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The Observer

Central Washington University

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The Observer

By the students

For the students

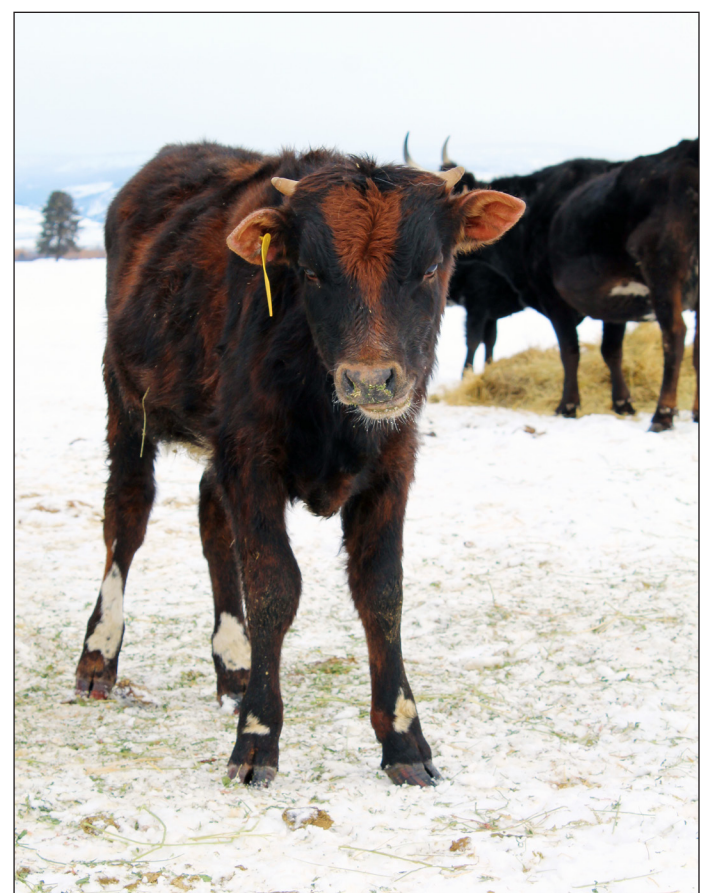
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Pacific Northwest ranchers feel the stress of winter weather



Photos by Shawna Hettick/The Observer

(Left) Calves born in the cold weather often will bed down in the hay to stay off of the snow when they are sleeping. Here this calf was taking a nap while staying warm in below freezing weather. (Right) This strong calf was born a few months ago at Longhorn Cattle Company and is able to withstand the cold weather and snow better than the fresh newborn calves.

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

Cattle and horse ranchers throughout the Pacific Northwest have been feeling the stress that comes with the winter storms we've had this February.

Don Akehurst, owner of Longhorn Cattle Company and Quarter Horse Ranch in Ellensburg, said that for the most part, the cattle and quarter horses are resilient to the cold. He said that as long as the temperature doesn't drop below zero degrees Fahrenheit and the animals are well fed and hydrated, they have no problem

staving off the cold.

Don and his son Greg Akehurst have owned and operated Longhorn Cattle and Quarter Horse Ranch since 1951 and they said that the main reason they don't usually have problems with winter weather is the way they raise their animals.

The Akehursts operate with 'survival of the fittest' in mind. Greg said that the adult animals are capable of being out in the cold and snow if they're healthy. He said they have such animals because of a selective breeding program. This means that if they have an animal that isn't developing correctly, that animal is not al-

lowed to breed. Both Akehursts believe that if the animals are healthy, they require little or no assistance to keep warm.

Greg Akehurst of Longhorn Cattle Company and Quarter Horse Ranch said that one of the biggest mistakes people make with horses is putting blankets on them. He said that using the blankets is unnecessary and in the long-term makes the horses more susceptible to the cold. As long as they are hydrated, they are adept at regulating their body heat.

According to AGWeb Farm Journal, most ranchers' cows start birthing calves during springtime, as it is the time where they have the most nutrients

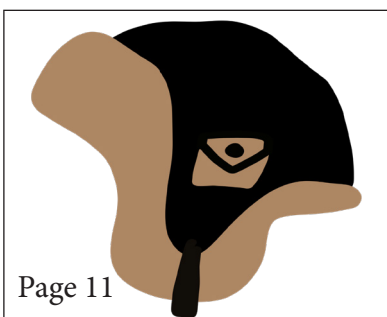
available to them because of the growth of new grass.

Greg said that the biggest problem ranchers face this time of year is the birth of calves. He said that when the calves are born in the snow, they melt the snow, which then freezes into a bowl-shaped patch of ice. If a calf ends up in this bowl, they can have a hard time getting up on their feet, which is deadly if they can't get access to their mother's milk.

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' Fargo' review



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Graphic by Ryan Edwards/The Observer

Ben Wheeler
Online & Social Media Editor

Usually when watching a television series based on a popular film, it's hard to understand many of the plot points without having seen the film first. Luckily, watchers of the currently ongoing " Fargo " TV show don't have that problem, as the series operates in an anthology format. Some very small and non-crucial plot details tie the movie in with the series, as well as tying together seasons one and two. The three seasons have stories that take place over different time periods and involve different characters and locations. Of course, each story involves the city Fargo, North Dakota in some capacity.

Way before the TV show was on the small screen, a 1996 film of the same name graced the silver screen.

Softball VS NNU



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Photo by Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Dez Rodriguez
Senior Sports Reporter

Through the rain, wind and snow, the CWU softball team has continued to push onwards this season. Seven games have been cancelled already due to weather, but head coach Mike Larabee has his team ready to start GNAC play after battling through tournaments in Las Vegas, NV, St. George, UT and Portland, OR.

The snow has forced all outdoor sport teams inside for practice. Time to use the Nicholson Pavilion Field House is limited, so when the football field is plowed the softball team takes advantage of flyball work and relays that require more space to work on. Softballs also travel a lot faster on turf and the fieldhouse floor than the dirt field that the team is used to.

Editor: Jack Belcher

Editors note: A thank you to my staff



Mariah Valles
Editor in Chief

This is the last issue of winter quarter. It's hard to believe it has already come and gone. This was my first quarter as The Observer's Editor-in-Chief.

Prior to this quarter, The Observer was a 12-page newspaper. One of the goals I set when I stepped into my position was to increase the amount of pages in the paper. I wasn't sure if it was realistic with the small staff we have, but thanks to the team who followed behind me, we published 16 pages every week. Except issue seven, of course.

Issue seven was a 24-page newspaper. This wouldn't have been possible without the editors in the newsroom who took my unrealistic ideas and made them reality.

Alexa Murdock, the Assistant Editor who saved the day on many occasions. Murdock has helped me grow into my position and has always kept the staff's goals in sight. Unfortunately for us, Murdock will be leaving The Observer staff after this issue to pursue an internship and graduate in spring. Murdock, I couldn't thank

you enough for all you've done for me over the past year.

Cassandra Hays, the first-time Scene Editor who stepped up to the plate and picked up the process insanely fast. Within a short time, Hays was caught up to editors who have been in their positions for multiple quarters. Tonight, in the midst of newsroom madness, Hays offered to design the Opinion section. This is one of the many times when Hays went above and beyond. Thank you for always being willing to step in and help out.

Jack Belcher, the News Editor in his second term who was always willing to come back into the office after finalizing pages to make last minute edits. Belcher has grown in his design, and will continue to do so. He's become a stronger editor who offers to help with classes and plan lessons to benefit The Observer staff. Thank you for continuing to grow.

Hanson Lee, the Sports Editor who designed five pages of sports content for the 24-page issue. He was ambitious and eager to follow through with the special edition of the paper. For the amount of extra time he had to spend, he never lost sight of the purpose behind that issue. Lee continues to have the paper in mind and its best interest as a priority. Thank you for taking part in executing my unrealistic ideas.

Heather Stewart, the Photo Editor who stepped into the position in fall with no journalism experience will move on from the paper to pursue her geography degree. Stewart, being in charge of the visuals for the paper, played a huge role in the tone of the publication. Even with no prior journalism experience, Stewart always shared her ideas and inserted herself positively in the newsroom. Thank you for all you've done for the pro-

gression of the paper.

