows exactly what is being made.

During a stressful week, Enoch would occasionally treat himself to ice cream as a reward. Enoch said it is not so much stress eating but rewarding himself after working on schoolwork all week.

Justin Lester, a senior political science major, uses his extra time since being at
home to stick to a regimented routine. On a typical day, Lester wakes up at 6 a.m. and enjoys a light breakfast usually containing some type of grain. Lester has also been able to spend more time making his meals. “Since the beginning of the pandemic I have had more time to research and look up things to cook,” Lester said. “I think that with the pandemic it has allowed me to diversify my selections to eat healthier.”

At the beginning of last quarter, Lester was focused on bulking in terms of growing more muscle. With the gym not available it forced Lester to adapt in other ways to maintain an overall healthy lifestyle resulting in leaner meats and vegetables. Even without the gym, Lester still looks forward to improving his health by developing better eating habits.

Mark Melendres, a senior exercise science major, has had a different experience with having to stay at home. On a typical day, Melendres would wake up early in the morning to work out and begin breakfast at 8 a.m.

With the stay-at-home order in effect, it has directly impacted what time Melendres eats on a day to day basis. “Honestly whenever I feel hungry is the point that I eat,” Melendres said. “Before [COVID-19] I would usually eat at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m, but because I have all the time to eat I just wait ‘til I am hungry.”

Melendres said being home all day and not being able to go to the gym has affected his physical fitness. In order to maintain physical fitness, he would run two miles because he knows how many calories it burns. Melendres said going grocery shopping has provided some difficulties and caused concerns, especially when he gets low on starches. “I get a little frustrated because if I run out of rice I do not know what I am going to eat. I eat rice every day and without it I am not the same,” Melendres said.

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Fletcher was shocked at the amount of soda requested every day. Fletcher said there were rarely any times people included hand sanitizers or cleaning materials in their shopping list. The majority of the requests were groceries and not personal hygiene.

While working at Fred Meyer, Fletcher has developed a better way to navigate stores and tried to get out faster rather than waiting around. Based on her experience working, she said a common trend is that people are buying items in bulk or are impatient.

Fletcher recommends shoppers have a list before shopping and be patient at the grocery store. It is important to try and limit the amount of foot traffic and be considerate of others during these times, according to Fletcher.

Fletcher has been an employee at Fred Meyer for a month and enjoys the busy work tempo.

Fletcher said it provides her the opportunity to go to school and still make money. She said there are certain times that are more demanding than others and it really depends on the time of the day.

“A lot of people are buying soda, alcohol and bread.”

- Madeline Fletcher, Fred Meyer Click List Employee
CWU seniors’ post graduation plans change due to COVID-19 outbreak

Karina Severino  
Staff Reporter

Life after graduation requires planning and preparation. Due to COVID-19, seniors have faced many changes to their original plans and are having to make adjustments.

Ruby Nambo is an English language arts teaching major with a minor in bilingual education/teaching English as a second language (TESL). Nambo was originally set to graduate this spring but won’t be able to due to her student teaching being canceled.

“This was supposed to be my last quarter, [and] from there I was going to prepare myself to get my teaching certificate and at the same time go find a job and go from there,” Nambo said. “But now, due to this pandemic that we’re in, it kind of made me shift my plans a little bit.”

Because K-12 classes are being held online right now, there are many requirements for her teaching license that she can’t do online.

She, along with other student teachers, were told in a meeting that they would have to come back in the fall to finish up the last requirements for their teaching certificates.

“When I first heard about this, I was really upset because this was one of those moments I’ve been looking forward to the whole year,” Nambo said. “This made me postpone getting a job, but now I can take my time and not rush into getting my teaching certificate.”

For many students, the last courses they take for their major require in-person experience to prepare them for their field.

Jessica Hernandez, a senior business major with a minor in event planning and management, said this pandemic changed her plans for preparation after college.

Hernandez said she had a potential internship for the summer she found through a career fair before the stay-at-home order. Now, she’s not sure if she will be applying since it is in western Washington and things are so unsure at this time.

“I had a practicum planned for this quarter, and I was going to basically double dip with work for that credit,” Hernandez said. “But now I can’t do that anymore since the practicum was for my event planning class.”

