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The Observer

By the students For the students

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Government shutdown comes to an end for now

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

President Trump announced early on Friday, Jan. 25 he would be signing a bill that would temporarily reopen the federal government until Feb. 15. The three-week period would spell relief for roughly 800,000 federal workers who have been denied a second consecutive paycheck, according to a New York Times article.

Trump's announcement came shortly after the Senate failed to pass two separate measures, each of which could have provided a more permanent reopening of the government. The measure Trump's administration proposed included \$5.7 billion for the border wall and the measure from the Democrats completely omitted the wall. According to the New York Times, neither measure received the 60 votes required to pass. The article also said that at least half a dozen Republicans voted for the Democratic measure.

The question remains whether the 35-day-long shutdown has brought us any closer to a real agreement, as the deal to open the government did not include any of the money Trump requested to build additional sections of the border wall.

A report from NBC stated that Trump may have been pressured into making a deal based on consequences brought on by the shutdown, such as air traffic across the Northeast being slowed down on account of a shortage of flight controllers. The report said that many



Heather Stewart/The Observer

flight controllers called in sick because they were too stressed and overworked.

Another source of pressure could have come from FBI Director Christopher Wray's video, also released early on Friday. According to USA Today, Wray put out a six-minute-long video stating his anger and disbelief regarding the month-long shutdown.

"Its mind boggling. It's shortsighted. It's unfair. It takes a lot to get me angry, but I'm about as angry as I've been in a long, long time," Wray said.

Trump said in the announcement that if no agreement can be reached by the Feb. 15 deadline, he would either reinstate the shutdown or utilize a different tactic: declaring a national emergency which would allow him to move forward with the wall without congress's approval.

"As everyone knows, I have a very powerful alternative, but I didn't want to use it at this time. Hopefully it will be unnecessary," Trump said during the announcement.

According to the New York Times, the president has the authority to declare a national state of emergency, under the National Emergency Act of 1976. This would allow him to work around the normal constraints of the Constitution. However, this approach may not be as absolute as it seems. The Times article said that if a national emergency were declared, it would more than likely be challenged in court.

One of the obstacles Trump's administration could face in court is a law that states the military may only redirect funds to build projects that Congress has authorized. Currently, congress has not authorized building the border wall.

Featured story

CWU working to up freshman retention rates

Alexa Murdock & Matt Escamilla
Managing Editor & Staff Reporter

Increasing retention rates by 10 percent is a goal CWU hopes to achieve over the next five years.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, CWU's 2016-2017 retention rate was 73 percent. In 2016, the national average rate for public 4-year institutions was 81.1 percent. Universities in western states such as Washington and California have a slightly higher average at about 86 percent.

In his State of the University Address given in January, President James Gaudino addressed the need for the university to help students reach their goals. Gaudino's objective is to bring CWU's retention rate up to 80 percent over the next five years.

"This is an ambitious goal, but also an essential one," Gaudino said in his State of the University speech.

A school's retention rate is the percentage of first-time, first-year undergraduate students who continue at the school the next year, according to the U.S. Department of Education website. Students who transfer into or out of a university, graduate students, part-time students, or returning students are not included in this rate.

Continued on Page 8

State of emergency declared due to measles outbreak

Jack Belcher
News Editor

Washington state health officials declare a state of emergency after recent measles outbreak in the state.

While the outbreak is still located hours away from Ellensburg, measles is one of the most infectious diseases in the world. There are currently over 35 cases of measles in the state of Washington.

CWU does not require that students get the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, and so while the nearest case of measles is still hours away from the university, Bauer said that it is a good idea to make sure that you are vaccinated and if not, to get the vaccine which is offered for free to students at the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic (SMaCC). A way for students to check to see if they have been vaccinated is by going to wa.myir.net or by talking to your parents, legal guardian or by calling your

childhood doctors office.

In Clark County, where most of the cases are located, 7.9 percent of children had gotten exemptions from vaccines for entry into kindergarten in the 2017-'18 school year, according to the Washington Post.

"When you have community groups that have a large population that doesn't vaccinate the risk (of contracting measles) is greater because you don't have that hard immunity," registered nurse at the SMaCC, Kelly Bauer said.

In 1912, measles was officially recognized by the U.S. and it was required that all cases be reported. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the average yearly death toll of measles was 6,000 for the first decade that the disease was reported.

The CDC states that before the vaccine was invented, it is estimated that 3 to 4 million people in the U.S. were infected each year. In 1963, the first measles vaccine was invented by John F. Enders and

Dr. Thomas C. Peebles. This was then improved upon in 1968 by Maurice Hilleman and colleagues. This vaccine is usually administered along with the vaccines for mumps and rubella, which is usually referred to as the MMR vaccine.

According to a NPR article about the recent outbreak, in 31 of the reported cases the person who contracted the disease reported that they were not immunized, which means that they were likely not given the MMR vaccine.

"The vaccine is not dangerous, it does not cause autism," Bauer said.

Bauer said that she has vaccinated all five of her children and would not give out a vaccine to others if she wouldn't feel confident giving it to her own children.

According to the CDC, they set a goal in 1978 to eliminate the virus by 1982. This goal was not met (although the number of reported measles cases dropped by 80 percent), and it was recommended to give children a second dose of the vaccine.

In 2000, the vaccine was officially declared eliminated in the U.S., which means that there was a continued absence of the disease transmission for over 12 months. The CDC states that this was because of the vaccination program in the U.S.

In 2016, the CDC reported 86 cases of measles in the entirety of the U.S. In 2017 that number rose to 120, and then 349 in 2018. So far in Washington state there have been over 35 reported cases of measles in 2019.

The virus can be transferred through the air, and can stay in the air hours after an infected person has left the room. It is likely that anyone not immunized will contract the virus if they make contact with someone who is infected.

An infected person may not even know that they have contracted the disease because it can take the days for the measles symptoms become noticeable, and some people may think that they just have a cold until the rash breaks out.

Editor: Jack Belcher

Observation Deck

Being a student journalist; clickbait and sensational headlines within the media



Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief

Sensational headlines and clickbait media outlets are aggravating as a student journalist. It seems as though everywhere I look there are “journalists” who are choosing to do their job incorrectly. To the everyday individual it may seem like not such a big deal, but to somebody who’s career path is taking a negative turn...it’s a big deal.

As journalists, we are trained to present only the facts, which then allows the reader to come to their own conclusions about written topics. Ironically enough, about ten times a day I look at my phone and see a misleading headline.

I took a media ethics class last quarter. This is when I began to be aware of just how big of a problem clickbait is. Prior

to the ethics class I always thought the vast majority of this issue came from Youtubers. I was proven wrong.

There are a few solutions I can offer to this unfortunate problem.

#1 Journalists, stop letting this happen. While I understand clicks to the website can be a huge moneymaker, nothing is worth a bad reputation with your customers. Customers should feel that your outlet is credible, reliable and ethical. With a federal administration that constantly attacks the “Fake News Media,” now is an especially vital time to do things the right way. Besides, if the story is written well then people will continue to read until reaching the end. If the headline is the best part of the story...There may be a greater issue at hand.

#2 Customers, stop reposting a story for its headline before reading the story. On numerous occasions I’ve seen friends on Facebook share a news article about Donald Trump with a sensational headline which differs wildly from the actual story content. Customers, begin to question everything. If something seems not quite right, do a Google search and read a similar story from a different outlet. Educate yourself. Take the time to read the articles.

I hope to see journalists begin to hold themselves to the highest ethical standards. As an aspiring journalism teacher, I plan to incorporate these values in my students’ education.

Best,

Mariah Valles

Social media should not impact my employment opportunities



Alexa Murdock
Managing Editor

If you don’t like my social media, I don’t want to work for you.

I’ve been on a steady search for an internship after I graduate recently, and one thing keeps popping up: people want to know what my social media handles are. I keep my social media very clean so I don’t mind giving out my usernames, but I think the whole idea of employers looking at your internet life is total bogus.

I’m terrified to post something on my Twitter now because I’m afraid a potential employer might look at it and take it the wrong way. I have interests and opinions which I’d love to talk about, but I feel like my chosen field restrains me from publically talking about them. I am a woman who wholeheartedly believes in women’s rights, but I’m afraid to lik-

ing a feminist page because my employer might not view me as “unbiased.”

Everyone has biases. Everyone has interests. Some of those happen to conflict with people’s jobs.

Journalism is supposed to be transparent. So why are people in this industry encouraged to cover up their beliefs in favor of having ambiguously boring social media profiles? I want my journalists to be fully transparent in their views. I want to know and trust the person who is the mediator between myself and the information that I need to know.

Now, if someone has a social media account dedicated to journalism, I want them to have a separation between their opinions and information. I’m not calling for a merger of opinion and journalism, I’m calling for freedom of speech on personal accounts.

