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George Floyd protests reach Ellensburg

Hundreds march against police brutality and systematic racism

Photos by Mariah Valles and Nicholas Tucker/The Observer

Mitchell Roland
Senior Reporter

Chanting “black lives matter” and “no justice, no peace,” several hundred peaceful protestors marched through Ellensburg on Monday, June 1 against police brutality.

This was one of several protests that have taken place in Ellensburg over the past few days. On Saturday, May 30, a small protest took place outside of the Ellensburg courthouse. And on Tuesday, June 2, a protest through campus was led by CWU faculty member Marissa Barrientos.

Floyd was falsely accused of writing a bad check. Chauvin has since been charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter, and was fired from the Minneapolis Police Department.

Monday’s protest was organized by two local highschool students, who wanted people to take action. Organizer Jenna Callan said it was important for people to say enough is enough.

“We thought that being sad and feeling frustrated because of all the stuff that’s happening wasn’t enough. So, we decided to organize this protest as a way to kind of encourage others to think more about their everyday actions and maybe become more active and more self-aware of their own biases and their own prejudices within their own lives,” Callan said.

By the time spring break started, students, professors, and administrators began to adapt to the apparent looming crisis. CWU has changed its operations, from the way classes are held to the way incoming students are welcomed. Fall will see more of these changes implemented.

Kittitas County has had a relatively low number of confirmed cases in Washington State, with 89 cumulative cases as of June 3 and no deaths.

Most recently, Kittitas County was one of several counties eligible to apply for a variance on its place in Gov. Jay In
dee’s phased reopening plan. The county now looks to enter phase three.

Continued on Page 6-7
Observation Deck

Nicholas Tucker  
**Editor in Chief**

This is it. The last issue of a very strange quarter. I was going to write something sappy, something reflecting on how fast the quarter went by and all of the things we’ve learned along the way. But then things got serious.

There’s not much else to talk about now except for the narrowing death of George Floyd and the protests, riots, and police response that followed. It overshadowed the pandemic. Being fair, the pandemic and the Trump administration’s response to it may have increased the feelings of being forgotten and left to die that many already had. America was already a powder keg.

Breaking down the fourth wall a bit, I am riding a thin line between saying what I think and not destroying any unbiased credibility, which is all that journalists have. However, the decision was already made by myself and the rest of The Observer staff that we firmly stand in solidarity with the black community to acknowledge the pain felt by watching Floyd’s death and the frustration with the system that caused it. I see no reason to not attach my name specifically to that stance.

As we said in the initial statement, many conflate objectivity and neutrality when it comes to journalism. While we will always strive for the former, there is no neutral stance on this issue. As many have said before, complacency is compliance.

The job of a newspaper is to provide people with both objective information and the opportunity to hear the subjective experiences of others. Objectively, police brutality and systemic racism exist in this country and must be fought actively and persistently. Subjectively, our black neighbors, friends, and family members are calling out in pain, and have been for decades.

The nuance of how to make change is up to the organizers, activists, and officials within the police and legal system. Right now, as journalists are being shot by rubber bullets, beaten, and arrested, we feel the importance of our job more than ever. Not talking heads or political pundits, but professionals with boots on the ground wielding cameras and microphones to document what exactly is going on.

What is clear is that many things have boiled over. As the public conversation turns to who exactly is causing the violence, I’m thinking a lot about where we’re going. Is this the fall of Rome? Who knows? I’m young, and my perspective is relatively narrow. I can tell you that the photos coming from Seattle, my hometown, and from the American Capitol give a real feeling of cataclysm. Regardless of what it turns us into, my country is leaving an era behind.

The coronavirus and national turmoil are an apocalypse, but this means that we have a real chance to think about the kind of world we want to collectively build going forward after the big change is done. Because “apocalypse” doesn’t mean the end of the world. It’s a Greek word which means “the revealing of knowledge.”

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The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of The Observer is to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community; to provide for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer is a two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community; to provide the best source of information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, The Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions or concerns, email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com.
COVID-19 Overview

A recap of Kittitas County’s COVID-19 big moments and updates

March 7
First COVID-19 Case in Kittitas County
A 67-year-old woman tested positive for COVID-19. The results are “presumptive positive,” meaning they still needed to be sent to the Washington State Department of Health for total confirmation. Following this, the case was confirmed.

March 9
Theatre professor potentially exposed
Department officials have indicated in emails to students that next week’s finals will be moved online following a theatre professor’s possible exposure to the COVID-19. They have also indicated that classes will continue as normal for the final week of instruction.

March 18
KCPhD recommends shelter in place
The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPhD) is recommend- ed that if possible, people shelter in place, or voluntarily isolate in their homes, to avoid exposing others or being exposed to COVID-19.

March 19
KCPhD health order signed
KCPhD signed a health order that required CWU to take the following preventive actions regarding COVID-19:
- The cancellation of all in-person classes and labs and the closure of all campus buildings.
- A requirement to issue a statement strongly encouraging students, both those who live on and off campus, to stay in place.
- Dining services will switch to provide food to-go only.
- In-person, University-sponsored student and community events are canceled with no exceptions.

March 20
Classes moved online
A motion unanimously passed at a Board of Trustees meeting that allowed tech funds to be used to transition to a cloud based learning environment. This was proposed in response to classes going online due to COVID-19.

March 23
Community spread begins
A 67th patient tested positive for COVID-19, and KCPhD stopped releasing information on new confirmed cases due to community spread.

Additionally, Kittitas County residents were reminded to wear face masks by KCPhD Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson by means of an official health order.

April 7
First Kittitas County resident dies
A long-time and respected Kittitas County resident died from COVID-19 complications, according to the KCPhD. This is the first COVID-19 related death associated with Kittitas County. The person tested positive on April 3 and died at the University of Washington Medical Center on April 5.