Rune Torgersen, the first-time Copy Desk Chief who has added a welcoming tone into the newsroom. Prior to this quarter the newsroom was always so bland and boring. Torgersen played a role in creating an inviting atmosphere that made people want to come to work. He often offered to play music, made jokes and kept things light-hearted when they needed to be. Thank you for helping create a positive work environment.

Ben Wheeler, the first-time Online and Social Media Editor who took the job head on. Wheeler always offered to write extra content for the print version of the paper, and engaged with our readers through social media platforms. By the end of the quarter, Wheeler passed my first quarter as Online and Social Media Editor by miles. Thank you for being willing to

adapt and take criticism.

The Staff, who week-by-week followed my leadership. I said this during our last class of the quarter, but I saw an immense amount of growth from production week one to production week eight. Sometimes we see reporters who plateau in the middle of the quarter, but that was not the case with this staff. I look forward to seeing those who returning continue to grow.

Thank you to all of you who read and pick us up. I'm writing this mid-production night and should probably go work on finalizing pages.

As always if you have any concerns, questions or news tips, email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com.

Best,
Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief

Photo of the week



Heather Stewart/The Observer

CWU students created a snowman village in front of Barto Hall just last week.

The Observer Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Mariah Valles
Assistant Editor: Alexa Murdock
News Editor: Jack Belcher
Scene Editor: Cassandra Hays
Sports Editor: Hanson Lee
Copy Desk Chief: Rune Torgersen
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Online Editor: Ben Wheeler
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Editorial Policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of The Observer is 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 at large, and to be 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.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Editorial: A transition in living arrangements

Rune Torgersen
Copy Desk Chief

Scrambling to figure out where you will live in the next academic year is a time honored college tradition that usually picks up steam around the beginning of March. With housing both on-and off-campus to choose from, the factors involved in the decision can feel innumerable. Having moved from on-campus dorms to a university-owned apartment and then finally fully off-campus, I've been lucky enough to glean some insight into the pros and cons of each living situation.

On-Campus Dorms

The beginning of many students' college experience is set in a room with two beds, two wardrobes, two desks and one stranger to share their life with for the entirety of their first year. This setup, with all the scheduled programming and socialization opportunities that it offers, is a near ideal place to get to know the campus and your peers. A meal plan typically follows this kind of housing arrangement, which means students can focus on their studies without worrying where their next meal might come from. The downsides to this is that there is a general lack of private space, limited agency over your living situation as a whole and the price of room and board. Annually, for a student with a medium-sized meal

plan living in one of the Bassetis or Alford-Montgomery Hall, this will cost around \$11,115 in addition to tuition. Whether or not that financial commitment is worth it depends on where your priorities lie. Living on-campus does come with the benefits of being close to classes and resources, as well as a good chunk of your social life.



Heather Stewart/The Observer
Student Village is one option of the on-campus apartments CWU offers.

On-Campus/University-Owned Apartments

Apartments such as Getz/Short, Brooklane Village and Wahle offer a sort of middle ground between dormitories and off-campus housing. These apartments are owned and operated by the university, which means it's easy to funnel financial aid money into rent payments. The school bundles all amenities such as electricity, wi-fi, cable, water and waste removal into those rent payments, making this an easy option for those looking for more independence than the dorms can offer. Meal plans aren't typically included in the pricing of these apartments, so students can expect to go grocery shopping and cook for themselves. For reference, a two-bedroom apartment in Getz/Short will run you about \$515 per person, per month. These apartments typically include a living room, a kitchen, a shared bathroom and a bedroom for each occupant. It's important to note that these apartments may not be furnished, so if you're considering moving into one, check to see what you'll need to bring beforehand (beds, couches, shelves etc.).

Off-Campus Housing

There is a large variety of off-campus housing available in and around Ellensburg. Pricing as well as size and available amenities fluctuates, so it'd be smart to do a good amount

of research before jumping into an off-campus housing situation. That said, if you manage to get it right, living off-campus with others or by yourself can be your first real taste of what's to come post-graduation. Paying rent and bills, commuting and learning to live constructively with others who may not share your standards of organization and sanitation can seem daunting at first, but it's an important experience to have, and seeing your first real, proper grown-up home fully furnished for the first time is a deeply rewarding experience. Moving off-campus before your studies are over can make the transition from student to working adult smoother and less scary.

The Transition

Personally, I moved from Barto Hall to Moore Hall, then on to the Getz/Short apartments and finally off-campus. This resulted in a sort of gradual, incremental shift in personal and public responsibility that helped me transition from a high-schooler to a graduating senior in college, and hopefully, a functioning adult. College is just as much about your experiences as it is about your classes, and your living situation is a huge factor in that. Rather than choosing a home based on what you think is right for you currently, I recommend choosing one that will allow you to have the experiences you want to have.

Central Transit looks to improve their free service

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

City of Ellensburg's Central Transit is taking steps to get the word out about the free transport service and improve it to better serve the community. Central Transit offers free rides throughout Ellensburg as well as stops that connect with other transit services like Greyhound buses.

Communications and Government Relations Manager Margaret Reich said that those who work on Central Transit have already been making efforts to push their message on Central Transit's Facebook page and the city's Facebook and twitter accounts, in addition to tabling at CWU and speaking to freshmen at orientation. She also said that they have met with the Provost's office to talk about getting CWU faculty to educate students about Central Transit.

"There's been some confusion because of the name, that it's just a student based service, and it's not. It's intended to be fare-free for all people," Reich said.

Assistant City Engineer Josh Mattson said that Central Transit is gathering feedback that they will use to improve Central Transit's routes. Mattson said Central Transit currently operates on four routes, and that they have devised two scenarios for potential route changes.

"We are doing a route analysis right now to look at what we have, how it serves the community and what we can do to improve the service," Mattson said.

Mattson said the first scenario



Nick Jahnke/The Observer

The Central Transit buses have been offering a free service to CWU students for the last nine years. The service became free to all Ellensburg residents in 2016. The transit system has been steadily growing in popularity ever since.

would keep the same four routes, but the frequency with which buses make their routes would increase from once an hour to twice (but only on two of the most taken routes). This scenario would also include bus rides to and from Fred Meyer (from CWU) every 15 minutes.

The second scenario Mattson described would redesign the routes. The buses would operate on six routes instead of four and the frequency of bus rides would increase to once every 30 minutes on many of those routes. According to Mattson, these changes would also shorten the time it takes to get downtown from cam-

pus from 23 minutes to 11 minutes.

Mattson said that these scenarios are not set in stone. He said Central Transit staff will use data collected from an online survey to see what people like and dislike about them. This survey is available now on Central Transit's webpage on the City of Ellensburg's website, ci.ellensburg.wa.us.

According to Central Transit's webpage, the City of Ellensburg, AS-CWU, HopeSource and the Washington State Department of Transportation worked together to plan, fund and operate a public transit service in Ellensburg in 2011.

According to Reich, the service was originally exclusive to students, intended to provide safe transit to and from downtown at late hours. She said this changed in 2016 when an initiative was passed to use sales tax revenue to fund the service. Reich said at that point they were able to expand and improve the program, making it free and available to everyone.

According to data provided by Mattson, the Central Transit's rider base has steadily increased over the past five years. In 2014 it had an average of 4,500 riders each month. In 2018 this number has increased to 7,150 riders per month.

Editor: Jack Belcher

How to deal with the stress of finals week

Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

With finals week approaching, it's important for students to know that the university offers multiple activities on campus to help manage stress.

Brooks Library will be hosting two events during finals week. Paws and Relax on March 11 from 4 - 7 p.m. in room 288 and Waffle Night on March 12 from 8 - 9:30 p.m. in the fishbowl.

Paws and Relax features therapy dogs of several breeds. A minimum of four will be available for students to hang out and de-stress with. Some of the therapy dogs have done Paws and Relax multiple times. Students can hang out with the dogs as long as they want, but if it gets busy, people may be asked to give someone else the opportunity to spend time with them.