If you don’t want to hire me because I post about playing D&D or because I follow a certain account, I don’t want to work for you.

If you mandate your employees to post content to their personal social media accounts, I don’t want to work for you.

My social media is an extension of my personality. Censoring me, pushing posts on me, or otherwise silencing my thoughts is an infringement on my rights and my happiness.

So take me or leave me. I’ll keep posting away and fighting for genuine interactions on the internet. After all, we don’t need another artificial, sponsored influencer on our newsfeeds, we need honest journalists who we can trust.

Best,

Alexa Murdock

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Dugmore Hall to be finished by fall 2019

Payton Parke

Staff Reporter

In the summer 2017, the CWU Board of Trustees agreed to start construction on a new residence hall in the northwest of campus due to the student housing problems that the university has had recently due to the increased rate of enrollment.

Dugmore Hall is planned to open in the fall of 2019. It is a 105,000 square feet of new residence hall and dining facility to serve the students and bring a new dining hall to the north end of campus.

According to Tricia Rabel, Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life, 320 rooms will be for first-year students, while 80 rooms on the fourth floor are open to sophomores and above. She also said that students currently are able to register for rooms in the new hall, and that the fourth floor is already fully booked.

The hall will feature double rooms and some single rooms. It will also have suite style bathrooms for the double rooms and communal showers as well. A communal kitchen will be placed on the first floor for all students in Dugmore to use. It will also feature a turn around similar to the one at Wendel.

The new residence hall is named Dugmore Hall in honor of Owen Dugmore, who taught in CWU's Department of Psychology for 45 years, from 1969 to 2014, and also provided personal counseling services to students at the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic on campus.

The hall had a \$40 million budget with \$31 million of it going to Lydig the general contractor. This left the university with \$9 million for miscellaneous items including interior furniture and a new parking lot with 250 spaces.

Dugmore Hall is the first hall to use a progressive design build which was decided upon after working closely with Lydig and Mahlum for a more collaborative process.

This is a new approach and had no delays or setbacks according to Rabel keeping the project on schedule.

"We select an architecture and contractor team, that partner together," Rabel said. "So they bid for it together, they designed it (Dugmore) with every-



Dugmore Hall is currently undergoing construction on a budget of \$40 million. The project is the first time CWU is using a progressive design build, that will allow the university to work closer with Lydig Construction and Mahlum Architecture. Heather Stewart/The Observer

thing in mind as they went. It's been a really healthy positive."

The hall sits in the northwest corner of campus close to the new soccer field and Tomlinson Stadium. Across Dean Nicholson Boulevard students can find Brooks Library and Farrell Hall.

In the summer of 2017 the board of trustees put Dugmore Hall into action due to the crisis of student housing and the need for more rooms. This hall is going to relive some of the housing crisis.

The design of the hall is based on what students have asked for; a lot of light. In all of the study rooms there are full length glass windows allowing lots of light into the hall. These windows will be able to be drawn on with glass pens for studying.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Aviation program looks to expand

Nick Jahnke

Senior News Reporter

The aviation program is considering moving their operations to McAllister Field in Yakima. CWU has requested that the state provide \$14 million for the move. The funding will be spent on the construction of new educational facilities and purchasing and renovating of existing facilities. Although, the funds could just as well be put to use at Bowers Field in Ellensburg which needs renovation, according to CWU President's Office Chief of Staff Linda Schactler.

Schactler said that problems with Bowers Field began with the closure of the secondary runway. In August of 2017, the Kittitas County Public Works Department deemed the runway unsafe because of cracks and potholes, and due to the lack of funds to repair the damage they made the call to shut it down.

"Not only are we now out of space, both for airplanes and for students and faculty, the facilities there are in really desperate need of a makeover and an update," Schactler said.

The aircraft hangars at Bowers Field are also in poor condition. Schactler said that some of the hangars that house both aviation lessons and aircraft are rusted to the point that the doors will not open; although, the hangars have since been repaired.

According to a flyer from the aviation department, the number of students in the program has increased by 120 percent since 2010. CWU has increased capacity in the aviation program to help meet the demand for pilots.

The flyer said that the reason behind the increased demand for pilots is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) mandatory retirement age of 65. According to the flyer, approximately 50 percent of the pilots at major airlines are baby-boomers, as well as people who served in the Vietnam War and are now starting to reach retirement age. The flyer estimated that by 2028, there will be a need for about 790,000 pilots world-wide.

To accommodate the spike in pilot-demand and the increase in aviation students, CWU has made three separate requests to the state to prioritize funding for the enhancement and expansion of the aviation program, according to Schactler. The requests include \$5 million for the construction of new educational facilities and \$9 million for purchasing and renovating of existing facilities. These funds would come out of either the state capital budget or the transportation budget. The third request for an additional \$5.3 million would be for 10 training aircraft and could come out of the state operating, capital or transportation budget, according to Schactler.

Schactler said that while Yakima would be a feasible location for aviation, considering that CWU has an academic center there, the consensus from the Board of Trustees and the Administration is that aviation should ideally stay in Ellensburg.

The problem is that CWU doesn't currently have any official stake at Bowers Field. According to Schactler, the county government owns the airport and unless CWU can enter into some sort of partnership or agreement with the county, CWU will not be able to invest in fixing the place up.

"The bottom line is, Bowers Field needs investment, the county doesn't



A dual engine Piper Seminole PA-44-180 aircraft sits in a hanger at Bowers Field. Some hanger doors at Bowers Field were rusted to the point that they could not be opened or shut, although they have been repaired.

Jack Belcher/The Observer

have money to do that, they would tell you that in a heartbeat," Schactler said. "We love Ellensburg, we love being here, we want the students to be here but the higher priority is academic quality and student safety. So we will go wherever we can guarantee that."

Schactler said that over the summer, CWU administration looked into the possibility of a co-sponsorship with Kittitas County. However, she said that they were unable to make much progress and had to change direction in the fall when the county announced they would no longer be considering the option.

"It seemed to be more complicated. It seemed to really slow down and clog up the negotiations, so we're starting over, were taking a fresh run at it to see how far we get," Schactler said.

Instead, the administration is exploring another option, a memorandum of understanding (MOU). According to Schactler, the MOU would be an agreement between the university and county government to share services. If CWU were to enter into the MOU, it would not mean any sort of shared ownership. The County would still own Bowers Field, but CWU would have the standing it needs to start putting money into renovations and construction.

Schactler said that Vice President of Operations Andreas Bohman has been in contact with County Commissioner Brett Wachsmith, who was not part of the previous discussions about Bowers Field. Schactler said that they have had two positive meetings so far and hopefully there will be more progress in the coming weeks.

"We are continuing to work on an agreement that will allow us to stay here, and at the same time, we are blazing a trail south in case this one doesn't work out. One way or another, our aviation program will be great," Schactler said.



Planes belonging to the university are parked at Bowers Field. The aviation department has requested \$14 million to move to McAllister Field in Yakima.

Jack Belcher/The Observer

Editor: Jack Belcher

Free speech for guest speakers

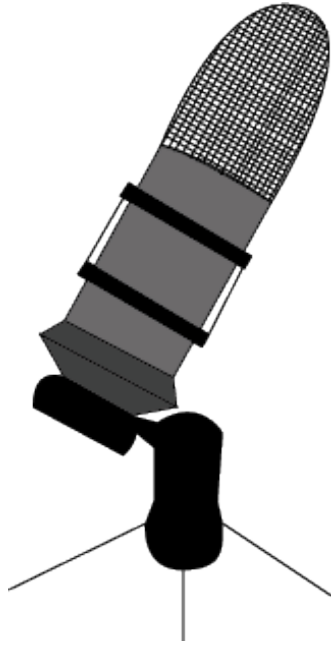
Nick Tucker
Staff Reporter

CWU has made a hard stand supporting free speech on-campus. Any speaker with any topic students are interested in is allowed to speak here with no restrictions. This has always been the case, but has become especially important in recent years as violence and controversy have raised questions about free speech.

Around this time last year, violence broke out at UC Berkeley when protesters and police clashed before a planned speech by right-wing Trump supporter and political writer Milo Yiannopoulos. Some were injured and arrests were made, but the most important aspect of this event is that it was the first of many like it.

Left- and right-wing groups came into contact with each other and police multiple times over the course of the following seven months, and since then some have been critical of UC Berkeley's response. President Trump criticized UC Berkeley on twitter, saying that it "does not allow

free speech" and threatening to cut funding to the university (which no current legislation allows him to do).



Graphic by Will Yi

Much of this criticism has been in response to the cancellation of controversial speaking events by Berkeley. Notable cancellations include Milo Yiannopoulos and Ben Shapiro, both conservative political commentators. Some have echoed the President's notion that UC Berkeley was violating the free speech of controversial figures and those who support

them. Similar criticism was brought forth against Gonzaga University after denying a request from Shapiro to speak on campus.