KCPhD launched a new data dashboard, displaying the COVID-19 outcomes in Kittitas County. As of April 8, there are 15 confirmed cases with a single death in the county. There have been 426 negative tests with 34 tests still pending. With more than 8,600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee’s stay-at-home order has been extended until at least May 5. The order bans all gatherings and requires nonessential businesses to close.

April 24
CWU lights Barge Hall blue
CWU has joined other institutions nationwide in participating in the Light It Blue tribute. Beginning on April 15 and going through April 30, Barge Hall will be lit up from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. with blue lights to honor essential workers continuing to perform their duties through the coronavirus pandemic.

April 24
KCPhD general updates received
Several updates to changes related to COVID-19 in the county were announced via a series of press releases by KCPhD.

Residents of Kittitas County can access emergency services, such as calling 911 and going to the emergency room, without worry that they may overwhelm the county’s healthcare system. KCPhD reminds residents of Kittitas County to wear face masks anytime they can’t remain 6 feet apart. This includes situations like going to stores or open businesses. The recommendation applies only to cloth masks, not medical grade masks. At this time, it is a recommendation, not an enforced mandate.

Efforts are being undertaken to help local businesses reopen soon. These efforts are largely outlining new guidelines for businesses to safely operate.

May 1
Business Coalition protests closures
The Kittitas County Business Coalition held their fourth protest against statewide health orders in front of the county courthouse on May 1. At the core of the protest was the concern that businesses, particularly small, local businesses, are being treated unfairly under the recent restrictions.

May 4
County applies for variance plan
Kittitas County will be applying to immediately begin phase two of Gov. Jay Inslee’s phased re-opening plan. County officials announced during a press conference that a variance, the application will allow the county to phase into the next phase of the re-opening plan and enter immediately into phase two if it is approved by Inslee.

May 5
Washington state enters phase one
Washington state enters phase one of Gov. Inslee’s phased re-opening plan.

May 8
Variance application put on hold
Kittitas County's variance application was put on hold following a 16th confirmed case of COVID-19. A press release from the KCPhD confirmed the 16th case as a Twin Cities Food employee, who is in stable condition. As of May 8 at 10 a.m., 15 of the 16 total cases in the county are considered recovered.

May 10
Twin City Foods outbreak
34 new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed by the KCPhD after the outbreak at Twin City Foods. 20 associated tests are still pending the results. Kittitas County now has 40 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 43 pending according to the Community Impact Dashboard.

May 11
49 confirmed cases in county
Kittitas County has 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of the end of May 10, with that number subject to change as more test results are returned. 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 KCPhD press release. 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.

May 13
Additional cases confirmed
KCPhD confirmed five additional cases of COVID-19 related to the outbreak at Twin City Foods. Three of the five cases were employees who required re-testing for confirmation, the remaining two are family members of employees. To date, Kittitas County has 44 active cases. 15 cases have recovered.

May 22
Cloth face masks mandated
Cloth face coverings that cover the nose and mouth will be required in Kittitas County beginning May 23. They will be required when indoors, in confined public settings and when unable to maintain six-foot distancing outdoors, as announced in a Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPhD) press release. Businesses in Kittitas County are required to post signs advising patrons to wear cloth face coverings.

May 26
CWU announces fall plans
President James L. Gaudino an- nounced tentative plans for students to return to campus in fall in a series of emails to the student body. These plans are designed to remain flexible to accommodate changes in public policy and new information over time.

Fall quarter will be accelerated, begin- ning Sept. 9 and ending Nov. 24. Classes will not be held on Veteran’s Day. Students will have the opportuni- ty to choose between classes offered in person, online or a combination. Professors will be responsible for determining the modality that will best accommodate him in executing his courses, though they are encouraged to work remotely, Gaudino wrote.

May 27
Kittitas County enters phase two
Kittitas County officially entered phase two of Gov. Inslee’s phased re-opening plan. To date, the county has 79 con- firmed COVID-19 cases, but according to KCPhD Health Officer Mark Larson, all are stable or have recovered.

Where are we going?
June 17
Kittitas County to enter phase three
The Kittitas County Incident Manage- ment Team (IMT) is asking for the community’s help in reaching phase three by June 17, 2020. We are asking individuals and businesses to be aware of their own prevention efforts to help reach our goal of entering phase three by mid-June. In order for Washing- ton State to grant Phase 3 to Kittitas County we are required to show that Phase 2 can occur safely.
National Guard works with local food bank

Second Harvest Inland Northwest is a non-profit organization in Spokane. This organization has provided food in the Inland Northwest since 1971. It distributes over two million pounds of free food each month. Partnering with 250 neighborhood food banks and retail centers makes it possible for Second Harvest to feed people each week.

The National Guard partnered with Second Harvest and FISH to hold a Drive-Thru Mobile Pantry Event in Ellensburg. The event was open to the community on May 27.

Second Harvest Inland Northwest began the Mobile Pantry 14 years ago. It started as an idea to rapidly distribute produce all across their service area. The service area includes 21 counties of eastern Washington and five of northern Idaho, from warehouses in Spokane and Pasco, Drew Meuer, the chief of staff at Second Harvest said.

John Poyner, the operations manager for the food bank and pantry, said, “Second Harvest contacted us. They’ve been doing mobile pantries all over the Washington eastern part of the state. This was the second one they would be doing with us. They approached us and we are not going to turn down the opportunity to give people free food. We always accept it with open arms.”

The National Guard is a federal activation in response to the coronavirus. The state of Washington has a deployment and about 60 guard members were deployed to Second Harvest’s Spokane facility and between 40 and 50 in Pasco, Meuer said. The Guardsmen work alongside staff and volunteers preparing, sorting and boxing the food for distributions at Second Harvest. They assist with food transfer between facilities and help protect public health and safety by ensuring people can social distance inside the warehouse, Meuer said.