Now that she can’t do her practicum due to spring events being canceled, she is taking more preparatory credits.

“It’s a little bit more hectic work-wise than it is academic-wise because I can do school work online but I can’t do work online since half of my job is events,” Hernandez said.

Marcelo Berganza, a senior biology major, is graduating this spring and said his last few lab classes have been very different.

“One of the things that’s kind of actually impacting me right now is I’m taking molecular biotechnology and that’s the class where they are teaching us and going into detail of all regular [lab] procedures,” Berganza said. “Because of [COVID-19] everything has been moved online and that class is heavy on lab time.”

Since classes have been moved online, he said every week they have to write out every step they would do if they were in a lab and then watch videos of other people doing the experiments.

The jobs he’s considering all require at least a year of experience in a lab. This last quarter would have been completing that year of experience that is required.

However, Berganza feels he is not getting the hands-on experience he would be getting if he were in a real lab setting.

“It’s really tough, you know, learning science and biology through the computer,” Berganza said. “These are the procedures that, if I go looking for a job, that’s the experience they will be looking for.”

CWU seniors’ post graduation plans change due to COVID-19 outbreak

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Since classes have been moved online, he said every week they have to write out every step they would do if they were in a lab and then watch videos of other people doing the experiments.

The jobs he’s considering all require at least a year of experience in a lab. This last quarter would have been completing that year of experience that is required.

However, Berganza feels he is not getting the hands-on experience he would be getting if he were in a real lab setting.

“It’s really tough, you know, learning science and biology through the computer,” Berganza said. “These are the procedures that, if I go looking for a job, that’s the experience they will be looking for.”

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Either student media courses at CWU need to be worth more, or less of them should be necessary to graduate. Working for student media is an extremely valuable way to gain real world experience in the journalism field while you’re still in college, but these programs are flawed. They’re worth too little credits which don’t add up to the workload required of the students taking them.

CWU offers various positions in four different outlets that allow students to perform tasks like writing, editing, photographing and designing. For an entry level position at one of CWU’s media outlets, two or three credits is the maximum amount available for a quarter’s worth of full-time work.

In the new digital journalism major, students are required to take 14 credits of student media in order to earn their bachelor’s degree, even if they’ve already reached the 180 credits needed to graduate.

I took Running Start courses while still in high school and came to CWU with an associate’s degree. The credits that transferred from my community college to CWU qualified me as a junior in 2018, so all of my plans have revolved around graduating at the end of spring 2020. Throughout my time at CWU, I have taken a full-time load of classes every quarter except summer for almost two years.

At this point, I would have more than enough credits to graduate if not for the media courses required of my digital journalism major. Some aspects of my work at the outlets have been beneficial, but I have had to work harder in these classes than in any other course required in the major. For the effort they demand of students, I believe CWU should consider how little these classes count for and the amount of them needed to earn a digital journalism degree.

The amount of credits a class is worth should be determined by the work required in the course.

Not only have these low-credit class requirements forced me to pay for another two quarters at CWU, I have also lost scholarship money due to under-enrollment. At CWU, under-enrolled students who don’t take enough credits are not eligible for some scholarships. This quarter, for example, I am taking four classes (two being in student media) which is not enough to reach the full-time minimum of 12 credits. The workload of these four classes certainly exceeds that which should be asked of 12 credits, though.

CWU should mimic the way other universities treat student media. Seattle Pacific offers a journalism minor and requires students to only take a minimum of five student media or internship credits.

In the journalism program at the University of Memphis, students are not required to take student media as a class. They can still only earn three credits, but students have the freedom to work for the outlets that interest them and are better able to fit the work required of the courses into their school schedule.

Oregon State operates similarly. They don’t make student media mandatory, but students interested in participating in student media have the option to register for Orange Media Network Practicum (a television station, radio station, newspaper and three magazines at Oregon State) in order to receive credit for their participation.

CWU needs to rethink the requirements of the digital journalism major. They should take the workload of student media and the time it should take a student to complete a bachelor’s degree into account and change the structure of the student media courses to reflect that. CWU should mimic the ways other universities set up their student media courses and either make them worth more or be needed less.
Athletes and coaches turn to Zoom to study game film, plan workouts and connect with team

Rey Green
Staff Reporter

No school means no sports. However, the grind has not stopped for student athletes. Athletes have been attending Zoom meetings to continue improving their techniques and bond with the team. Teams are preparing as if the upcoming seasons will not be postponed or canceled, and coaches are using Zoom to stay in contact with their players.