However, UC Berkeley and Gonzaga have defended themselves citing security and safety concerns raised by the presence of said figures.

Here at CWU, events are usually far tamer than those seen in California last year. Regardless, CWU President James

L. Gaudino made sure to mention CWU's commitment to both diversity and the free expression of ideas in his State of the University speech on Jan. 15.

"I have publicly defended free speech, argued for providing safety for all, and demanded we treat one another with respect," Gaudino said. "Inclusivity is found in the ethos of this university, and we have someone (Vice President of Inclusivity and Diversity Dr. Kande Cleary) who wakes up each morning thinking about how to best manifest that commitment."

According to Dr. Cleary, what happened at Berkeley and Gonzaga would not happen at CWU. Dr. Cleary says that there hasn't been a truly controversial speaking event in over a decade, and credits that to CWU's community and values.

"We're careful about free speech, there's nobody Central would say no to," said Dr. Cleary. "We value the first amendment in institutions of higher education, you get differing opinions and conflicting views."

Assistant Director of the Diversity and Equity Center Katrina Whitney, stated that exposing students to conflicting opinions in institutions of higher education provides them the opportunity to learn critical analysis.

"We are committed to advocating for students and equity," Whitney said. "The main focus has been student interest in speakers, the speakers we have here are student initiated and connected to student interest."

Whitney has been involved in the scheduling of an upcoming speech by activist Shaun King on Feb. 25.

Lt. Marc McPherson works for the CWU University Police department, and has planned security for many CWU speaking events.

"Anytime someone has an opposing view there can be some tension, but I don't have any concerns," Lt. Marc McPherson of the CWU University Police department said. "We take them all seriously. Any time an event is large enough, they pass it onto us. Great example is the recent debate in October [between Dino Rossi and Kim Schrier]. That was another high-security event."

Some have criticized universities for charging controversial speakers or their sponsor group an extra fee in order to pay for the extra security the speaker and the content of the speech may require. However, according to Dr. Cleary, CWU doesn't charge security fees that way.

"The security fee depends on size of audience, not content," Dr. Cleary said.

An event means that extra manpower is needed from the CWU police however, meaning that there are extra fees for securing a large event.

"We have regular patrols that we can't assign to an event, so we have to get people who are off-duty," said Lt. McPherson. "There's no extra fees or profit off of it, but we do tell [speakers] what the extra cost will be for those officers."

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Editor: Cassandra Hays

First Friday Art Walk showcases local artists downtown



Courtesy of Lynne Harrison

Gallery One Visual Arts Center was visited by many people on its 50th anniversary. The gallery displays pieces from local artists and regularly hosts events related to visual art.

Afton Prater

Staff Reporter

The First Friday Artwalk is a monthly occurrence that draws a good crowd according to the gallery owners, but many people aren't aware of it. On the first Friday of every month, several galleries and businesses in Downtown Ellensburg showcase art for the public, and provide food and beverages while doing so. Downtown Ellensburg comes to life on the evening of the art walk, with filled restaurants and crowded galleries. The First Friday Art Walk starts at 5 p.m. and ends around 7 p.m. and it is a free, all ages event.

Monica Miller, Director of Gallery One Visual Arts Center, gave some background information on how the art walk started in Ellensburg. She said that

former director of Gallery One, Mary Francis, joined the Ellensburg Arts commission, which is responsible for coordinating the effort of First Friday. Francis moved to Ellensburg from Seattle, where the concept of First Thursday was very popular, and she wanted to bring the same idea here. Miller discussed how the First Friday Art Walk is a great way to bring the community together.

"We're committed to creating community through creativity and First Friday is a wonderful way to do that. It gives us the opportunity to introduce the artists in the community to each other, and also to the community at large. We're committed monthly to changing out our exhibits and introducing the community to new art and new artists," Miller said. "We hope to reach as wide of a population as possible so that everybody feels

welcome here regardless of their artistic capabilities or their knowledge about art. The most important thing is that people feel comfortable in this space so that they can create dialogue and create connections with each other."

Gallery One has showcased various artists throughout the years, displaying as many as 250 pieces of art per year. One of the artists who has had recognition at Gallery One is Lynne Harrison, a photographer who captures pictures of travel and landscapes. She has traveled to many places, such as Morocco and Peru.

"In a lot of the photographs that I take, I really want to encourage people to see things from a different perspective and encourage them to be active participants in exploring the world, to inspire them to see things that they're seeing in the photographs, and basically to be able

to celebrate the art we encounter everyday," Harrison said.

In 1999, Harrison became an academic advisor at CWU, and years later worked at the Wellness Center, retiring from the school in 2013. She has been a participant in the art walk at a number of different exhibitions, being featured at the public library, Gallery One, Iron Horse, Gard Vintners and at Brix.

“

We have a really vibrant arts community and the art walk is an important part of that.

-Lynne Harrison, local artist

”

"I think it's a wonderful thing that Ellensburg does. We have a really vibrant arts community and the art walk is an important part of that. Different artists of all mediums, from sculpture, to photography, to paintings, get to exhibit their work and people in the community get to see so many beautiful creations," Harrison said.

The Clymer Museum and Gallery is also a popular spot for the First Friday Art Walk, hosting 200-400 people for the event. Mia Merendino, director and curator of the Clymer Museum, encourages college students to come to the event.

"I would like to get more college students from Central to come visit during First Fridays because it's fun, it's free, it's a great environment, and you get to look at wonderful things," said Merendino. "We always have live music, wine, and appetizers, it's a celebration of the exhibit."

Merendino also invites people to check out the next show hosted at the gallery called the "The Picture Opera" by Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) whose work focused on photographing Native Americans. The show starts on Feb. 15 ending on March 30, and the Friday when the show will be featured in the art walk is March 1.



Courtesy of Lynne Harrison

Lynne Harrison is one of the artists who Gallery One features in its monthly First Friday Art Walk. She specializes in landscape and travel photography.



Courtesy of Lynne Harrison

Lynne Harrison often travels for her photography. The photo above is titled "Colors of Cerro San Cristobal."

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Sustainability Café reduces environmental impact

Cassandra Hays

Scene Editor

Environmental conservation is a topic that has gained traction worldwide in recent years. College campuses around the country have taken steps to become more “green,” and CWU is no different. The Sustainability Café strives to make the campus and Ellensburg community more environmentally friendly through events and educational outreach.

The Sustainability Café is a quarterly event that aims to bring together students, faculty, staff and administration to work on and eventually complete sustainability projects on campus. The Café focuses on environmental issues such as climate change, carbon footprints, ocean suffocation, and pollution. Their mission is to make CWU a leader in enhancing environmental sustainability as well as reducing the impact the university has on the community.

Danielle Palmer is an administrator who is involved in the Café. She says that students often lead groups and discussions, despite the fact that most of the Café attendees are made up of faculty, staff, and administrators. She adds that seeing students getting involved with sustainability efforts has been inspiring.

“To see students who are here to get their degree, and [Ellensburg] may not be a permanent place for them, but they still care,” Palmer said. “That’s really exciting to see because that’s where change is going to happen.”

Every time the Café meets, proj-



Cassandra Hays/The Observer

Using paper straws instead of plastic is one simple way you can reduce your impact on the environment. DeM Coffee is one of the first businesses in Ellensburg to offer paper straws.

ects and events are planned to enhance CWU’s sustainability. Each project has a leader and a specific group of students, faculty and staff. This quarter, the Café planned nine projects designed to educate the community and make the campus more environmentally friendly.

One of the events is Earth Day, which involves the Environmental Club and will take place on April 18.

“The main goal of [this event] is to bring in some community partners and bring awareness on campus to sustainability efforts,” Palmer said.

Another event being put on in May is Bike to Campus Day. Students will be encouraged to bike rather than drive to

class to reduce their carbon footprint.

Another event being put on in May is Bike to Campus Day. Students will be encouraged to bike rather than drive to class to reduce their carbon footprint.

Samuel Gutierrez, a student involved with Sustainability Café, explains why they chose to put on the event.

“We want to talk about what carbon emissions mean for your footprint in general and how to reduce it by riding your bike, especially if you live in the core circle around the school,” Gutierrez said.

The Sustainability Café will also be putting on campaigns to reduce waste in residence halls as well as dining. Food waste from dining will be weighed every

day for a week to demonstrate how much food is being wasted, at which point there will be opportunities for composting. According to Palmer, composting is the best way to make food waste useful.

To reduce waste in residence halls, the Café plans to hold a competition to see which hall can recycle the most. They will also be educating students on what can and cannot be recycled, as well as encouraging students to use multi use water bottles among other steps to increase environmental sustainability.