FISH advertised with flyers about the mobile pantry from Second Harvest through their social media. It was also advertised through the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and health department.

“I love [the advertisement] being on Facebook, especially Second Harvest being able to get the news out to people easier. It’s very helpful and informative,” Hendershot said. Poyner said preparation for this event included recruiting volunteers a week ahead of time, and that during the event, everyone was wearing masks, gloves and using hand sanitizer when changing gloves. They set up different tents for each type of item. One of the tents covered the refrigerated and frozen foods, and freezer blankets were used to keep the food cold. The volunteers placed an item in their cars to maintain social distancing.

“The National Guard had everybody go in a perfect line and they were putting papers in people’s windshields with numbers on them to ensure people got boxes, and we were number 79 at noon,” Hendershot said. “It was very efficient. They had two lines and kept it going; we weren’t in line for more than five minutes.”

When the Second Harvest team arrived at FISH, they quickly set up stations for each product. Once the cars pulled up, each volunteer was in charge of handing out an item from their station. While one volunteer grabbed a box with vegetables or fresh produce and put it in a car, another grabbed bacon and frozen hashbrowns, and another the bread, that way the lines kept moving, Poyner said.

Meuer said they served about 300 cars, and they came prepared to serve 300 families.

“Emergency food systems in our region are really straining to cope with the surge and demand at all levels, and I think organizations like FISH, food bank and Second Harvest are resilient and here to serve for the long haul. We want to make sure folks have their basic needs met this week and also in the months to come,” Meuer said.

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The 2020-21 ASCWU Executive Board has been officially voted for and results are in. Overall, there were 560 votes cast for the ASCWU elections.

ASCWU President: Michaeł Candelaria

The candidates for President were CeCe Mortimer and Michaeł Candelaria. Mortimer received 189 votes, and Candelaria 355 votes. The only candidate for President was the chief spokesperson for the ASCWU Board of Directors. The president represents ASCWU in all legislative issues.

Candelaria was previously the 2019-20 Vice President for Student Life and Facilities. She is a first-generation Filipino-American college student and will be a senior in the 2020-21 school year.

Candelaria also talked about the challenges he thinks the CWU community is going to face in the future.

“The first [challenge] is going to be standing with the Black Lives Matter movement to ensure that our community knows ASCWU is anti-racism, and is going to acknowledge our privilege and use our office to advocate for our black community at CWU.” Candelaria said, “The second is going to be moving forward past a global pandemic.”

Candelaria said that there will be many changes at CWU due to COVID-19. He said that one of his main priorities moving forward would be to establish many political connections around the university.

Senate Speaker: Madeline Koval

The candidates for Senate Speaker were both Madison and Madeline Koval. They received 416 votes, and Koval 416 votes.

The Senate Speaker is considered the liaison between the Student Senate and the ASCWU Board of Directors. The Senate Speaker also brings issues, concerns and legislation up from the Senate to the ASCWU Board of Directors.

Koval will be a senior next year, and is majoring in Biology and Political Science. She said, “I plan to use my position in the Student Senate to gather students in passing and get a feel for what students like or dislike about being a Wildcat.”

Director of Governmental Affairs: Edgar Espino

The only candidate for Director of Governmental Affairs was Edgar Espino, who received 505 votes.

The Director of Governmental Affairs serves as the student voice regarding state, local and federal policy.

Espino said he is hoping to see students become involved with the political process and have their voices heard. He said he was surprised CWU because he has established many political connections around the state that can be used to help the student body.

Director of Equity and Multicultural Affairs: Jacob Robles

The candidates for Director of Equity and Multicultural Affairs were Leilani Sata and Jacob Robles. The position of Director of Equity and Multicultural Affairs is not voted for by students. Instead, this position is voted on by seven organizations in good standing with the Student Equity Council. Sata received 3 votes, and Robles 4 votes.

Robles said he hopes to see that the university respond in an equitable manner to the COVID-19 matter.

“I hope they meet the needs of all students post-pandemic,” Robles said. “Whether that be for non-traditional students, marginalized students, we need to make sure the university has a plan to be there for the student body and faculty is being met in an equitable way.”
and have to deal with the effects it has. “I’m glad that everyone cared to come together,” Cooper said. “We have to continue to educate each other and we have to continue to call out racism when we see it.”

Even if it means calling out friends or family, or leaving those relationships altogether, Cooper said calling racism out is a worthy cause. “If you really don’t have any emotion for this, ask someone of color. Sit down and have a conversation with them,” Cooper said. “Or the other way around. We have to gain an understanding of each other.”

At the end of his speech, Cooper instructed the crowd to make a fist with their left hand and a peace sign with their right, while holding both hands in the air. Floyd’s brother has encouraged the gesture as a way to honor his memory. Cooper said afterwards it was important for him to come out and speak at the protest so that his players could see him as a role model. Cooper said as a coach, it is his responsibility to represent his players. “I want the young men I’m leading to see me leading,” Cooper said. As the protest was going on, a truck with a large “TRUMP 2020” flag was continuously revving their engine while driving along roads near city hall. Cooper said he didn’t worry about the few counter-protesters, and he was appreciative of those from the community who came to rally to support it. “I’m not fazed by it. They’re fazed by us,” Cooper said. “Nothing that anyone can do can antagonize or take over the real problems.”

While speaking after the rally, Cooper was approached by an older woman who thanked him for the speech he had given earlier. “I was so moved by what [Cooper] said,” she said to him. “It was strictly from the heart.”

Whether they had experienced racial issues first hand or not, rally goers said they came out to try and create change. Mason Low said he came out on Monday because oppression in America has gone on for too long, and he came to try to do something about it. “I think we’re the generation that’s willing to change that and actually do something instead of just sitting on the sidelines,” Low said.