Waffle Night features free food, coffee and tea for students studying in the library. Collection Development Librarian and Interim Associate Dean of Libraries Ginny Blackson said having that sense of community is important during finals.

"It does mean the world to a student when their professor moseys in at nine o'clock at night and sits down and eats a waffle with them," Blackson said.

According to Blackson, Waffle

Night has featured special guests in the past, including officers from the CWU police department. President Gaudino and his wife have also attended.

"We saw and heard from students that they needed some way to unwind," Blackson said.

Erin Reeh, Health Education Coordinator for the Health and Wellness Center said health and wellness will host a night at the carnival with inflatables. There will be a bungee run, where students will see how far they can get before being snapped back by the bungee cord.

The carnival will also have a basketball inflatable, the goal being to make as many shots as you can in a minute. A jousting inflatable will also be available. Other activities at the event will include karaoke, board games, a video game room and a photo booth. Cotton candy and popcorn will be provided. The

Night at the Carnival will be held in the SURC from 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday March 9th. This will mark the 8th year of the event. According to Reeh, 300-500 students typically show up to the carnival.

The Health and Wellness Center will also have art therapy, where

students can paint, draw and color. The event will also include video streaming of Bob Ross via inflatable television screen. All art supplies are included, although there will only be 30 canvases that are first come, first serve. Students can reserve a canvas by signing up

for one in the Wellness Center now. If all canvases are reserved, students can still join the event. It is advised they bring something to paint. Art Therapy will be on Monday, March 11 in the SURC pit from 5-7 p.m.

The Health and Wellness Center gives students opportunities to decompress that don't involve drink-

ing or using other substances.

"The weekend before finals is a higher risk night for substance use, like alcohol. Late night carnival is an opportunity we provide for students who want to engage in a substance-free night," Reeh said.

Coming up with a finals week strategy can be a challenge for some students.

Kacie Little is in her last quarter at CWU. She is completing her MFA in English creative and professional writing. She says planning ahead and communicating with professors is a key to her success during finals.

"I get started on my finals weeks before they are due. If it is a paper I do my research about 3-4 weeks in advance and then either submit an outline or draft to my professor to make sure that I am on the right track," Little said.

Jonnae Richardson, a senior in ITAM, suggested doing one thing at a time and to do enjoyable things like listening to music. In her previous business classes Richardson would prepare note cards and join study groups if possible.

"I would look at what the final is or ask what the final is ahead of time maybe a week or three weeks ahead so you have time and not cram everything in." Richardson said.



Illustration by Will Yi/The Observer

FINALS WEEK stress- Busters

Take a break from the books
and relieve stress at these fun events!

EVENTS

FRI, MARCH 8 – SUN, MARCH 10

Central Theatre Ensemble Presents:
The Transition of Doodle Pequeño
McConnell Auditorium • cwu.edu/tickets

MARCH 9, 10, & 16

Softball, Baseball and Rugby Games
Various Days/Times • wildcatsports.com

SAT, MARCH 9

Late Night Carnival
9 p.m. • SURC • Free for CWU Students
Enjoy inflatable obstacle courses and activities, free food and more with friends.

SUN, MARCH 10

Symphony Orchestra Concert
4 p.m. • McIntyre Music Hall • cwu.edu/music

MON, MARCH 11

Mindful Monday:
Art Therapy with Bob Ross
5 - 7 p.m. • SURC Pit

Paws and Relax
4 - 7 p.m. • Brooks Library 2nd Floor

Monday Movie Madness: **First Man**
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free for Students

Packets and Pancakes with NRHH:
8 p.m. • Wellington Event Center • nrhh@cwu.edu

TUE, MARCH 12

Waffle Night at Brooks Library
8 p.m. • Brooks Library Fishbowl
Recharge with fresh waffles, coffee and tea.

RESOURCES

COUNSELING
cwu.edu/medical-counseling

SURC HOURS
cwu.edu/student-union

LIBRARY HOURS
lib.cwu.edu

1891 BISTRO
cwu.edu/dining

RECREATION & FITNESS
cwu.edu/rec

ACADEMIC ADVISING
cwu.edu/academic-advising

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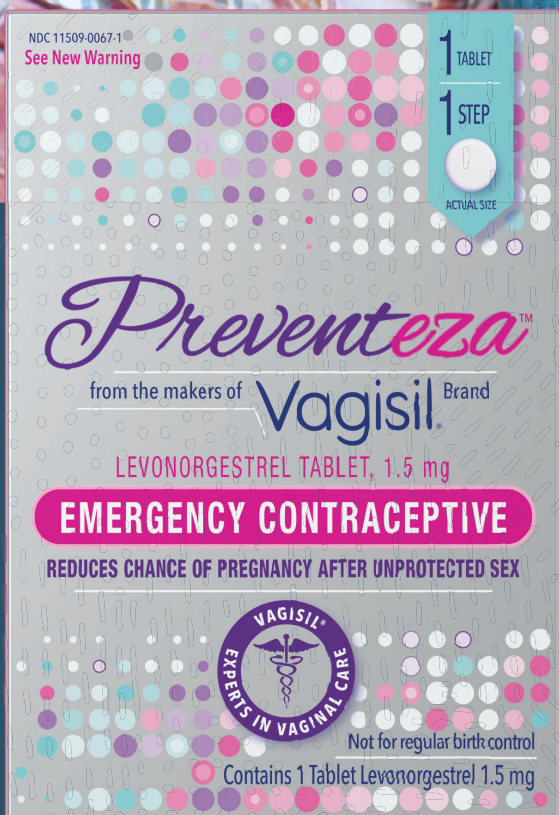
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Editor: Cassandra Hays

Half K race to raise money for food bank

Afton Prater
Staff Reporter

People of all ages are invited to participate in the St. Paddy's Day Half K hosted by Iron Horse Brewery on March 16 at 2 p.m. This event is a combination of a run, activities and entertainment. While The St. Paddy's Day Half K is fun for the community, it also seeks to help the community by raising money for FISH food bank. The goal is to raise \$10,000.

The race takes about eight minutes to run, according to the 'Sportsballing Half K' press release. There will be four different groups of races. There will also be many activities after the race, such as live music and games. "Hair Nation," an 80s rock band, will be taking the stage after the run. Dakota Cafe and Iron Horse Brewery will provide food options including hot dogs, pretzels and nachos. Iron Horse Brewery Event Planner Aimee Bach explains the importance of this event in 'The Sportsballing Half K' press release. Bach stated that she is fascinated by the amount of people that come from various parts of the state to participate in this event, which helps showcase the community coming together to support our neighbors in need.

Registration is available the day of the race, but tickets can also be purchased ahead of time at www.stpaddy-dayhalfk.com. Tickets are offered for adults 21 and over (\$25), people 20 and

under (\$5), and for groups of people over 21 of four or more (\$20). Since the event takes place on St. Patrick's Day, participants are encouraged to wear themed outfits. A participant in the race last year, Aubrey White, is a five year mug club member with Iron Horse Brewery. White expressed what she is excited about for the race this year.

"In addition to being able to hang out with my friends in downtown Ellensburg, I'm looking forward to a few things including the pit stops along the run, the food specials that are sure to surprise and obviously the beer," White said. "It is a great downtown event that anyone from full families with kids to high endurance runners can enjoy."

Peggy Morache is the Executive Director at FISH food bank. She said that because of the Saint Paddy's Day Half K, the food bank received over \$5,000 in 2017 and received closer to \$6,000

in 2018. The money raised at the race will help support various programs

and run general operations at the food bank. The food bank provides meals for

more than 32,000 Kittitas county residents, as well as providing

14,000 people with groceries, annually. Morache explained the

positive impact that the race has on the food bank. "It means not only

the financial support, which of course is wonderful, but it's also a good opportunity for us to be

out in the community and to talk to people about what we do and how many people

we serve in Kittitas county," Morache said. "We have a huge impact on

this community."

The food bank is open Monday through Friday, providing lunches for the community Monday and Wednesday and senior nutrition meals on Tuesday and Thursday. Meals on Wheels is open every day of the week and the food bank's 'bread room' is

open five days a week. Morache wants people to know that the food bank aims to support the residents of Kittitas County and that they are neighbors supporting neighbors.