Women’s basketball junior forward Kassidy Malcolm said the team has three Zoom meetings a week. On Mondays, the team is dedicated to planning what the week is going to look like and talking about what they learned from the week before. The team also talks about how the weekend went.

On Wednesdays, Malcolm meets with her assistant coach and another teammate who plays the same position to study film together.

“We talk about a bunch of different strategies to use as a post player. We talk post defense, post transition and good post moves to use,” Malcolm said.

Malcolm said watching film is beneficial because they can see the mistakes they need to fix.

On Fridays, Malcolm meets with all the post players to discuss the subject of the week and what they learned.

“I think it’s a nice platform for us to have right now. If not, we wouldn’t be able to meet, watch film together and communicate with one another,” Malcolm said.

“Even though this situation sucks, and it would be better to be in person, we have right now. If not, we wouldn’t be able to meet, watch film together and communicate with one another,” Malcolm said.

“It was a great place to go play older video games or card games together,” Ford said. “It kind of sucks, the end of an era,” Alumna Audrey Vulcano said. “It does make me sad that a video game bar will no longer be in Ellensburg. It was just a different experience compared to going to a normal bar where all there is to do is drink and watch TV,” Ford said.

Ford said he will also miss the welcoming environment Shooters provided for its customers and the overall experience it offered.

“The best thing is that it was a welcoming place to go drink and play cards, pool and video games. We don’t really have anything else like that in Ellensburg and there are places to do similar things in Seattle but that’s a far drive from CWU,” Ford said.

“The drinks were all very unique, as was the setup of the bar in general, so I will be missing that experience,” Vulcano said.

Alumna Audrey Vulcano visited Shooters a lot when she was a student and it wasn’t just to grab a drink. She enjoyed going just to study or hang out with friends sometimes.

When Vulcano heard that Shooters was closing she was disappointed.

“It kind of sucks, the end of an era,” Vulcano said. “It’s really the only bar you can go to just to have a drink, you know, you don’t have to shout to hear your friends talk and you don’t have to party to be there.”

Vulcano gave credit to Morgan and said management takes their business seriously and that they really make it a place where people want to hang out and play games.

“They put a lot of work into it, making it the sort of place you’d want to spend time and hang out and play games,” Vulcano said. “They put a lot of work into the atmosphere, they put a lot of work into the community, they truly are great people.”

Morgan hopes the gaming crowd as well as college students will make the trip to Warrior’s Den when they are able to fully open again. They will still have the same drinks and beers as they always have along with a full menu of food.

“If they were part of the gaming community and came a stop before the coronavirus hit, we would definitely reach out to them and say, hey, we still have all of our games and we’d like to have you come up and hang out,” Morgan said.
Tyler Smith, a junior ITAM major, said he has turned to gaming. “I figured it would be a good way to keep some of my sanity,” Steeves said. “Any time I finish homework and studying, I play.” Before the quarantine, Vera said he and his friends would all meet at one of their houses to play video games. Since that is not possible now, they talk on Discord while playing. “You can’t eliminate all the people you see, but you can keep some of your sanity,” Steeves said. “I've been playing a little bit more,” Vera said while people often look down on video games, Vera said he uses video game characters as motivation and that playing shows him how much he can accomplish. Vera said people spend real money for virtual items. Through this you begin to learn more of their back stories. “I am continuously taking care of my body and making it nicer,” Vera said. “It’s really relaxing.” Vera said he spends his free time fishing and doing other activities in the game. Currently, he is working on a layout of a new shopping center in the game. Currently, he is working on a layout of a new shopping center in the game.

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How The Observer has been dealing with a pandemic

My lil tips for quarantine:
1. Go out and get sunshine
2. Find a hobby and indulge in your hobby (I’ve been playing video games)
3. Don’t lose touch with friends and family (Zoom/FaceTime hangouts are fun)

Have a designated study place that is not in your bed.

Amy Morris

Have a designated study place that is not in your bed.

Tell your loved ones you love them

Your mental health is important

Cherish those around you

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Cumie by Tiffany Tablang