AJ Cooper, an assistant coach for CWU’s football team, was one of the speakers at the rally. During the rally, Cooper said that as an African American, he goes through things every day that “a lot of people can’t understand.” Cooper said while some people get to decide to opt out of conversations around racism, there are those who don’t get that luxury, and have to deal with the effects it has. “I’m glad that everyone cared to come together,” Cooper said. “We have to continue to educate each other and we have to continue to call out racism when we see it.”

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During the protests on both Monday and Tuesday, those who gathered took a knee to protest against racism and police brutality.
During both, rally-goers chanted and motioned for police officers stationed nearby to join them in kneeling. Officers did not and remained standing during this portion.

Ellensburg Police Chief Ken Wade told a group of protesters on Tuesday the reason he did not take a knee during either protest was that the only person he knelt to was his god.

CWU Police Chief Jason Berthon-Koch did not reply to voicemail requesting comment on the protests. Rajesh Gill, another rally-goer on Monday, said while he doesn’t fully understand what it’s like, as a person of color he has sympathy towards what African Americans go through.

“You understand what injustices in smaller communities just isn’t right,” Gill said. “Just coming out and just sending a message is something really worthy.”

Kiersten Kimminau, a rally-goer at Monday’s protest, said he wanted to come out and show solidarity to show it’s possible to protest peacefully.

“The reason that we’re out here is just because George Floyd is one of many who have been killed by police. And it’s been going on long enough,” Kimminau said. “I think we’re here today to just keep showing that we’re not going to back down this time, or ever.”

Annie Schlonger and Jenna Callan, both juniors at Ellensburg High School, were the ones who organized Monday’s protest. The protest was organized because they felt like they could no longer stay silent and felt they had to act against racism.

“We have observed for years the acts of racism that have been taken towards people of color, and we just decided enough is enough,” Callan said. “We never want another life to be lost due to racism.”

Schlonger said racism and police brutality in America have gone on for too long.

“It’s crazy that it’s 2020 and there’s still people being killed by police for no reason,” Schlonger said. “We just want to kind of bring awareness to that and honor the life of George Floyd and the others that have been killed by police brutality.”

Callan said it was important for people to do more than protest, and to actually take meaningful steps against racism in society.

At the protests, fliers were handed out to participants. One side had the names of people killed by police, while the other side had a schedule, a list of suggested chants and a QR code. When scanned, the QR directs participants to a web page that lists resources on how people can get involved. The site can also be found at https://bit.ly/2Mj1Ydl.

“If people go to a march but don’t take any further action, then it’s not really worth it,” Callan said.
Online shopping rises in popularity, providing a safe and quick way to shop

Karina Severino  
Staff Reporter

Since many retail stores have temporarily closed, many shoppers have moved their purchasing online for convenience and safety during the pandemic. Gisela Mendez, a sophomore studying psychology, said she does more online shopping now than she did before.

"I use online stores when I'm buying gifts for my friends or family," Mendez said. "I like it right now, especially because I don't have to go out. The packages just show up on my porch and I don't even have to worry about it."

Mendez said since most of her favorite stores are temporarily closed, she finds online shopping very useful. She uses online shopping for food, clothes and shoes, school supplies and pretty much anything she needs.

"Don't get me wrong, I love going to the mall and to stores in person, but I can't do that right now," Mendez said. "My current go-to is Amazon. I can find pretty much anything I need, especially when all the open department stores don't have the products I need."

According to The Motley Fool, a private financial and investing advice company, Amazon sales have gone up by 29% as people try to stay inside and avoid going out to heavily populated stores.

The company has seen a rise in sales because consumers use its services for easy and fast delivery.

"It saves me so much time because I just have to do a couple of clicks and I have everything I need," Mendez said. "I don't have to risk my health or my family's health by being outside in stores."

Jocelyn Avila, a senior studying sociology, has a different view of online shopping. She said she didn't like shopping online before quarantine and still doesn't.

"I really prefer to buy things in person," Avila said. "I have had to resort to buying things online now since stores are closed."

Avila prefers shopping for clothing in person. She said she likes that she can try things on and see if she likes them or not before purchasing.

"I don't like dealing with returning things I buy online," Avila said. "There's so much for the process of returning things, and there is always the possibility that I get the wrong size or I don't like the texture."

With grocery stores and department stores being crowded with shoppers, online shopping has become a safe way to get the products. According to MSN.com's news section, sales for open department stores like Walmart have soared due to consumer stockpiling and the sales they are making online.

Shoppers like Avial and Mendez can benefit from stores such as Walmart due to their online and in-person shopping options.
COVID-19 may have a long term impact on employment which could lead to fewer jobs

Mitchell Roland
Senior Reporter

As the days get longer and the weather gets nicer, some students are beginning to search for a part-time job for the summer.

However, finding employment in Ellensburg will likely be more difficult than past years, and it will likely remain that way for the foreseeable future, according to Molly Jones-Kerchner, the executive director of the Ellensburg Downtown Association.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the state has seen a drastic increase in unemployment numbers.

According to the Washington Employment Security Department, the unemployment rate was 15.4% in April, which is up from 5.1% in March.

Jones-Kerchner said Ellensburg, much like the rest of the country and the state, is facing a tough economic climate due to the stay-at-home order.

“We’re not in a great place right now,” Jones-Kerchner said.

While the state begins to reopen unemployment, students may find it difficult to find a job.

For example, Ellensburg’s opening plan, Jones-Kerchner said it’s difficult to know the impact that the phased reopening plan will have on the job market.

“Jones-Kerchner said businesses all over Kittitas County are determining what the job market will look like. With a high unemployment rate, many students may find it difficult to find a job.