According to Palmer, all events and projects being planned by the Sustainability Café are designed to have large impact with minimal cost. They want to increase awareness within the community about environmental issues and take steps to make the campus more environmentally friendly. Palmer points out that everyone should care about sustainability because everyone is affected by it.

“I think the environment in general is all of our responsibility,” Palmer said. “We only have a limited number of resources. Especially here in the Pacific Northwest we’re blessed by this beautiful landscape...we need to protect it, and our university needs to protect it as well.”

CWU now has a sustainability website (www.cwu.edu/sustainability) which has resources including Sustainability Café project information and a sustainability map. The sustainability map displays where certain resources, such as bike racks, refillable water stations, and recycling bins, are located.

Shortworks Festival features plays directed by students

Scott Wilson

Staff Reporter

The CWU theater program is putting on the Shortworks Festival, a new tradition that began last year. It features five short plays that are student directed and range from 10 to 25 minutes each that cover multiple genres. Two of the plays are comedies written and directed by sophomore Alisa Muench. The other three are dramas about mental health and heavier topics which have been praised by the actors, directors, and managers involved in the event.

The plays begin on Feb. 7, and all five shows will be put on every night until Feb. 10. They will take place in the main theater in McConnell Hall and feature seating for the audience on the stage. The audience will get to be just a few feet away from the action and experience the emotions of the actors up close.

Alisa Muench, a sophomore, used to be an actor but took on the role of a playwright this year and enjoys it just as much.

“I took a playwriting course here with Ramon Esquivel and it sparked my interest and created a skill of playwriting I didn’t know I secretly had,” Muench said.

The two plays Muench wrote include a comedy titled “Hi I’m in Training” that is about two couples at a restaurant. The older couple yells at a waitress for bringing the wrong food and the younger couple defends the waitress. The play takes place when both couples get home and discuss what happened. Muench’s sec-

ond play is a comedy with darker elements titled “When Death Itches.” It is about a young woman in her bedroom. When death appears and wants to talk to her because she has been acting strange lately.

“It’s really fun to be able to create a story on my own and create different lives and perspectives on page and on the stage.”

-Alisa Muench, Sophomore

Playwright and actor Annie Jankovic features as one of the lead characters in a play she wrote herself. This play is a drama titled “Ghosts of Living Flesh” about two 20-year-old diabetic women that meet in a waiting room and exchange life philosophies which help them move each other towards hope.

Jankovic is a diabetic herself and says it’s very important to her for stories like this to be told. This is also her first time being able to play a diabetic on stage, which she thinks is awesome.

“This has been my favorite team to work with and getting to do something so personal to me and deeply important has been an amazing process,” Jankovic said.

Jankovic said that she tends to write about things that make her angry and things close to her heart. Last year, she



Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Costumes are hung throughout the theater building, McConnell Hall, waiting for the Shortworks programs to begin. There are a wide variety of costumes which will be shown in the festival.

was inspired to write a play about the insulin price gouging.

“I tend to write about diabetes or disability issues because those are the ones that I’m most passionate about and that I hope my theater can do some advocacy about,” Jankovic said.

Playwrights tend to struggle with finding original things to write about so Jankovic explained that diabetic stories are not popular so they are original and new.

Jankovic says that her favorite part about the festival is going through the rehearsal process and having people tell her they’ve learned something new about diabetes or that her story spoke to them in a special way.

Shortworks Festival

Who: CWU Theater program

What: A series of student directed plays

When: Feb. 7 - 10

Where: McConnell hall

Cost: Free



University looks to improve retention rates

Story by Alexa Murdock & Matt Escamilla | Design by Ryan Edwards

Continued from Page 1

A school's retention rate is the percentage of first-time, first-year undergraduate students who continue at the school the next year, according to the U.S. Department of Education website. Students who transfer into or out of a university, graduate students, part-time students, or returning students are not included in this rate.

CWU's retention rates are calculated from a census taken on the 10th day of each fall term, according to Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs Gail Mackin. The data is compared with that of previous years to determine the current rate.

Tuition affordability and academic advising are two major contributing factors to a university's retention rate. While Gaudino acknowledged CWU's ability to keep costs low, money is still a limiting factor for some students.

"We cannot rest until no student leaves because he or she cannot pay," Gaudio said in his speech.

A strong advising system is key for student success. Gaudio called for the university-wide development of an advising system that can meet the needs of each individual student while guiding them through their educational goals.

According to Associate Dean of Student Development and Achievement Aaron Brown, helping students find areas of interest to pursue academically via advising will not only increase retention rates; it will help them find their purpose in life.

"When a student is connected more to their purpose, they complete their degree at a higher rate," Brown said.

The university currently only has one career counselor per college. Brown would also like to see the addition of a counselor that focuses on helping exploratory students.

CWU also offers academic help in an effort to retain successful students, such as the Peer-Assisted Learning Tutoring Program, the Writing Center and the Math Bridge Program, which is designed to save students time and money by bringing them into college-level math courses faster. Brown said that he has seen an increase in freshman students using tutoring services from past years.

Mackin believes it is not just one department or problem that leads to a student not returning to CWU.

For a student to officially withdraw from the university, they need to fill out a form at Registrar Services. Jobs, family and personal reasons are among some of the reasons students leave, according to Mackin.

“Students come in [to CWU] with challenges in their personal lives, which poses challenges for us being able to serve their needs,” Mackin said.

Enrollment growth in the past few years calls for more concentrated efforts for the university to understand what the issues are regarding retention rates, Mackin said. In a group of first-time

students, approximately 40 percent are first-generation, 90 percent file a FAFSA; and 30 percent come from a diverse cultural background, all of which are factors which may impact a student’s educational goals, she said.

She also noted that students are accessing mental health services at the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic at higher rates than in the past, but she believes mental health is just one of the many reasons a student might not continue their education.

“To ensure that our retention rates improve and our students are successful is a very holistic approach,” Mackin said.

To help transfer students coming into CWU, the university is in the process of developing plans for a transfer and transition center, according to Mackin. The center would serve as a hub for students to get information and help in order to make a smooth transition into the university.

“We have had higher retention rates in the past. There’s no reason to believe that we can’t be there in the near future,” Mackin said.

Fall term new or continuing status

New or Continuing	Student Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Continuing	First - Time	3,508	3,664	3,651	3,803	3,947	4,160
	Transfer	3,177	3,274	3,242	3,272	3,288	3,170
Total		6,685	6,938	6,893	7,075	7,235	7,330
New	First - Time	1,628	1,569	1,838	2,054	2,223	2,154
	Transfer	1,455	1,369	1,471	1,433	1,352	1,326
Total		3,083	2,938	3,309	3,497	3,575	3,480
TOTAL		9,768	9,876	10,202	10,572	10,810	10,810

Fall to fall retention rates

Student Type Transfer

	Enrolled	Returned	Retained
2013	1,261	1,016	80.57%
2014	1,145	919	80.26%
2015	1,286	1,045	81.26%
2016	1,257	1,035	82.34%
2017	1,167	964	82.60%
2018	1,189		

Fall to fall retention rates

Student Type First time full time freshman

	Enrolled	Returned	Retained
2013	1,490	1,175	78.86%
2014	1,347	1,061	78.77%
2015	1,644	1,252	76.16%
2016	1,891	1,372	72.55%
2017	2,102	1,457	69.31%
2018	2,041		

Data courtesy of Gail Mackin

Editor: Cassandra Hays

CWU celebrates Black History Month



Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

An exhibit celebrating Black History Month will be available for view from Jan. 30 through March 16. The exhibit will focus on culture and civil rights.

Skyler Jensen-Hampton

Staff Reporter

February is Black History Month, and CWU has many different events happening around campus to celebrate.

Nelson Mandela Tribute

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) is putting on a Nelson Mandela Tribute. Areli Ruiz, the student leadership programmer for CLCE, is in charge of the tribute and

other events.

“The tribute is a three day program starting off with an art walk. This entails having students come be inspired, and do some art work. It’s going to be kind of like a competition as well, so the public gets to vote on the winning art piece- and the winner will win a prize,” Ruiz said.

The art walk is on Monday, Feb. 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in SURC 137.

On the second day of the program (Tuesday, Feb. 12) the CLCE is host-

ing “Letters To Our Future,” which is happening from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in SURC 137A.

“Basically what that is- is we are having CWU students go and answer questions, reply to letters, based off the ones we got. The letters are from elementary age or seventh grade,” Ruiz said.

Continuing on Tuesday, Feb. 12, a new event is taking place in the SURC Pit at 4 p.m.

“This is an informal chat where we have the women’s rugby coach Trevor Richards come in and talk to the public. He has some insight about how Mandela was during that time and he witnessed the effects of the world cup and things of that nature,” Ruiz said.

Lastly, to close the three day program, the CLCE is hosting the “Mandela Effect,” which is a talent show case.

“This is where we tie in all those elements and try to portray him in the best way possible,” Ruiz said.