The St. Paddy's Day Half K is going to be filled with entertainment, activities, food, beverages and of course exercise. The event has received praise in the past, leaving participants with a will to return and a memorable experience that is built on community support and engagement.



Graphic by Ryan Edwards/The Observer

Iron Horse St. Paddy Day Half K

What: A combination of a run, activities and entertainment to raise money for the FISH food bank

When: March 16

Registration at 11 a.m.

Run at 2 p.m.

Where: [The Pub] by Iron Horse Brewery

Cost: Adults 21+ (\$25)

People 20 and under (\$5)

Groups of four or more 21+ (\$20)

Students plan for approaching spring break

Skyler Jensen-Hampton
Staff Reporter

As winter quarter comes to an end, spring is on its way. During the week-long spring break, there will be CWU students traveling or staying here in Ellensburg.

Food science and nutrition major Alex Ray will be traveling to Ireland with two of her roommates this spring break.

Ray said she has spent her spring break in Cancun with her sister for the last three years.

She has been planning this trip since the end of December and has been saving \$100 per week to go towards the trip.

Ray and her roommates will be flying into Shannon and staying in Limerick, Killarney and Dublin. They will be spending two days in each location.

They leave March 16 from SeaTac to arrive in Ireland just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Ray is excited to try the food, experience St. Patrick's Day, go pub hopping and see the cliffs of Moher.

"In one of the towns, we are staying in a castle and I am really excited about that because I have never been in a castle," Ray said.

Ray's recommendation for any student that wants to travel is to budget and find package trips.

"When you first get paid, budget out your paycheck right then," Ray said. "Always set aside some money for travel, put it away and don't ever touch it."

David Judge is a junior IT major from Vancouver, Washington. Each year you can find Judge using his spring break to work and save money to

bring back with him. Judge works at TJ MAXX and said they are really flexible with his school break schedule.

"I am thankful for them, and I am excited because I get to spend some time off campus," Judge said.

If Judge wasn't working at TJ MAXX he said he would most likely be doing a lot of yard work or side jobs and spending his time at home.

Virginia Painter is the communications director/spokesperson for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

According to Painter, camping in the Yakima area will be hard over spring break due to the weather conditions. She recommends going on the Washington State website and poking around. Reservations can be made on that website as well.

The campgrounds in Yakima and other areas usually open up towards the end of April and in early May.

A Discover Pass is required to enter or stay at state parks in Washington. Discover Passes are \$10 for a day and \$30 for a year.

On Tuesday, March 19 the Washington State Parks system will be letting people into state parks for free to celebrate its 106th birthday.

Painter recommends that younger people, especially those in school, experience nature because it is healthy and allows students to de-stress from a difficult quarter.

"School is really stressful and being outside can put a perspective on your problems and reminds you that you're doing the best you can," Painter said.



Heather Stewart/The Observer
Spring break can be spent at home or away. While in Ireland, a tour option is to visit Kilmainham Gaol prison where many Irish revolutionaries were held by the British during the Anglo-Irish War.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Old Skool's offers more than just music



Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

Aside from music, Old Skool's offers thrifted clothing, collectibles, movies and other forms of media. The shop is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Scott Wilson
Staff Reporter

Local record store Old Skool's gives its customers a selection of music along with entertainment. Located in Downtown Ellensburg on Main Street, the store has plenty of music that can spark nostalgia as well as other items to purchase.

Along with different kinds of music, Old Skool's

also sells other media like books, movies, posters and video games. The store offers plenty of antiques, thrifted clothing, jewelry and a separate room filled with couches for live music events.

Owner Carol Cox started the store in Ellensburg 13 years ago and runs it herself with no other employed staff. Before Cox started her own record store, she was business partners with Ace Body Piercing which is now located next door.

Ace Body Piercing owner Kelly King explained that her and Cox have been best friends since they were 13 years old.

"Carol is super knowledgeable about music so if I need to know anything, I just ask her," King said.

Growing up in Manson, Washington, King and Cox came to Ellensburg to start their own business. They initially opened a singular shop which offered both music and piercings. As the business grew, King and Cox split the shop into two separate stores located next door to each other.

Cox has been running her music business for 18 years total. She split from Ace Body Piercing after 5 years and has had her own store for 13 years.

Cox explained that she has always loved vinyl and music and decided to start her own store to see where it would take her. She has been able to keep her business running for all these years because Old Skool's is the only record store in Ellensburg.

Not all the music is hers. Cox said besides her own record collection, people bring in their own records to sell or trade. Through that process, she has been able to stock her shelves with a variety of music.

In addition to selling music and media, Old Skool's has open mic nights every Sunday night. Many bands from out of town have come to perform at the shop, including groups from New York, Florida, Tennessee and even Italy. The shop has its own back room for performances with plenty of couches and lights for a concert-like setting. According to Cox, the room has fit up to 50 people in the past but the performances are



Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

Old Skool's in Downtown Ellensburg is home to records, clothes, CD's and other collectibles. Records range from Neil Diamond to the lesser known Commander Cody.

usually low-key and intimate.

After being asked what her favorite part of the store is, Cox did not answer with anything that she sells in her store.

"It's fun seeing people of all ages getting excited about all different types of music," Cox said. "Sometimes it's the clothes, sometimes it's the movies. Everyone has something that they're into and [can] get excited about."

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Cows in the cold: Life on the farm continues despite freezing temps

Story by Nick Jahnke | Photos by Shawna Hettick | Design by Alexa Murdock

Continued from Page 1

Mark Ellis, a breeder at AI Genetics Plus said that some ranchers have a hard time keeping cattle warm in winter conditions because the cattle have been raised without adequate fat on their bodies. Over the years, beef consumers have begun to prefer meat with a lower fat content, which is bad for cattle in the winter because they do not have enough fat to use as a heat source.

Ellis also said that a majority of the time, it's the calves that are taken by the cold. He said that there are two factors that come into play. First, the calves need to get their mother's milk into their stomach as soon as possible, as they will use it as fuel much like the adult cattle use their fat. Second, the calves need to have the afterbirth fluids dried off of them quickly, because they are more susceptible to the cold when they're wet.

"It's not just a daily challenge, it's an hourly challenge," Ellis said.

This latest snow storm brought some of the heaviest snowfall Washington since February 2017, according to Accuweather. The conditions were such that Governor Jay Inslee declared Washington in a state of emergency, in a tweet posted on Feb. 8.

In conditions as harsh as we've had in the past weeks, Ellis tends to his cattle every two to three hours and recommends other ranchers do the same. His staff have had to tend to more calves this February than any other time in the last 10 years.

Paul Klingeman, manager and marketing representative for Pure Country Farms said that he has lost one cow and six pigs to the late-February storm. He said that the pigs like to pile on top of each other to keep warm, but some still freeze, and they can suffocate



while doing this.

According to Klingeman, there aren't many options when preparing for and dealing with a winter storm. He said that they may put up wind-blocks for the livestock to take shelter behind, and they can put out additional hay for insulated bedding, but that's about all that can be done.

Klingeman said that what a lot of people don't understand is that there are hidden costs associated with tough winter conditions. These costs come from animals eating more food, but not gaining any weight since they have to burn that energy to stay warm. Klingeman's farm usually goes through 50-100 bales of hay in a week, but in these conditions, he has had to put out over 1,000 bales.

"I feel more sorry for the animals than I do for my pocketbook," Klingeman said.

Mark Malott, owner of Malott Livestock LLC said that in his 37 years of ranching, this has been the toughest February that he has ever experienced. Powell Butte, Oregon, where his ranch is located, has received over 28 inches of snow in a matter of two days and wind drifts creating snow banks of 30 or more inches.

Malott's crew was working around the clock to tend to the animals, but some of their young calves were still lost to the freezing temperatures. He said that trying to work in such conditions is exhausting, and knowing that they are still losing animals despite their efforts is demoralizing.

According to Malott, each lost calf amounts to \$900-\$1,000 in lost revenue, but that's only a portion of the costs associated with the extreme conditions. Animals eat up to 20 percent more food than in the summer to keep warm, and with the wear and tear on the equipment and the workers, the cost can add up.