Jones-Kerchner said even if Kittitas County were to reach phase four, and students were to return to campus by September, it’s tough to know what the job market will look like.

“It’s hard to predict that far out,” Jones-Kerchner said. “It really just depends on a lot of things.”

Jones-Kerchner said one thing is for certain: things will not go back to normal, even when Kittitas County reaches phase four.

Jones-Kerchner said the job market is not as simple as students returning to Ellensburg.

“It’s not going to be the same as before,” Jones-Kerchner said.

Jones-Kerchner said COVID-19 will likely have a long-term impact on the entire county.

However, while it may be more difficult to find a job, Jones-Kerchner said it’s not impossible.

Jones-Kerchner said there are still things students can do to increase their likelihood of employment. First, he said, contact businesses, even if they don’t have an open job posting.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out directly phase four,” Jones-Kerchner said. “Sending an email or making a call never hurts.”

Students should also keep looking.

Even if you’re not hearing back from employers, it’s important to remain optimistic and searching continuously, Jones-Kerchner said.

“Stay positive and keep applying,” Jones-Kerchner said. “The cards are kind of stacked against you.”

Jones-Kerchner said a lot of people are struggling to find jobs right now.

So, if students don’t get a call back they shouldn’t feel discouraged.

“If it’s challenging, it’s challenging for everybody,” Jones-Kerchner said.

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“If it’s challenging, it’s challenging for everybody,” Jones-Kerchner said.

Jones-Kerchner said it is also important to stay up to date on the news so students know about potential job opportunities as more businesses reopen.

“Things change daily, sometimes hourly,” Jones-Kerchner said. “It’s really easy to get incorrect info.”

Jones-Kerchner recommend visiting KittitasEmergency.org to find the latest information on things such as unemployment benefits, financial aid.

ROTC cadets experience a new kind of training

Joseph Stanger
Staff Reporter

During past quarters, with in-person classes and no social distancing regulations, students might have occasionally seen ROTC cadets training around campus.

This quarter, to make sure those in the program are still getting the training and support they need, the ROTC has had to make some changes.

“I believe we’ve adapted really well,” Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Bonnie Kovatch said. “Some of the underclassmen … clearly miss the face-to-face interaction and the community that comes along with our program, but they’re really excited at the challenge they’ve been given.”

Jane Schultz, a junior physics and communication major, is in her second year of the ROTC program and said this quarter has been just as valuable as any other.

“They feel like they now are more military book-smart than we would’ve expected them to be at this point in their ROTC education,” Kovatch said. “That’s encouraging to hear.”

Even though the focus of the program has been on planning and preparation, ROTC cadets are still participating in physical training by using an app called Strava.

The app tracks the cadets as they exercise using GPS data, and it allows them to share their results.

According to Kovatch, ROTC’s curriculum is provided by the U.S. Army Department for Leader Education.

Different subjects are taught to students depending on their standing within the program.

Charlie Murphy, a freshman law and justice major, is in her first year of ROTC and said leadership training is one of the most impactful parts of the program.

“The leadership training is amazing,” Murphy said. “You learn how to guide people in the right direction, make sound choices and have good judgment.”

ROTC mainly uses Canvas and Microsoft Teams as a means of communication. Kovatch said the students within the program continue to connect with their fellow cadets even after lessons end for the day.

“They’re finding these other applications to hold study sessions together, to play games and host movie nights together although everyone is separated,” Kovatch said.

Murphy said the cadets in the program are practically a family.

“We’re all really good friends,” Murphy said. “We hang out all the time. We always joke about how we spend hours and hours together every day … I enjoy the comradery of it all.”

Kovatch said the program’s reaction to COVID-19 has almost been like an unexpected on-the-job training for students.

“I think the army and ROTC specifically is really an education in how to be resilient and flexible, and we talk a lot about adaptive leadership,” Kovatch said. “That’s exactly how we’ve approached our reaction to COVID-19. I’m super proud of all the cadets and how well that they have adapted, how committed they remain and how brilliant they’ve been in supporting each other.”
Since students can no longer walk for graduation, some are celebrating at home in different ways.

Bradyn Kelly, a senior majoring in law and justice, is holding a commencement ceremony at home. In honor of earning his bachelor’s degree, Kelly said his family is making him wear his cap and gown to celebrate. His parents decided to make him the valedictorian of his own party and are expecting a speech.

Kelly said one thing he is looking forward to is seeing family. Being in Ellensburg has not provided him the opportunity to travel back home to western Washington.

What Kelly is going to miss the most about Ellensburg is going on random backpacking trips into the mountains and hiking with friends. “The relationships that I have made over the years at CWU have been the foundational blocks to making me who I am today,” Kelly said. “I’ll never forget my first dollar-beer night and just the opportunity to meet new people.”

Kelly’s advice to underclassmen is to not stress out too much over school work. Otherwise, it will take away from having fun memories to look back on. Kelly said it’s important to sit back and enjoy the moment because, at the end of the day, most people are only in college once.

Despite no in-person commencement, Kelly was not bothered. In fact, he looked back at CWU in hindsight and said being in college has taught him how to time manage and embrace bad situations. “At the end of the day, things are only temporary and you just gotta full-send,” Kelly said.

George Dreiszus, a senior majoring in biology with a specialization in medicine, is among the anxious seniors departing on a new adventure. For commencement, Dreiszus is planning on spending time with family and packing up the house.

“One of the biggest things I am looking forward to is marrying my best friend Brianna Reisinger,” Dreiszus said. She has supported me throughout these years and I’m excited for our next step in life.”

Dreiszus will miss the people and friendships he has made over all
these years. Dreiszus said he will not however miss the windy days that blew his homework all over campus.

One thing that Dreiszus said was important to remember throughout his time at CWU is to not get lost in schoolwork and appreciate time with friends.