The Mandela Effect will take place on Feb. 13 in the SURC Theatre at 7 p.m.

The showcase will be filled with dancing, poems, singing and different groups that represent Nelson Mandela and pay tribute to him, according to Ruiz.

This event is free to all CWU students.

Museum of Culture and Environment

From Jan. 30 to March 16 the Museum of Culture and Environment will have an exhibit up to celebrate Black History Month in Dean hall. The exhibit comes from National Endowment for

the Humanities (NEH). The NEH exhibit will provide visual culture and the struggle of civil rights. Lynn Bethke is the museum collections manager and provides the behind the scenes of the setup.

“The exhibit is very much focused on civil rights eras, 50s, 60s, and 70s, [and] racism during that time,” Bethke said.

According to their website, the Museum of Culture and Environment will be involved in other events such as “Being Black in Ellensburg,” “UN/ Belonging: Can people of color call Ellensburg home?” and “Intersectionality & Solidarity.” These events will be taking place from Feb. 19 to Feb. 28.

DEC Exhibit

Paige Hall and Nat Mcmillion are student program coordinators for the Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) on campus. In addition to the exhibit in Dean hall, the DEC is building an exhibit called Civil Rights in the Pacific Northwest, which will be located in Black 105.

“This is more so about the civil rights that are happening in the current times in the PNW- focused mainly on the west-side Seattle and a little bit of Ellensburg,” Hall said.

This will open Feb. 1 for the entire month from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mcmillion and Hall will be on student led panels for events such as “Being Black in Ellensburg.”

“This is the biggest rights exhibit CWU has put on. I would encourage everyone to come in with humility and an open mind,” Mcmillion said.

Africana and Black Studies | Art + Design | Asian Studies | Communication | English | History | Latino and Latin American Studies | Music | Philosophy and Religious Studies | Theatre Arts | World Languages and Cultures

CANTOR

Guest Recital: Andrew Pelletier
February 21 | 7pm | Music Recital Hall

The CWU Music Department will welcome international horn soloist and Grammy-award winning chamber musician, Andrew Pelletier for a guest recital on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the McIntyre Music Building Recital Hall. Pelletier is current president of the International Horn Society, and has performed on five continents. He was the First Prize winner of the 1997 and 2001 American Horn Competitions. He currently serves as principal horn of the Michigan Opera Theatre and is professor of horn at Bowling Green State University. Of this playing, the Los Angeles Times wrote, “gleaming, handsome playing. Pelletier is a soloist who seems capable of anything on his instrument.” Fanfare Magazine called him “Phenomenal...undeniably in tune with what he plays” and the American Record Guide has praised his “full sound and laing with authority and imagination.” Pelletier’s recital program will include works by Samuel Adler, Arnold Cooke, Halsey Stevens, Charles Gounod, and more. He will also work with CWU students earlier in the day. This concert is free and open to the public. For more information contact Jeffrey Snedeker at 963-1226 or snedeker@cwu.edu.

CWU College of
ARTS & HUMANITIES

AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation: DS@cwu.edu



Heather Stewart/The Observer

A Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. statue stands tall in a park in Washington D.C. at sunset. Dr. King today is thought to be the most visible and well known leader of the civil rights movement.

Black History Month Events

<p>-Black History Month exhibit Dean Hall Jan. 30 to March 16</p> <p>-Nelson Mandela art walk SURC 137 Feb. 11 10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.</p> <p>-Mandela chat SURC Pit Feb.12 4 p.m.</p>	<p>-Letters To Our Future SURC 137 Feb.12 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p>-Mandela Effect talent show SURC Theatre Feb. 13 7 p.m.</p> <p>-DEC Exhibit Black 105 Feb. 1-28</p>
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Editor: Hanson Lee

Boykin makes his mark as a Wildcat

By **Dez Rodriguez**

Assistant Sports Editor

When Gamaun Boykin, junior guard for the CWU men's basketball team, was narrowing in on his fourth high school 5A state title, he had no idea what kind of detriment a loss would put on him. A senior at Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, GA, the basketball powerhouse was a favorite to win it all once again. After all, the team had already won three consecutive titles before Boykin arrived and was looking to extend the historical run to seven straight.

However, the unexpected happened. A loss in the elite eight that took everyone by surprise. The major upset shut Boykin down inside, leaving him feeling as if he had let his teammates and family down. He had received a lot of high recruitment offers during his high school career, but the aftermath of the loss continued to linger on inside him.

Colleges came calling, but Boykin remained silent.

Early Life

Boykin lost his father at only 2 years old. His mother and younger brother lived in Youngstown, Ohio where he was a star athlete in both football and basketball.

"My mom and brother have always motivated me," Boykin said. "Knowing my dad wasn't here kind of pushed me too. It gave me a little chip on my shoulder growing up."

His natural athletic abilities didn't change the fact that there wasn't much offered in the troubled town, especially for a mother looking to raise two young children safely.

The family packed their belongings and moved to Lithonia, Georgia when he was 13 years old. Boykin never questioned his mother's decision. He only stressed about needing to build his foundation once again from scratch.

"Everybody knew how I was back home in Ohio," Boykin said. "When I moved to Georgia I had to start over and show everyone who I was."

The process began by continuing to play football and basketball. The 6-foot-3 athlete played quarterback and was in line to be the future face of the team. However, he noticed two main differences that proved to be too difficult for him to continue wanting to play: the bigger sized players and the extreme Georgia weather.

"I got there and it was very hot. I asked myself if I was really trying to be outside and honestly it was just too hot for me out there," Boykin said. "The guys were also so much bigger. That's really a football state, so those guys were meant for football"

Making the decision to focus on basketball was easy. He always had the natural ability to play and the A/C would stay on all year round in the gym. It also helped that the high school he committed to playing for had a proven track record of winning state titles.

College Career

Boykin's hesitation to decide where to commit to play basketball provided few options for him in the end.

He decided to make the trip west to enroll and play at Southwestern Community College, a junior college in Chula Vista, CA. There, he started as a freshman.

"I remember looking at the coach asking like 'are you crazy? You have grown men over there, why are you starting me?'" Boykin said. "But he saw something in me that just gave me confidence. My confi-

dence just started to grow from that point."

Something still didn't feel right though. A tough living situation for him and his teammates factored into his decision to transfer. He left and ultimately traveled north to Yakima Valley Community College his sophomore year.

After sitting out a year due to transfer eligibility for athletes, he quickly stood out as a player to watch, averaging 21.6 points per game while shooting 45 percent from 3-point range. The performance was good enough to earn Boykin a Northwest Athletic Conference All-Eastern Region First Team selection, putting him back on the radar.

"I was getting recruited by a lot of schools, D1 and D2," Boykin said. "I didn't want to choose a D1 school just because it was D1. I wanted to have an opportunity to be somebody and play."

Faith in the Decision

Boykin was at a roadblock, not knowing where to play his final two years of college basketball. Driving to Yakima one day with a decision needing to be made soon, he remembers asking God to send him a sign about what his decision should be. Five minutes later his phone started ringing. It was CWU men's basketball head coach Brandon Rinta.

"He called just to check in and see what I was doing," Boykin said. "I was like 'wow that's crazy' just the irony of what I just prayed about and then I get a phone call from him. That was the sign right there."

Rinta had always remained resilient with the recruitment of Boykin. The ability to show that he cared about Boykin as more than just as an athlete is what put it over the top.

"I appreciated him for that honestly.

At the end of the day I was going to make my decision based on where I was most comfortable," Boykin said. "I feel comfortable here, he just continued to show me things that other coaches didn't."

Boykin committed to play his final two years for the Wildcats. Now in the back half of his junior season, he is finding a lot of success on and off the court. He leads the team in points (14.1) and rebounds (5.6) per game, and finished with a 3.3 GPA last quarter.

"He is the best rebounding guard that I have ever coached. That's just pure effort," Rinta said. "He's got a nose for the basketball and he goes and gets it. He's a complete player."

The journey from Ohio to where he is now has been a long and stressful one for Boykin. Nevertheless, he is always seen walking around with a smile on his face enjoying every moment with his friends, teammates and coaches.

"I just want to be great and be the best that I can possibly be," Boykin said. "You work so hard for certain things so when you start to see light shed on some of the things you've worked so hard for, it's definitely rewarding."