"In the end, mother nature's the boss," Malott said.



Longtime rancher Don Akehurst and his dog Tripper keep a close eye on their cattle and quarter horses during calving and foaling season. With the cold still here, it is important that Akehurst is there to help make sure the newborns get up and dry quickly.



The first foal of the year at Longhorn Quarter Horse Ranch was this colt born in the early morning. It is important for the mares to clean and dry their foals quickly once they are born so they are able to get warm.



Calves born in the cold weather often will bed down in the hay to stay off of the snow when they are sleeping. Here this calf is taking a nap while staying warm in below freezing weather.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Nerdcore gives students place to unwind

Local toys and collectibles store Nerdcore interacts with the Ellensburg community and is a place where many students go to escape their day-to-day lives.

Kajal Lang

For The Observer

Terry Kamm sits across from his opponent in the back of Nerdcore, a toys and collectibles shop. The walls and shelves in the shop are decked with symbols from classic nerd culture. Posters from “The Fantastic Four” and “Lord of the Rings,” vinyl POP! figures and a wide array of board and video games fill the store.

Kamm is focused on the cards in his hand and his opponent. Kamm, a hefty, middle-aged man wearing a blue polo and Charizard hat, is being backed down by a teenage girl half his size. Elsa Caron stares at her cards while munching on a bag of sour gummy glo-worms. Owner Jason Shaw, a tall man with a goatee and glasses wearing a black and white flannel, overlooks the tournament taking place in his store. Caron’s mother is seated next to her, dueling somebody in the game that she and her daughter share an interest in.

Their moves are simple yet methodical as each of them works intently to get the upper hand. They alternate back and forth, drawing cards into their hands, trading blows with their Pokémon. Slowly, they whittle away at each other’s damage counters, which mark the remaining life points that each of their monsters have.

Eventually, Caron starts to run away with the lead and Kamm works desperately to stop her.

It is too late though. In a matter of minutes, she bests Kamm as she draws her final face-down card, signifying her victory. Kamm is not upset, however. Despite losing, a smile shoots across his face as he congratulates his young opponent and packs up his deck. These are the moments that he loves.

Caron went on to win this weekend’s Pokémon tournament. Shaw found a way to unite the local comic-book-lovers, card-game-players and many more by creating a fun place for them to escape to and hang out.

“We kind of pride ourselves on being more of a really calm, cool, relaxing atmosphere,” Shaw said.

Since opening his store in 2014, Shaw has worked on building not only a business, but an oasis for people of all ages to express their creativity through deck building and imagination-dependant games.

Kamm has worked with Shaw for years and runs the sanctioned Pokémon tournaments that take place every Saturday. Since 2004, Kamm has been conducting tournaments all over Washington, in cities such as Spokane, Ellensburg, Tacoma and Mt. Vernon. While the travel may be intense, Kamm loves what he does.

“It’s a lot of fun to see kids’ eyes light up when they open a card they want,” Kamm said.

It’s a mutual love for a game that allows people of all backgrounds to come together, meet and have fun.

The community, however, extends to more than just Pokémon players.



Kajal Lang/For The Observer

Terry Kamm (front left) playing against Elsa Caron (front right). Jason Shaw (center) watches over the Pokémon tournament. Nerdcore hosts Pokémon tournaments every Saturday at noon.

During the week, Nerdcore also hosts tournaments for other card and video games, as well as dedicated nights for tabletop games such as “Dungeons & Dragons” and “Warhammer 40,000.” To expand the collection of tournaments, Shaw said he is hoping to start some more video game competitions to welcome a larger group of people. He mentioned potentially creating triathlon-style, all-day tournaments in the spring.

“It’s a good social outlet,” Brad Johnson, a CWU student who attends the Yu-Gi-Oh tournaments every weekend, said.

Some people go for the games, while others go for the community.

“It’s a very welcoming environment,” Johnson said.

This environment is something that Shaw wants to create for everyone who visits the store.

“A lot of shops get that niche or that kind of clique. This shop is not like that,” said Shaw. “Everybody who comes here and plays is always open and welcoming to new and returning players.”

To many, Nerdcore is just a store. It is a place where they can buy Pop! figures, board games or even pillows that looks like burritos. To some of the regulars, however, Nerdcore is their home away from home. It is their social outlet. It is their Tuesday night. It is the place where they can build friendships doing what they love and discover more fun things that they never knew existed.



Cassandra Hays/The Observer

Nerdcore offers a variety of toys and collectables, including board games, trading cards and vinyl POP! figures.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

'Fargo' (1996) vs. 'Fargo' (2014-Present)

Continued from Page 1

Directed, written and produced by the Coen Brothers, the 1996 film's popularity led to the creation of the TV series starting in 2014, where the Coen Brothers serve as executive producers.

After watching season one of the TV show, I became aware of the movie's existence and influence on the show. However, a quick Google search revealed that I did not need to watch the movie to understand and follow the series, so for the longest time watching the movie was not a priority. Now that it has been announced that the fourth season is entering into production this year, my love for the show has been reawakened. This awakening led to me finally taking time to watch the movie. Long story short? The film is just as amazing as the show.

Our film takes place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1987. Car sales manager Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy) has racked up debt and is unable to make good on paying it back. Desperate for cash, Lundegaard travels to Fargo to hire low-level criminals to help him in a sadistic scheme to scam cash out of his wealthy father-in-law, Wade (Harve Presnell). Lundegaard finds his bumbling accomplices in Carl and Gaear (Steve Buscemi and Peter Stormare, respectively) who agree to kidnap his wife, Jean (Kristin Rudrüd) in order to receive ransom money from Wade. The job pays half the ransom and a brand-new car. However, as issues regularly arise with the scheme and Carl and Gaear leave a trail of blood in their wake, police chief Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand) threatens to take down the scheme and the men involved.

Much like the tv show, the film is extremely adult-oriented in its content. There is sexual content, gory violence and some very extreme language. In fact, in the film Carl takes a pistol shot to the jaw at close range and it is quite gnarly. Along with these elements, present in both the film and the show is the Coen Brothers' trademark dark-comedy, which jokes and makes light of the elements discussed prior.

The 1996 film utilizes a lot of twists and turns within the daring and bold writing; the seemingly sympathetic characters take a very dark turn in their actions, usually in the interest of protecting themselves with little regard for their loved ones' safety. There is constant, sneaky and blatant betrayal among the characters, which makes everyone's first priority protecting their own hides. This ultimately seems to be a fruitless effort, and consequences eventually find all of those involved in the criminal schemes or acts of violence. This is exactly in line with the TV show, where the different antagonists also have no level they won't stoop to when protecting their own interests. No matter how evil or twisted an action may be, our antagonists will kill or harm any one if it helps cover up their actions or creates distance from rivals and the police. Carl and Gaear from the film are no exception, and the evil within Carl is disturbing as much as it is fascinating as we follow his course of action. Just as relentless are our ultimate protagonists, usually members of law enforcement, who go into unbelievably dangerous and thrilling situations in the name of bringing people to justice. Both sides have absolutely no quit in them, and that makes both the show and movie impossible to stop watching as the vari-

ous plots and storylines progress onward. The characters would not be as fascinating if weren't for the amazing performances by the actors playing them, and that may be where both the movie and show win the most. Neither the show nor movie contain a bad performance. Not a single one.

What makes both the movie and the show irresistible is what I like to call the 'slow burn' beginning and the 'roller coaster' finish in terms of the stories' arcs and pacing. Both the movie and TV show are somewhat slow in the early going, as they establish characters' motives and tendencies with both dramatic and light-hearted scenes mixed together in an alternating fashion.

However, towards the middle of story is when both the series and the movie kick into gear and our more drastic and intense plot elements take place. However, instead of winding down after this apparent peak, both the film and show crank up the action, drama and plot twists until the point where the last act is where we see the extremes of both good and bad meet each other and create the ultimate finale. That is perfect three-act storytelling, with time to breathe coming only after the credits start to roll.