As a senior, Dreiszus said there is a lesson to learn from his experience. "Be proud about what you choose to do," Dreiszus said. Make sure that you are passionate about what you do and you will be successful. Do not let other people try to tell you what you want because they are not you."

Morgan Vance, a senior public health major, is celebrating graduation with loved ones and food from Chipotle. Vance plans on waking up early to celebrate with her family by watching the commencement virtually.

Not having commencement in person is understandable especially from a public health perspective, Vance said. The overall health and well being of students is more important than gathering together and risking the spread of the virus, Vance said.

Vance said she will definitely miss the friends she has made in Ellensburg. She said being in Ellensburg forces students to make the best of what they have, and she wouldn’t trade it for the world.

Reflecting back on her college career, Vance has some words of wisdom for current students. "Make sure to cherish the time with your closest friends because it will be over before you know it," Vance said. "Time flies and when it comes your time, you will understand."

Vance said CWU has taught her how to step out of her comfort zone and find out what she is passionate about, which is public health. Coming in as a freshman, lost and confused, she said she fell into a path that led her to be successful today.

"I wouldn’t change my experiences here at CWU because it made me who I am," Vance said.

“Make sure that you are passionate about what you do and you will be successful.”

- George Dreiszus, CWU senior
I'm not hungry, that's just my face

I typically look like I'm angry. I'm usually not, yet the look re- minds me of someone I never want to find. I feel like, it's a step beyond that to where I look perpetually annoyed. In the rare times I am angry, my face moves to a phase past anger, where I look like I'm going to kill someone. In closing, if you see me and I look angry, please know that I am probably not angry. That's just how I look.

Grass lawns are wastes of space

Bailey Tomlinson
News Editor, Columnist

Grass lawns serve no functional purpose. They began as status symbols, a way to show that you had so much food you didn't need to use it. Now, with the vast majority of people not growing their own food, the status that lawns used to denote is the standard of the American lifestyle. Not only is it ostentatious and wasteful, it makes maintenance a constant challenge.

Grass lawns should be replaced with more practical plants, like fruit and vegetable gardens. If somebody enjoyed the aesthetic value of a monoculture lawn more than a varied garden, there are options to maintain that aesthetic value while still planting something useful. Chamomile, for example, has many uses, and grows fast to nullify the aesthetic of a lawn.

But there is something about lawns that I feel we need to maintain. They are a symbol of the American lifestyle. Not only is it ostentatious, it's a way to show that you have more money than you need.

Grass lawns are wastes of space.
12 rapid-fire opinions to tide you over for the summer

America was built on looting and riots

Abigail Duchow
Senior Reporter, Columnist

Recently protests have sparked from the death of an unarmed black man named George Floyd, who was killed by a police officer in Minnesota. Stemming from these protests, there have been instances of rioting and looting.

I've observed negative reactions to the recent rioting, looting and protests, even the peaceful ones. People are especially reacting negatively to the rioting and looting. It seems to me that more people are mad about the riots that have taken place than the fact that human lives are taken near daily by law enforcement. According to the website Mapping Police Violence, there were only 27 days in 2019 where police didn't kill someone.

"Rioting and looting is not American," I see people say. I disagree. America is a country that was built on looting. When Europeans came to North America, they looted Native Americans of their lands, goods and lives. This happened while diseases that Europeans brought to America killed roughly 90% of Native Americans. According to History.com, in 1838 President Martin Van Buren sent 7,000 soldiers to remove Cherokee Natives from their homes. The troops forced the Cherokee into stockades while whites looted their homes. Then, they marched the Natives more than 1,200 miles to the Cherokee Territory. It's estimated that more than 5,000 Cherokee died as a result of the journey. By 1840, tens of thousands of Native Americans had been driven off, and loot of, their land.

Americans looted African people out of Africa. Sure, in some instances they traded for them, but just because it's been done before doesn't mean that there can be a price put on human life. Africans were taken unwillingly from their countries to America as slaves. They were looted from their homes and forced to do labor for free for Americans.

There are several times throughout history that riots have worked. The Stamp Act Riots included looting and set the stage for a larger rebellion that led to revolution. The Stonewall Riots were a catalyst for demanding LGBTQ rights. The Kent State riots against the Vietnam War led to President Richard Nixon sending troops to Cambodia.

So, next time you start to write "this isn't American" about a protest, riot, or looting, sit back and think. This is the foundation of the United States of America.

If you don't like jazz you're a psychopath

Teagan Kimbro
Graphic Design Lead, Columnist

It is a Tuesday evening. You want to relax, take a load off. You open Netflix. Ah yes, "Bee Movie." You decide to take a walk down memory lane. 23 minutes and 12 seconds into the film Barry B. Benson asks, "You like jazz?" You scoff, roll your eyes, and under your breath you utter the most wretched combination of words, "No I do not like jazz, Barry." In that exact moment, you have revealed yourself for the true heartless, emotionless being you are.

Jazz, simply put, is silly. Downright silliness. It is somewhat lawless, playful and made to express the fleeting, spontaneous nature of each moment. Every note is a new corner rounded, composing a never narrative right in front of one's eyes. Silliness, in this context, has a much deeper range. The spontaneity of each moment means the notes reflect the true feelings of the artists at the time, whether that be deep pain, heartache, joy, confusion. Jazz is full of this kind of expression. If you don't enjoy it, perhaps you aren't emotionally available to understand the true reflection of humanity in jazz, unable to see it in yourself.

Next time Mr. Benson asks if you like jazz, take a good hard look at yourself. Do you like jazz?