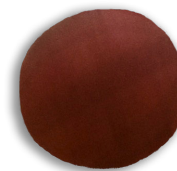
**Points Per
Game: 14.1**

**Assists Per
Game: 3.3**

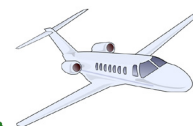
**Rebounds
Per Game:
5.6**

**Games
Played: 18**

**Games
Started: 18**



6'3"



Editor: Hanson Lee

Opinion: Adjust your altitude and take it to the slopes

By Bryce Weedman
Staff Reporter

Picture being on a mountain full of snow in the middle of winter. It's freezing out, the trees surround you and you sit at about 4,000 feet of elevation. You can see your breath, and beautiful white hills surround you. Now picture you're on a snowboard flying down the slopes, wind hitting your face, powder flying up all around you leaving trails of white smoke. There is nothing to stop you from doing anything you want. The only things in control are your mind and your body. There is nothing quite like snowboarding, and if you haven't considered trying it, or you're on the fence about hitting the slopes, trust me, it's the way to go. There is nothing as freeing as being alone with your thoughts and maybe a little music in your ears flying through thick powder.

According to snow.com, snowboarding was invented in 1965 when Sherman Poppen, an engineer from Muskegon, Michigan, decided to put two skis together to create a more controllable way to get down the mountain. The snowboard was initially called the "snurfer" and would later be changed to the snowboard.

Snowboarding caught on pretty quick when boards began being sold in retail to all consumers in 1972. At first, it was very popular among the skateboard community as it was essentially a skateboard without wheels, but over time the snowboard became a hit with all types of people.

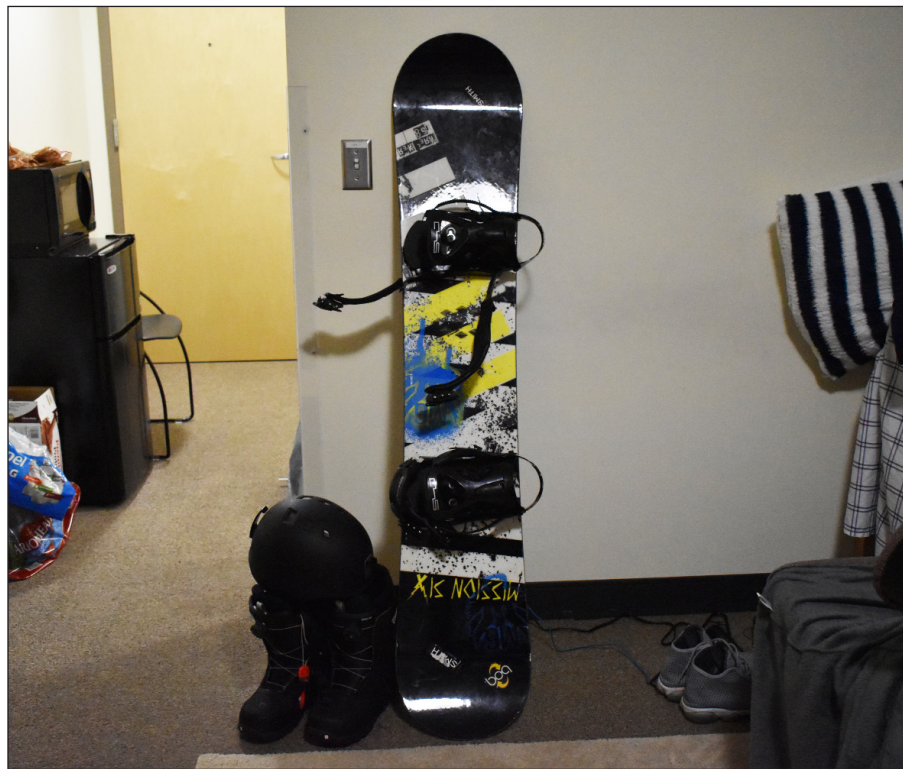
In 1977, snowboarding showed that it was here to stay. Dimitrije Milovich and other snowboarding pioneers found that most ski resorts didn't like having snowboards on the mountain, because the mountains did not insure snowboards, just skis. Milovich was able to go to major insurance brokers for ski resorts and get snowboards covered by all mountains. Tom Sims, the founder of Burton Snowboarding Company, began producing new designs for snowboards and from there, snowboarding really took off.

Kompster.com says that in 1997, the first Winter X-Games were held in Big Bear Lake, California, but in 2002 the Winter X-games introduced the winter sports scene in a whole new way adding new events like big air and slopestyle, and found a permanent home in Aspen, Colorado.

In 1998, the Winter Olympics added snowboarding as a new sport. Two of the most successful snowboarders in competitive snowboarding are Travis Rice and Shaun White.

Most people have heard of Shaun White, even those who have never snowboarded a day in their lives, mostly because of the sheer success White had on a snowboard. White has won three Gold medals in the Olympics for snowboarding, all in the Halfpipe competition. Even more staggering are his 13 gold medals, 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals in the X-Games Superpipe and Slopestyle competitions.

Snowboarding in my opinion is one



Hanson Lee / The Observer

Snowboarding can be a highly sought after activity amongst winter lovers, especially in the Ellensburg area. The OPR can be a great place to start if you looking to get into the snowboarding scene.

of the coolest things you can do. It has its learning curve just like anything else, but once you get good at it, there is something so graceful and beautiful about it. You can meet so many different people just by going up to the mountain. One of the best things about snowboarding is that there is no lim-

it to the tricks you can do. Whether you're sending a 360 off a huge big air jump, or just cruising down the bunny hills, snowboarding is fun for all different levels and ages. So, if you haven't considered hopping on a board yet, maybe grab some friends and go give it a try. You won't be disappointed.

CWU equestrian gives club sports a new name



Shawna Hettick / The Observer

During western ride nights, the team will ride horses on the rail then line up at the end of the arena to do loops. Here is just a small group of the team watching a demonstration of the coming pattern.

By Tianbai Dun
Staff Reporter

The Equestrian club is a group on campus which was established in 2006 by a group of dedicated horse lovers who wanted to bring the world of competitive riding to CWU. They compete through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). One of the best things about this club is that students do not need a horse or any previous riding experience. In IHSA, riders are assigned a horse based on their skill level and will be judged on their equitation (or how they look on a horse).

The team has ride nights twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During ride nights, their team will prac-

tice riding different horses on the rail, through a course and some of them will jump as well. Ride nights are lots of fun since they get to practice on mostly every horse in the barn. The coach, Gabby Longmire, and the team captains will give the team pointers on how to improve their equitation and better ride the horse they are on. Ride nights tend to be an hour or two long.

According to Longmire, the team has chores at the barn every day and individual lessons, if people want them. The equestrian team is split up into different sections based on special events. The team has one section that is primarily for club members who don't compete, but get to enjoy being at the barn with the hors-

es. They also have the show team which is split into two categories, english riders and western riders, although most riders compete in both disciplines. English riders show equitation on the flat and over jumps, while western riders compete in horsemanship and reining. They also offer private lessons with any of the senior members. Lessons are \$10 for an hour and the money goes back into the club fund for social events. The team will go to WWU next weekend, followed by some more shows before the postseason.

Each member is responsible for their monthly board check and any other horse expenses. The CWU equestrian team is one of the largest active clubs at the university with a group of about 30 members.

Athletics Review

MBB

vs. NNU
93-96 (9-10)

Men's basketball recently hosted Northwest Nazarene University, falling on their homecourt, 93-96, this past Tuesday, Jan. 29. Next, the team will hit the road to face Montana State University Billings on Thursday, Jan. 31.

WBB

vs. WWU
76-61 (12-5)

On Saturday, Jan. 26, women's basketball faced off against rival WWU in hostile territory, winning 76-61. Next, the team will play Concordia University at home on Thursday, Jan. 31, followed by Western Oregon University on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Men's Rugby

@ Cal Poly Slo
66-10 (2-1)

Most recently, men's rugby defeated California Polytechnic State University, 66-10, on the road. Next, the team will stay in Ellensburg to welcome WSU on Feb. 2.

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Editor: Alexa Murdock

The kids aren't alright, they're addicted

Social media is an epidemic ruining face-to-face communication skills in children and young adults.