I regret having taken so much time to get around to watching the film, as it is just as spectacular as the TV series. In fact, if I



Graphic by Ryan Edwards/The Observer

had watched the film earlier in life, I probably would have gotten around to watching the show sooner and been able to heap more praise on this franchise than I have already. I highly recommend watching both the show and movie when you have the chance, as they both represent crime dramas at their finest. According to the Rotten Tomatoes official website, the movie has an identical 93 percent score with both fans and critics, while the show has a 97 percent critics' score and a 95 percent audience score.

97 percent critics' score and a 95 percent audience score.

Kingdom Hearts 3: lovable nonsense

Rune Torgersen

Copy Desk Chief

I'm a gigantic fan of culture clashes. Like hot and cold air fronts, whenever two drastically different aesthetics meet at high speed, a storm happens. Whether or not that storm is any good is often up to debate, but it almost always ends up being spectacular in some way.

For those who don't know, Kingdom Hearts is a crossover series between Japanese RPG juggernaut Final Fantasy and the many movies of Disney. This means that spiky-haired, obsessively optimistic main character Sora is joined by Donald Duck and Goofy of Disney fame to take down a nebulous darkness that has infested a multitude of Disney-themed worlds. Over the course of the series, these worlds have been just about as diverse as one can imagine, from The Hundred-Acre Wood from "Winnie the Pooh" to the Caribbean from the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise. Oh, and Sora wields magical, spell-casting key-shaped weapons called "Keyblades," just to add to the weirdness already infesting the vast majority of these games.

With such a seemingly niche concept, one wouldn't expect both Disney and the developer, Square Enix, to commit the time and resources to the project necessary to make it any good. For this reason, it was surprising that Kingdom Hearts and its sequel (Kingdom Hearts

2, because creativity is sometimes hard) attained cult classic status, or at least it would've been had one not taken a moment to reflect on the possibilities for pure fun the series held. Personally, once I had played through the story of Mulan, now featuring Donald and Goofy, I was pretty hooked. It's out there, it's ludicrous and that's exactly what makes it such a blast to participate in. I'm a firm believer that an occasional dose of nonsense is good for the brain, and it doesn't get much more nonsensical than Donald Duck beating Captain Barbosa over the head with a magic wand.

Kingdom Hearts released in 2002 to strong sales and critical acclaim. Kingdom Hearts 2, released in 2005, built on what the original had set up and set the stage for a tide of smaller, unnumbered sequels, spinoffs and remasters. 14 years and eight games down the line, the third numbered entry in the series had an astronomical amount of hype to live up to. With every single game in the series carrying essential plot points for the overall story, the narrative had gone from a fun "what if..." exploration of a wacky crossover idea to an epic, multidimension-

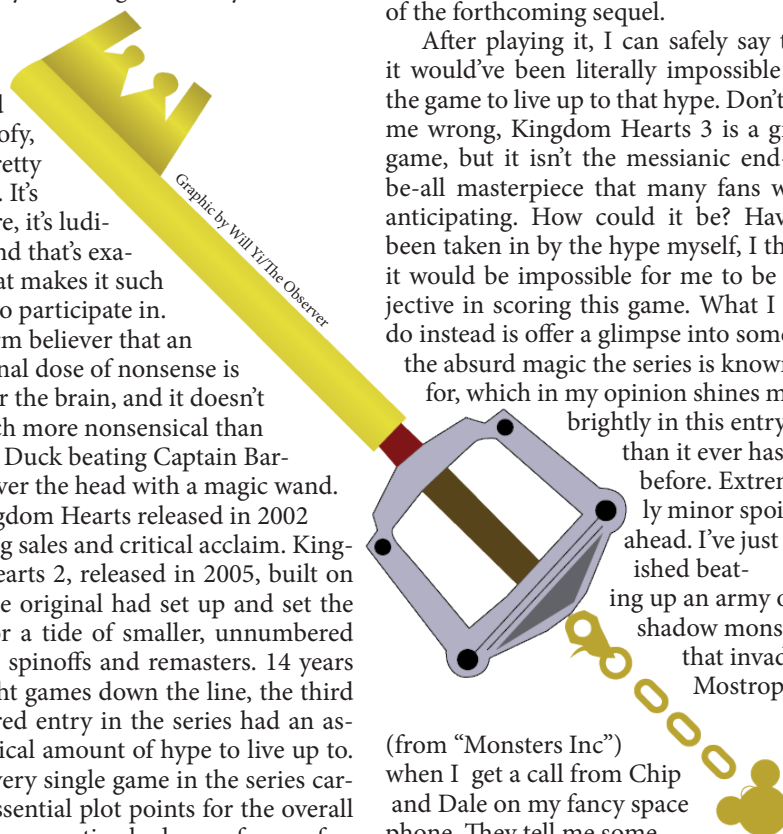
al battle for the very fabric of reality. A soccer team's worth of protagonists with improbable hairstyles and differing motivations had been introduced, and the burden of tying all their storylines into a neat narrative bow was on the shoulders of the forthcoming sequel.

After playing it, I can safely say that it would've been literally impossible for the game to live up to that hype. Don't get me wrong, Kingdom Hearts 3 is a great game, but it isn't the messianic end-all, be-all masterpiece that many fans were anticipating. How could it be? Having been taken in by the hype myself, I think it would be impossible for me to be objective in scoring this game. What I can do instead is offer a glimpse into some of the absurd magic the series is known for, which in my opinion shines more brightly in this entry

than it ever has before. Extremely minor spoilers ahead. I've just finished beating up an army of shadow monsters that invade Mostropolis (from "Monsters Inc") when I get a call from Chip and Dale on my fancy space phone. They tell me someone is waiting for me at a certain cafe with a certain book. When I get to the

cafe, which is run by Remy the rat (the main character of "Ratatouille") and Scrooge McDuck, I find Merlin (the wizard from "The Sword in the Stone") enjoying a cup of coffee at a table. On said table is a copy of "Winnie the Pooh." Being a savvy gamer, I know that this book has appeared in past entries in the series, and is actually a magical gateway to The Hundred Acre Woods. After jumping inside the book and helping Pooh and his friends pick vegetables in Rabbit's garden, I'm rewarded with a key-shaped sword called the "Hunny Spout." I can use the Hunny Spout to shoot bees at enemies. From there, I travel to Arrendelle (the setting of "Frozen") and use that bee-shooting key sword to fight evil demon reindeer. The journey continues.

The point I'm trying to make is that this game was never going to live up to the expectations people had for it. What it was always going to do was embody the peak of what can be achieved through a crossover. No matter how diverse the franchises, anything can cross over well in the hands of a competent developer. If the kind of pure nonsense detailed above is the sort of thing that makes you happy, then this whole franchise is for you. It isn't a particularly deep RPG, and the plot is legendarily convoluted, but it's all worth it for that feeling of glorious, free-wheeling nonsense.



Graphic by Will Yi/The Observer

Editor: Cassandra Hays

No wrong way to deal with stress and anxiety

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

It's safe to say that most students, and humans in general, feel some degree of stress and anxiety in their lives. The list of reasons could go on forever. As it pertains to students, the stresses of succeeding in classes and finding the right path to take can be enough to put them into a depressed state.

However, school is rarely the only thing we have going on in our lives. Some of us have family problems, some deal with sickness which can be physical or mental and others are kept up at night thinking about financial issues. This only scratches the surface of the potential causes of stress in our lives.

Then there's the societal pressure. Whether it be through social media, television or a bus passing by, we are constantly being bombarded with advertisements and online content that tells us how we should live and how we should look and feel. We see the lives of influencers on instagram and other media, teaching us that we should all be models, or at least wealthy enough to be taking photos on some tropical island. It truly is never-ending.

Anxiety can be a big issue for some as well. Anxiety can come out of the stresses of everyday life, but it can also be produced internally. Some of us feel anxiety simply from the idea that we will be interacting with other humans at some point in our day.

So how do we deal with this stress



Graphic by Will Yi/The Observer

and anxiety? What's the right way to alleviate these feelings and be at peace? If you're asking me, there is no right way, and there is no wrong way.