Radio isn't dying

Apollo Whyte
88.1 the 'Burg DJ, Columnist

People think radio is a dying medium. People are wrong. Not only is radio alive and well, it's thriving. A 2018 Nielsen survey found that radio was the widest reaching medium, reaching 92% of the U.S. population. Of course, radio competes with online streaming services like Spotify or Apple Music, but radio's main function is not to provide music, it's to provide local, relatable entertainment. Plus, any body that has a car can easily tune into the radio. Whether people have an aux cord or not, it's exponentially easier to turn your car on and go, leaving the radio tuned to their favorite station.

So check out your local radio stations! Find a DJ and genre you like! Tune in to 88.1 the Burg or check out the app!

And one final note: you what the real dying medium is?
Gaudino outlines changes to campus

While COVID-19 will likely remain for the near future, campus is being prepared and classes are being planned for students to return for fall quarter.

In an email to campus, CWU President James L. Gaudino announced on May 26 that the current plan is for in-person classes to resume for fall quarter. While the plan is for students to return, it will remain flexible and could be adjusted depending on different circumstances.

In this plan classes will begin earlier and end early then they typically do. The first day of class will now be Sept. 9, and the last day will be Nov. 24. In his announcement email, Gaudino said this is to ensure students don’t have to leave campus and then return after Thanksgiving break.

In the fall, CWU will offer four different types of classes: Traditional, where students will be in a classroom with extra precautions taken; Hybrid, where class time will be split between the classroom and online; synchronous online, where students will login on at the same time and interact with the professor and each other at the same time; and asynchronous online, where students complete their work at their own leisure, with no set time for class. The types of classes offered will depend heavily on the subject matter of the course.

Gaudino said when he first proposed this plan to the board of trustees, he anticipated a split of roughly 50% of classes online and 50% holding some sort of in-person component.

Changes are being made to campus so that students remain safe in the fall. Tables are being moved in the SURC and inside the dining halls to ensure that students are six feet apart when eating. Academic and other buildings on campus will be deep cleaned constantly to limit the spread of germs. Clubs or organizations who meet have to ensure that their members maintain distance throughout the event. While the rooms in residence halls conform to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, with beds over six feet apart from each other, the common areas will have to be adjusted to ensure students remain distant. There will also be signs throughout campus reminding people to wear a mask and to remain a safe distance from other people.

There are also no plans for larger gatherings on campus in the fall. Events like freshman convocation will not take place, as it is not possible to hold the ceremony while remaining under phase three’s gathering limit of 50 people or less.

“We’re basically balancing the educational expectations that we believe that define Central Washington University’s mission and the safety of our students, faculty and staff,” Gaudino said.

While the plan is for Kittitas County to be in phase three by the time classes begin, the likelihood of a fall commencement for the class of 2021 remains low. Gaudino said with how many people attend the ceremony, the only way they could proceed with a full in person commencement in the fall is if Kittitas County is in phase four in October or November.

“It’s literally thousands of people that come to Ellensburg graduation, and probably a thousand or more that come to the west side graduation,” Gaudino said. “There’s no way we can do that face-to-face under the current conditions.”

When classes resume, students will notice the differences on campus.

“It may feel normal after a while, but it won’t feel normal in the sense of what it was like before the pandemic for a while,” Gaudino said.

Gaudino said it is tough to know exactly how many students will return to campus in the fall, as only a third of students at the Ellensburg campus live in campus housing. However, there is anecdotal evidence students will return, as Gaudino has heard from landlords that students are signing apartment and housing leases for the upcoming school year.

“There are indications that a significant number of students are planning to come back to Ellensburg,” Gaudino said.

In addition to the Ellensburg campus, CWU operates seven learning centers in six other counties across the western and central part of the state. Those centers will also be under the rules and regulations of their host community college, as well as the rules from CWU. For example, the Des Moines, Washington center is located on the campus of Highline College and will be required to follow Highline’s guidelines in addition to CWU’s.

Gaudino said the belief is that every county where CWU operates a learning center will be in phase two by the time phase two begins in the fall, with many in phase three.

While the plan is for students to return, it is still not guaranteed.

Gaudino said the overall plan will have to remain flexible for two reasons. First, depending on how many people are infected with COVID-19, there could be additional restrictions or a relaxation of the plan. This means that if the infection rate were to go up, the possibility remains of the classes being conducted exclusively online.

CWU is also still subject to state and county regulations. While the plan for fall includes Kittitas County being in phase three of the phased reopening plan when classes resume, there is no guarantee that it will come to fruition. And while the campus can place more restrictions, they are unable to be less restrictive.

The return to in-person classes was a long process, Gaudino said.

There were three different groups working independently on plans for CWU. One group was tasked with thinking about what was best for CWU specifically. One group looked at what the other universities in the state are doing. And one group talked with medical experts, including epidemiologists and neurologists.

The groups then combined their ideas and created the plan that was announced for fall quarter.

“Of it fell within the recommendations of the medical and scientific experts,” Gaudino said.

Gaudino said the plan that CWU created is similar to what the five other public universities in the state are doing in the fall.

When a vaccine is developed for the virus, students would not be required to get vaccinated in order to return to campus. Gaudino said like with a flu vaccine, as long as a majority of students get vaccinated, people will develop herd immunity to the virus and risk of a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 will be dramatically reduced.

If a student or a staff or faculty member starts to develop symptoms of COVID-19, Gaudino said it is critical for them to get tested and self-isolate.

“It’s going to require us to all kind of band together and think about the other person’s safety as our own safety,” Gaudino said.

“That’s the key.”

While CWU has only announced plans for fall quarter, the early ending to the quarter allows the school the flexibility to adjust the plan going forward. Gaudino said he anticipates three possible outcomes for the status of campus in winter 2021.

First, another outbreak of the virus could begin, and the longer break would allow for more time to prepare for all classes to be online, similar to this quarter. If the virus subsides, the extended break would allow the campus to prepare to be fully reopened for the quarter. And if conditions stay the same as fall 2020, then the break would be used to deep clean the campus.