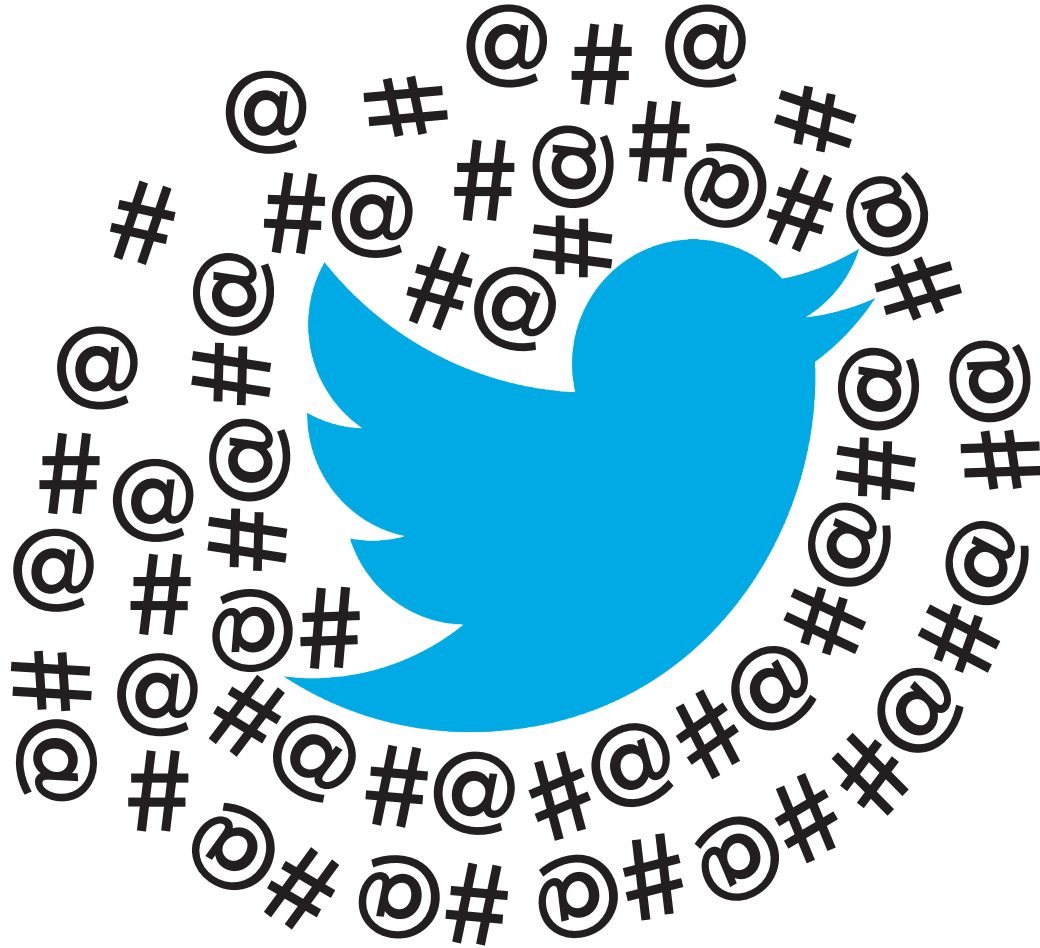
Skyler Jensen-Hampton

Staff Reporter

My concerns are for the younger generation. I feel as if kids are going to struggle with communicating in many aspects, especially face-to-face. Whatever happened to playing outside with our friends until dark and hustling home because you knew you were past your curfew? Or what about those times where we would be able to sit and have a conversation with someone for over an hour without any distractions. These times are long gone due to one thing. Technology. More specifically, social media. We find ourselves constantly checking our phones wondering what everyone else is doing instead of living in the moment. Even if we don't think so, we are constantly comparing ourselves to others based on their social media statuses. We are seeing signs of depression, anxiety, and mental health issues all relating back to this one thing.

Face-to-face communication is important to society for many different reasons. Talking to someone in person, whether it be in a casual setting or a professional one, is a basic skill we all need to be able to get through everyday life.

In the article "Getting Closer Being Apart: Living in The Age of Information and Communication Technologies," Irshad Hussain, Ozlem Cakir, Burhanettin Ozdemir and Shaheen Ashraf Tahirkhel state that "the conventional face-to-face communica-



William Yi/The Observer

Social media like Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat dominate the download charts on both iOS and Android.

tion and interactions seemingly are being replaced by the use of social media and cell phones-conversations, texting, instant messaging and emailing. Seemingly, the real life-communication is be-

coming second chance and lesser among people and they are being apart even living together. People seem to be connected technologically but in fact they are [being] isolated physically."

With the evidence showing that this is not only a problem for the current generation, but others to come.

This problem is here to stay, and something needs to be done to try and combat the issue. Teenagers around the age of sixteen are always on social media. Snapchat in recent years has been arguably the most popular form of all these social media sites. In spring of 2015 only 11 percent of teens were using Snapchat. In the most recent data from 2017 shows that 47 percent of teens were using snapchat as their main form of communication.

Going along with the idea of needing to reduce the amount of time social media is used. That could be something that is big for helping not only risk factors, but face-to-face communication.

If the younger generation was to reduce their screen time, it could help them gain more of those face to face communication skills that are so important. The younger generation should be allowed to challenge themselves. Take that social media vacation or limit the amount of time spent on each app per day, and once that's accomplished, take even more time off that original set goal. This will add so much more potential and opportunity for this generation to get out there and talk to people every day, about real-life issues and topics.

I hope people really look at this issue, because it is a big one. Realize that the generation after us is the future and it is up to us to set the example now.

Taylor Swift reclaims empire in "Reputation" tour

Afton Prater

Staff Reporter

Growing up listening to country music non-stop, I encountered Taylor Swift with her debut album in 2006 when I was 8 years old. I adored the sweet, down-to-earth vibe she carried in her songs and her ability to openly sing about her experiences. Swift's next album was released in 2008, titled "Fearless." Her success skyrocketed with the hit songs "You Belong with Me" and "Love Story." "Speak Now" was released in 2010, and two years later "Red" came out, both creating more of a pop sound than her previously released albums. When her fifth album, "1989" was released in 2014, it was clear to me that Swift was moving in a different direction with her music, steering away from the country genre that spiraled her into stardom. After falling off the face of the earth for a while, leaving fans wondering about her next move, Swift returned, fiercer than ever before, with her "Reputation" album, which left them speechless over her new sound. Today I, along with many other Taylor Swift fans, know that the old Taylor Swift "can't come to the phone right now...because she's dead." I've heard people criticize the album and wish that Swift would return to country music, but I think what she has done is brilliant. She has built an em-

pire out of the names she has been called and the reputation she has been given. It's like Swift has been reborn and is owning who she is.

The Reputation stadium tour kicked off in May of 2017 and ended in November. After the tour, Swift announced that one of her shows would be posted on Netflix on New Year's Eve. I was so excited! Many of my friends attended the Seattle concert and talked about how amazing it was. Unfortunately, I was not able to go because I am a poor college student. I am so thankful that I was able to watch the show bundled up in my living room in my PJs. My first and last thoughts of the show were "wow!" There are a variety of reasons that Swift's show had a lasting impression on me. The on-screen visuals were mind blowing! There were also amazing dancers, high tech lights, flashy costumes, and fantastic, interchanging stage sets. She performed her new pop songs along with some of her country tunes, owning the stage song after song. The production of the show as well as her performance were both creative and powerful.

Swift surprised the audience by adding songs from her previous albums into the mix randomly. She did this in a very unique way by including these songs in mashups with her new songs. The crowd went wild when this

happened and so did I! "You Belong with Me" is like the anthem of my life and don't even get me started on "Love Story." Even though Swift's music has changed so much from the beginning of her career, she takes a step back and remembers the songs that made her career catapult into a world of success.

Personally, my favorite part of the show was when Swift stripped away the rest of the band and played solo with her guitar. When she was performing, it was clear to see that Swift has pure talent. She blew away a stadium full of people and did it solo! The stories written and the emotion behind them were heard louder and clearer than ever.

Denise Warner, who writes for "Billboard" thought Swift's performance was exceptionally well done.

"As amazing as her show is if you're in the audience, the doc allows you to get more of a feel of the singer as a performer -- and experience just how delicately everything is staged. From passes of the microphone, to tilted stages and costume changes, Swift made everything look effortless," Warner said. "Swift gave a gorgeous look into her world as one of today's greatest entertainers."

Taylor Swift's Reputation stadium tour is wonderfully choreographed and definitely a must-see! Even though I am a longtime "Swiftie" and have seen her

perform live before, I have never seen her perform like this! I give a round of applause to her and to everyone involved in the production of the tour.

Reputation Stadium Tour Facts

- Taylor Swift's Reputation Stadium Tour took place from May to November 2018.
- A Netflix special filmed at the Arlington, Texas location was released on Dec. 31, 2018.
- The film received positive reviews from Variety, V magazine and The Los Angeles Times.

Editor: Alexa Murdock

Lack of snow causes trouble for snowmobile riders

Payton Parke

Staff Reporter

This year in the northwest is not what it is normally like for those of us who enjoy snowmobiling on the weekend. The Pacific Northwest has seen a lot of warmer weather this year and that means higher altitudes for snow.

According to WSDOT, Snoqualmie Pass last year on Jan. 24 had 234 inches of total snow accumulation, compared to this year, where on Jan. 24, we had 156 inches, which is 78 less.

For some, that is a break for their commute over Snoqualmie pass, but for snowmobile riders it is a big issue.

Not just because of not having enough snow to go snowmobiling, but because in the areas of Washington state that do get a good amount of snow there is the risk of avalanches. According to the Northwest Avalanche Center (NWAC), as of Jan. 24, there is a category three avalanche warning in effect on the Washington Cascades' eastern and central slopes. This is very risky and possibly deadly for riders. That's why I personally always ride with an avalanche pack, which is a backpack device that deploys like an airbag to keep you on top of the snow.