There are many ways people deal with their uneasy feelings. Some go down the self-care route, lighting a few candles, drawing a bath, meditating and trying to create their own peace. On the other end of the spectrum, some turn to substances, in-

dulging in drugs and alcohol until the problems start drifting away, being replaced with a blissful numbness. And for some, none of these things work, the weight of life becomes too heavy to bear and they opt to shut down and shut themselves off from the world.

It may seem obvious from what I just laid out that some of these options are better than others, or at least healthier. Well, that may be true, but

I don't think that makes the other options wrong.

All of us feel things differently. What seems trivial to one may be world-ending for another. Not everyone has the innate ability to brush off and move past the countless ways that life can break a person down.

So where's the good in judging others for the way they choose to handle stress? Whatever helps someone get through a hard day is a good thing in my opinion.

Maybe your friend got fired, rejected by a potential lover or failed a crucial test and you haven't heard from them since. I'm not saying not to reach out to them and show your support, but don't take it personally if they decide not to return your message. Sometimes we need a break from it all, but that doesn't mean we don't appreciate supportive friends.

Maybe a friend has been drinking at night or partaking in more serious drugs trying to unwind. This doesn't make them weak or a bad person, it's as valid as meditating. This is a great opportunity to offer them your help, not to shame them. Sometimes all we need is to know we aren't in this alone, that there are options for help that don't involve self-medication.

The point is, there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to stress reduction. We all live differently, feel differently and have different methods of staying sane. And there is nothing wrong with that.

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Editor: Hanson Lee

Softball prepares to take a swing at the Nighthawks

Continued from Page 1

“Really no excuses, because there’s a lot of teams that play in cold weather areas that win national championships,” Larabee said.

The Wildcats were co-champions last season with the Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) Nighthawks, making it the third straight regular season conference championship for the Wildcats. Persistence has been one of the main factors playing into the success of the team, according to Larabee. A perfect example was shown this past weekend.

“What I really enjoyed when we were playing [Simpson Redhawks], the rain was coming down pretty hard and our players just kind of embraced that,” Larabee said. “They didn’t let it affect them whereas the other team, their coaching staff and players were complaining. Our girls just went out and competed.”

Before the season, CWU was predicted to finish second in the GNAC preseason coaches’ poll, while NNU claimed the top spot with only two more first place votes. A clash is on deck for the two conference heavyweights on March 8-9.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better start to the GNAC season,” Larabee said.

The four-game series was originally scheduled to be played in Ellensburg, but was switched to Nampa, ID due to



Shawna Hettick/The Observer

The CWU women's softball team has been practicing in the field house while the snow has been lingering around Ellensburg. The team's practices are high energy with a lot of support coming from teammates.

the weather. Leading the staff against the Nighthawks will be Lexie Strasser, who is third in the GNAC with a 2.08 earned run average in 40.1 innings pitched.

“Everybody needs to stay focused and keep their confidence up,” Strasser said. “Just keep the mindset that we need to go in and

get our job done. Don’t overthink it, just relax and have fun and we’ll be competitive.”

Things are going to heat up quickly with GNAC play coming up. With the severe weather almost in the rearview mirror, CWU wants to prove why they deserve the number one ranking and show

that they have what it takes to make it four straight conference championships.

“We’re at a point right now where if we execute and think things through, getting to the right positions, I don’t think there’s anything that NNU can do against us that we can’t handle,” Larabee said.

Wildcat athletes launch into 2019 outdoor track season

By **Dez Rodriguez**
Senior Reporter

The 2018-19 CWU indoor track and field team is sending seven athletes to the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships March 8-9 in Pittsburg, KS. The outdoor team will be starting their season at the same time, traveling to the Pacific Lutheran University Invite in Tacoma, WA.

“I know both our women’s and men’s teams are eager to try to win the outdoor conference title this year.”

-Katie Collins, heptathlete

Seniors Alexa Shindruk, Harlee Ortega, Mariyah Vongsaveng and junior Halle Irvine lead the women while seniors Kodiak Landis, Zach Whittaker and sophomore Braydon Maier will be traveling for the men. Head coach Kevin Adkisson is sending the most student-athletes in its program’s history.

“We’re going with a lot of people who have a good chance to make all-american type performances,” Adkisson said.

In order to do so, they must finish in the top eight. Landis (seventh) and Ortega (sixth) are already in position while Halle and Maier are not far behind. Shindruk ranks fifteenth in both the 3,000 and 5,000 meter race. Even athletes a little further back can switch places in a hurry with a

solid performance, according to Adkisson.

As outdoor begins, athletes are looking forward to running on the new track at the recreational sports complex. Snow has buried the facility for most of the year since its opening in October of 2018. It has made it especially hard for heptathlon athletes such as Katie Collins.

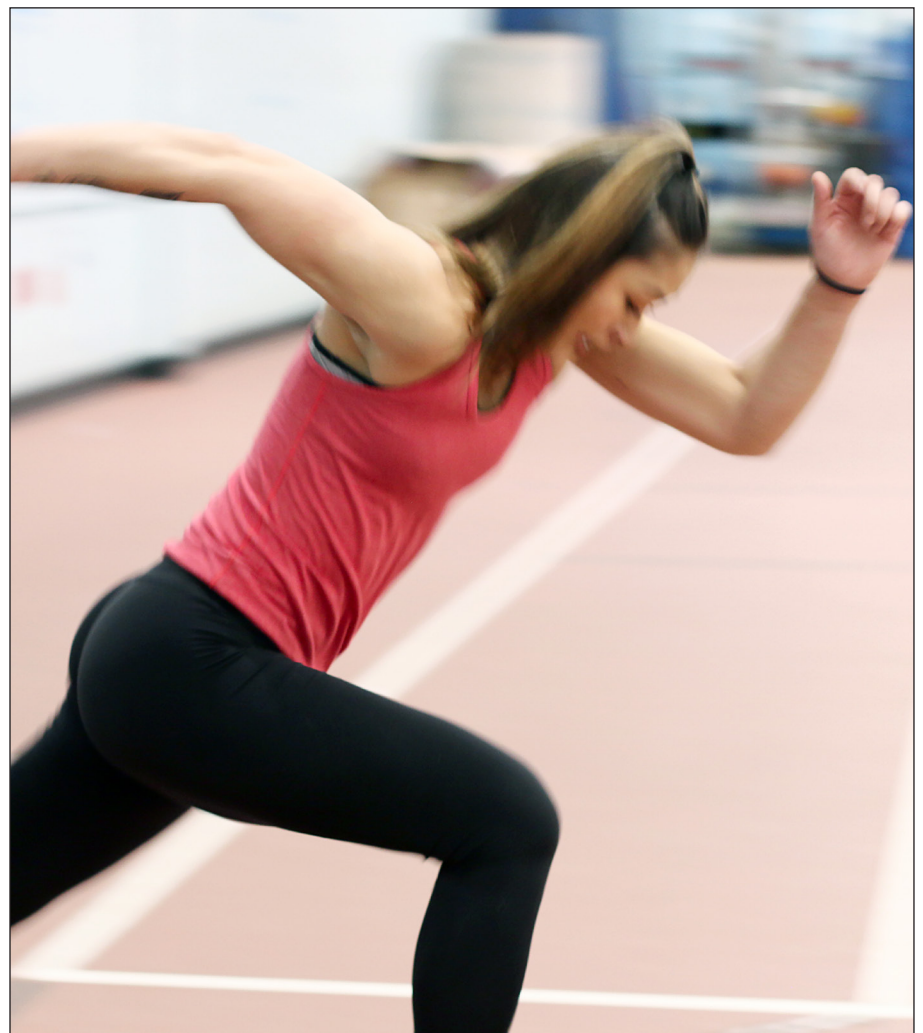
“The snow has made it really rough on training, we have very limited space for all the event work that our team does,” Collins said. “Not having the space outside to throw, jump, hurdle, or practice on the track has been difficult.”

For now the outdoor team is working with what they have available. Sophomore Trevor Allens said he and the other runners are only able to run on the sidewalks and streets when they are plowed. Even then, they must bypass the cars and pedestrians that are usually in the way.