“The extra time during the winter break is really the time for the university to adjust to the conditions that are present at that moment,” Gaudino said.

Throughout fall quarter, and likely into winter quarter, students will be “p课ed” with information reminding them of the importance of maintaining safety precautions.

“If you see me on campus, you’ll see me in a mask. And you’ll want to hold your phone and say ‘Yes I got it, I got it. I’ll wear my mask and don’t get within six feet.” Gaudino said.

“Because that’s going to be the message of the quarter.”
Opinion: The Match II: Champions for Charity brought competition, trash talking and fundraising to a whole new level

Holly Hunter
Staff Reporter

Two of golf's greats and arguably two of the best quarterbacks of all time faced off on a rainy Florida golf course to raise money for COVID-19 relief. The Match II: Champions for Charity featured the teams of Tom Brady and Phil Mickelson against the team of Tiger Woods and Peyton Manning. Team Manning and Woods won the round, but everyone was winners because of the amount of money raised during this sporting event.

Each of the four players donated $2.5 million to start the total pot off at $10 million. By the end of 18 holes, an additional $10 million was raised bringing the total donation to $20 million. The money will go to various charities and organizations for COVID-19 relief.

The course featured seven challenge holes set up with a pro golfers air offering to donate 100,000 meals per foodie challenge that helped raise extra money and also provided competition for the teams. The third hole was a challenge for the pro golfers and Woods. Whichever golfer hit the longest drive raised $250,000 for their charity. The same idea was used on the 15th hole but for the quarterbacks. Woods won the challenge of the hole and Brady won the challenge on hole 15 for the amateurs.

The third and 12th holes challenged each golfer to try and get their ball closest to the hole. Woods won this challenge by getting his ball within inches and also provided competition for the teams. This won him $125,000 to donate to the charity of his choice. Mickelson won the closest to the pin challenge on the 12th hole. The fourth hole, 16th hole provided a bigger challenge with a bigger reward for the golfers. If any of the players got a hole-in-one on the 16th hole, Phil Mickelson would have won $250,000. If any golfer hit the closest to the hole, the closest hole was $125,000 to donate to COVID-19 relief. None of the golfers got a hole-in-one on the 16th, but each golfer donated $125,000 to COVID-19 relief. On viewers TVs again, the players had fun with each other while being locked in on the competition.

During a rain delay on a rather soggy day when it came time for the players to hit practice shots, there was no shortage of trash talk between the players. Manning didn't hold anything back here. He was asked who he thought Brady's caddy would be if they were allowed to hire them. "It's hard to get to him," Manning said on the TNT broadcast. "Do you bring Eli (Manning)? Could do that. Do you bring Nick Foles? Maybe. I was thinking maybe [Bill] Belichick. Have Bill Belichick caddy for me, and just to see how that kind of, would have worked." Eli Manning and Foles are the quarterbacks Brady has lost to in Super Bowls. Belichick is Brady's former coach. Peyton Manning tried to get in Brady's head by having the idea of these players and coach be involved in the competition.

The pro golfers had some trash talking of their own too. Mickelson said he brought back a putter he hasn't used since 2012. He calls this club the "Tiger Slayer." Mickelson last used this club when he beat Woods by 11 shots at the AT&T Pro Am back in 2012. The Tiger Slayer wasn't able to help Mickelson beat Woods this time around though. The trash talking didn't end with the players though. A lot of athletes took to social media to express their words for the players who participated on Sunday.

"Tom has to be a couple seconds away from a club that fits here," defensive end JJ Watt said in a tweet. Brady did not get off to a hot start, and according to Watt his frustrations seemed pretty clear.

Ryan Koeningberg, a Denzer Broncos columnist, took to twitter to get in on the Brady trash talking too. "Tom is almost taking more of a beating than the last time his team faced Peyton's team…almost," Koeningberg said.

The last time Brady and Manning faced off was in the 2015 AFC Championship game where the Broncos beat the Patriots. The Broncos went on to beat the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl that year. At the end of the day, the Match II: Champions for Charity raised money for people in need during the COVID-19 outbreak, and Woods said in an interview that that's what matters most.

"It's great, the fact that we all came together and we were able to raise $20 million for those that have been so severely affected," Woods said. "This is our arena. This is what we do."

Fall sports coaches hoping season can still happen

Rey Green
Staff Reporter

As spring quarter comes to an end and summer starts to calls its name, the next question that everyone is waiting to be answered is if there will be fall sports or not.

CWU President James Gaudino sent out a mass email May 26 titled, "Fall 2020 Plans." The email began with Gaudino saying he was "pleased to announce that CWU is launching plans to invite students to campus for the fall 2020 quarter." The email stated students will have the option to take classes online due to safety reasons.

Some fall sports coaches are hoping this means they will be able to have a season. "I'm very hopeful of having the season," football head coach Chris Fisk said. "The plan as of right now is that we will have a football season." Fisk said the decision process takes some time because a lot of people have to approve whether it is possible the season can be played. From the state level, the governor has to make the decision to reopen the state, then it moves down to Gaudino from there.

"Ellensburg is in the process of moving to phase two of the reopening process by Governor Inslee," Fisk said. "That's a positive step moving forward and a win for us." From there, the decision process takes some time because a lot of people have to approve whether it is possible the season can be played. From the state level, the governor has to make the decision to reopen the state, then it moves down to Gaudino from there.

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DOTS!

Each player takes a turn to draw a line that joins two dots, either horizontally or vertically. The dots must be next to each other.

When a player completes a box, they write their initials in the box.

When the whole grid is filled with boxes, count to see who has the most and declare them the winner.

SUDOKU!

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3 8   9
4       8
2       6
4 1   3
5       9
6 3   4 2
5 2 4 7
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