Riding over the central slopes, you run the risk of getting caught in an avalanche, which is the biggest fear all snowmobilers have. That is why I ride in a fairly large group of people because everyone can be aware and communicate via walkie-talkie.

Although the snow might not be the best this year, us riders have new technology and new sleds to make things a little better.

Personally, I ride a Arctic Cat M8000, but there are many other brands. Ski-doo, Polaris, Yamaha, and even snow bikes now with the Timbersled. To me, it is like a Ford or Dodge thing. People either ride one or the other and they stay with the brand. This can make it a little easier to ride in this weather.

Every year, these sleds are getting better and making it a more thrilling experience for the rider. Now all we need is some snow.

I have been riding snowmobiles for about 10 years now. I started when I was 11 years old, and in my opinion there is no better winter sport. Nothing beats being miles deep in the woods and backcountry on a sled, enjoying nature.

The eastern and central slopes need a lot more snow, like 78 inches more. Otherwise, I am going to have to just buy a dirt bike, because of global warming.



Payton Parke/The Observer

Arctic Cat M800 snowmobile sitting in a meadow at Skate Creek Road in Ashford, Washington.

Mountain pass reports

For up-to-date information about snowfall and avalanche risk, visit: <https://www.nwac.us/>

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WHAT'S HAPPENING HYPE

JAN. 31 - FEB. 6, 2019

THUR. JAN. 31

**"Breathe for Change" workshop
Wildcat Leadership Academy**
3 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free
Practice self-awareness and self-care techniques like breathing and meditation.

Lunch n' Learn: Code-Switching
4 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free
How communication is influenced by time, place and space. Refreshments.

"For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights" exhibit

5 p.m. • Museum of Culture and Environment • Free
Images and objects from Civil Rights history that changed how Americans viewed race, racism and the struggle for equality.

Geek Out Game Out

8 p.m. • Wellington Event Center • Free
Geek out and game on with board games, video consoles, VR games and tons of food. Bring a friend and hang out.

FRI. FEB. 1

Indoor Ironman Begins!
CWU Campus • \$15
Complete 2.4 miles swimming, 112 miles on a bike and 26.2 miles running during Feb. Sign up at Rec Center front desk.

SAT. FEB. 2

2019 Madden Classic
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. • SURC Theatre
2nd Annual James Segura Mitchell Madden Classic means a chance to win Intramural Champion T-shirt! Register at imleagues.com/cwu by 2/2.

MON. FEB. 4

**Monday Movie: Fantastic Beasts
The Crimes of Grindelwald**
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3
Magizoologist Newt Scamander returns, and Albus Dumbledore appears.

ASCWU Public Meeting

2 p.m. • SURC Pit
Keep in the know about student issues, initiatives and more.

WED. FEB. 6

Wellness Wagon
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Campus • Free
The Wildcat version of Cash Cab: Answer health and wellness trivia questions, win prizes, catch a ride to class!

National African American History Celebration

1 - 3 p.m. • SURC Pit • Free treats
Celebrate the showcase of African Americans' impact on US history.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT CWU.EDU/TICKETS

"Civil Rights Today: The New Civil Rights Movement" w/ Shaun King
Social activist/writer shares how to use your voice and social media for change.
Feb. 25 • 6:30 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
Free for CWU students • \$10/\$15 GA

"Radical Love: The Body is Not an Apology" w/ Sonya Renee Taylor

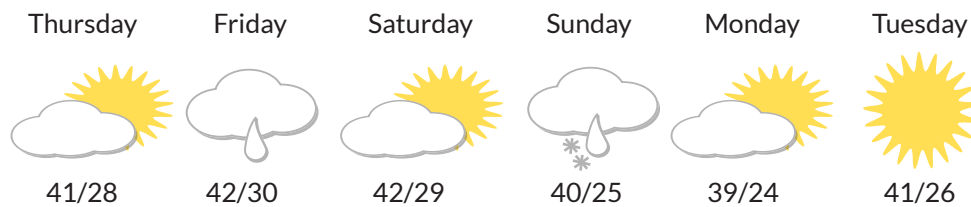
Celebrated poet and activist follows Open Mic Night for a special spoken word event.
Feb. 28 • 7-9 p.m. • McConnell Auditorium
Free for CWU students/fac/staff • \$7 GA

#CWUHYPE



Editor: Alexa Murdock

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast



Thursday: Patchy fog in the morning. Mostly cloudy in the day with a high of 41.

Friday: Chance of rain in the morning changing to showers during the day. High of 42.

Saturday: Chance of freezing rain in the morning. Partly sunny with a high of 42.

Sunday: Chance of snow in the morning turning to rain and snow. High of 40.

Monday: Partly sunny with a high of 39.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny with a high of 41.

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

This week in history

Bundy makes last confession

Compiled from *Campus Crier* files

Convicted killer Ted Bundy admitted to the 1974 murder of CWU student Susan Elaine Rancourt and others before Tuesday's execution.

Rancourt, an 18-year-old freshman from Anchorage, Alaska, disappeared from Central's campus on the night of April 17, 1974. She reportedly never made it back to her Barto room from a meeting for future residence hall supervisors in Munson Hall.

In February of 1975, bodily remains found in the Taylor Mountain area east of Seattle were positively identified as Rancourt's. The remains of several other missing young Northwest women were found in surrounding areas.

The confessions were seen as a last ditch effort for a final stay of execution by prison officials, as Bundy's lawyers asked for an additional three years of life in exchange for the information. In all, Bundy, in a 1-1/2 hour



On Jan. 26 1989, The Observer published a front-page story about Ted Bundy's Jan. 24 1989 execution. Bundy admitted to the murder of 18-year-old CWU student Susan Elaine Rancourt nearly 15 years earlier in 1974.

The confession came after Bundy's request for a stay of execution. He was ultimately sentenced to death by electrocution in Florida. Bundy was never brought to trial for any killings committed in Washington.

Weekly trivia

Test your knowledge with this food-themed trivia.

- Apples float in water because they are ___ percent air.
 - 15%
 - 25%
 - 50%
- How many peas are in the average pod?
 - 4
 - 6
 - 8
- ___ percent of adults suffer from any type of food allergy.
 - 2%
 - 5%
 - 10%
- How much bacteria does a bite of cheese contain?
 - Three thousand
 - One million
 - One trillion
- One out of every ___ boxes of cereal sold in North America is Cheerios.
 - 7
 - 11
 - 15
- What color would Coca Cola be if no coloring were added to it?
 - White
 - Red
 - Green
- When was the microwave first invented?
 - 1939
 - 1946
 - 1966
- Which American fast food chain is commonly eaten on Christmas day in Japan?
 - McDonalds
 - KFC
 - Burger King
- Where was the first McDonalds located?
 - California
 - Kentucky
 - Nevada
- What is the biggest grocery store chain in the U.S.?
 - Walmart
 - Kroger
 - Albertsons

Answers: 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. b 9. a 10. a

Call for a cartoonist!

Are you an artist? Do you love to doodle? Do you know someone who loves to draw?

The Observer is looking for a cartoonist. If you're interested, send work to cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M-Tu 5-6 p.m.

Ask Rune

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

Dear Rune,

I'm having a hard time. I really want a new pet...specifically, a guinea pig. Why don't I get one you ask? Well, my significant other won't let me. The worst part? I live with them, so I feel obligated to not bring one home without their approval. What do I do? I love my significant other but I also love pets. Any insight is appreciated. Sincerely, Pet Enthusiast

Dear Enthusiast,

First off, just straight up not doing what people ask you to do, or vice-versa, is always an option. So, you can get the guinea pig, bring it home, and either apologize or just choose not to care. But where's the fun in that? Instead, I'd opt for the psychological warfare approach to convince them that it was actually their idea to get a guinea pig. I'd take a page out of Aldous Huxley's book and hide a tape recorder playing guinea pig noises under their pillow while they sleep. The noises ought to play whenever something positive happens in their life, so we can get some good old-fashioned Pavlovian conditioning going. Pizza for dinner? Play the guinea pig noises soft enough to ignore, yet loud enough that their subconscious registers it. Whenever they win at a video game, finish all their homework or achieve something impressive at work, make sure that the guinea pig sound is there. Finally, bring them to the pet store and show them the guinea pigs. By now, the noises they make ought to be deeply associated with all the best parts of your significant other's life, and they won't be able to resist the urge to purchase one of the fuzzy little critters.

Alternatively, you can just glue two googly eyes on a small pillow stuffed with timothy hay. All the fun of owning a guinea pig without the cleanup. Hope this helps, Rune

Submit a question

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

Call for reader work

Do you have a letter to the editor or a burning opinion you want published?

We would love your work!

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