“We know it’s not quite the same. If we had our normal temperature I think we’d be a little more ready,” Adkisson said. “I think the athletes have done a great job at rising to the challenge and still getting the work in.”

After last year’s outdoor track and field championships, the women’s team placed second overall while the men’s team finished third. With the solid experience under their belts and high performers returning for another go with the team, this season is shaping out to be one to remember.

“I know both our women’s and men’s teams are eager to try to win the outdoor conference title this year,” Collins said.



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Keeley Phommathirath, a sprinter and high jumper, prepares for outdoor track and field by practicing her sprint starts.

Editor: Hanson Lee

CWU water polo club gaining attention

By Bryce Weedman
Staff Reporter

Most people have heard of water polo, but a lot have never tried the sport out or even seen it played. For those who don't know what the sport is all about, water polo is an intense game in which 13 players on average make up a team and seven players are in play at once for each team. One goalie and six field players per side. Players are only allowed to hold the ball with one hand, except for the goalie who can use two. The objective of the game is to score on the opponent's net. The nets are set up like soccer goals and float on the water. It seems fairly cut and dry until you add in the physical aspect of the sport. Opposing players are allowed to grab at you and pull you under water by any means necessary.

According to Curtis Condotta, Vice President of the Water Polo Club, your feet hardly ever touch the ground and you are treading water to stay afloat the whole game.

"One of my teammates likes to describe water polo like football and hockey had a baby and then drowned it to create water polo," said Olivia McDougall, president of CWU's Water Polo Club.

The CWU Water Polo Club has been gaining attention from students and the it has been growing in size. According to McDougall, a sign of this is the num-

ber of players that have attended practices and games. McDougall explained that fewer players showed up for practices and games in the past, but nowadays there are more players wanting to participate. The club offers a free two weeks of practice for students upfront before requiring any commitment because people may not understand what they are getting themselves into. Water polo is a physically demanding sport and if you aren't the best at swimming it will be even more of a challenge. Despite the level of difficulty water polo can bring the team invites all who want to give it a try. The team practices at the aquatic center right next to Tomlinson Stadium. Practice times are from 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"We just had this huge hit of freshmen that wanted to join the team and they were really good too," McDougall said. "We were just really lucky to grow the team as fast as we did."

The team plays pretty much all year around and there is no age bracket. There end up being a lot of teams that are very good, and some younger teams that aren't very experienced yet. CWU had two tournaments in the fall, the first one being in Victoria, Canada. The team didn't win any of the games because of the number of players that

“It's a really good way to get in shape because it is so brutal”

-Curtis Condotta, vice president



Heather Stewart/The Observer

CWU's water polo club is open to any student who has past swimming experience. This co-ed team travels from state to state competing against other schools.

were able to get their passports in time. Later in the fall, CWU hosted a tournament in which they finished 2-2 overall and had all their players readily available to play. Condotta feels that the team is getting better and better every tournament.

"It's a really good way to get in shape because it is so brutal," Condotta said. "You can't touch the ground

and you have to stay floating."

CWU will be hosting another tournament during the spring in which they hope to see even more improvement. If you are interested in coming out and watching these events you can see them play at the aquatic center. If you're interested in getting a chance to play, they encourage anyone and everyone to come check it out.

Women's rugby seeks revenge against BYU

By Bryce Weedman
Staff Reporter

CWU Women's Rugby, led by first year head coach Trevor Richards, has had somewhat of a rocky start to the winter season. With a 1-4 start to the season, their lone win came against Washington State University (WSU), 83-10. A tough 26-35 loss to Brigham Young University (BYU) earlier in the season on the road showed Richards that the team is ready to be competitive with some of the best teams in the nation because the team was still able to keep the match close without a full roster due to injuries and team violations. Because of these holes in the roster, the Wildcats will have to find a way to win that does not involve many of their key players. Richards stated that he does not publicly express comments on player injuries or ineligibilities.

"There was a very toxic atmosphere on the team last year before I took over," Richards said. "We are working on creating a better atmosphere now for this team."

The Wildcats were only able to bring 18 of their 23 players to that game against the Cougars and it has been like that for most of the year. Richards said that the season would be going much differently had they brought a full team with their best players in the field every match. Richards said that they would have won the game against BYU, had they had their full roster, and wants to set the tone early against their upcoming rematch.

"We always want to win every game," Richards said. "We feel the team is close to showing their full potential."

After a three-game losing streak, CWU will need to look to some of their veteran players to set an example for the younger



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Brooke Mullins sprints for the try-line at the end of the rugby pitch. The CWU women's rugby team is now preparing for their matchup with BYU Utah.

women on the field. Senior Flanker Joana Moreira said that one of the things that the Wildcats have had to overcome is the weather in Ellensburg, pointing out the extreme snow that has hit the area. With Tomlinson Stadium covered in over a foot of snow, the Wildcats haven't been able to practice outside and have had to practice in the top room of Nicholson Pavilion.

"It's been tough, I think we even had a huge snow storm in 2017, so we've been inside a lot," Moreira said. "We are pretty used to it now so I think we are handling it a bit better."

For many players, it has been an unusual year for CWU with all of the injuries and changes on and off the field. Junior scrum Spencer Boldt says that the team has had to have a different mindset going into games this year. This doesn't mean they don't believe they can win or are ready to win, in fact it's quite the opposite. Boldt and the Wildcats feel they are ready to win, and win a lot.

"I definitely believe we should be in the national finals, and I think that we should give Lindenwood a good run for their money," Boldt said. "Our full ros-

ter is very strong, but even now without our full roster we are very strong."

The Cougars and the Wildcats are very similar in the way they play. Both teams are very physical, but maybe not as fast as other teams, so they focus on being aggressive. If the Wildcats want to avenge their earlier season loss to the Cougars, they will need to out-finesse them on the field.

"We're just getting our minds right and our bodies right," Boldt said. "We had a really good game against Lindenwood and the score didn't reflect it, so we're just going to ride off that wave into BYU."

Editor: Hanson Lee

OPR preps for new season amidst persistent winter



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Spring is just around the corner. The snow will finally melt and CWU students are allowed blue skies and green grass once again. Places like the Yakima River, or even more local places like the ponds, are a great way to enjoy Spring in Ellensburg.

By Tianbai Dun
Staff Reporter

CWU's Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) are almost done offering activities for the winter time. The OPR team has successfully held 11 winter outdoor activities this season. With another winter almost fully in the books, the OPR staff is looking forward to spring quarter and the activities that will follow.

According to OPR staff member Ken-

dall Kramer, the OPR staff are preparing activities for spring quarter based off the discussions amongst the OPR staff. In doing so, they will select new activities for when spring rolls around. Compared to outdoor activities in the winter, spring outdoor activities are more diverse.

For example, people are more likely to choose skiing, sledding and climbing in the winter. In the spring though, there isn't much snow or ice and the weather becomes a lot warmer, so the OPR staff takes into

consideration potential water activities and trips that may interest students, such as biking, horseback riding and hiking.

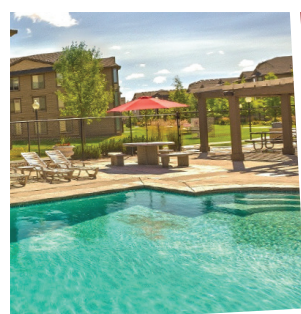
Kramer expressed that for future activities, the OPR will choose areas that are relatively close to CWU, while also considering new and unique locations that students may not have visited yet.

Just like activities offered in previous quarters, pre-trip meetings are a necessary aspect of preparation. Kramer said that in general, the meetings are at 6 p.m. on

Thursdays in the OPR shop. The trip leader(s) at the meetings will layout guidelines for the specified upcoming trip and educate those attending on any safety precautions or measures necessary for the trip.

Each quarter, the OPR staff will organize different trips, and they will select the different places and come up with new activities.

"There are three new spring trips, which include trail biking, horseback riding, rafting and bi-weekly sunset hikes," Kramer said.



Central Park APARTMENTS

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WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

Survey closes Thursday, March 7th

STEP 1 Look for a survey email from your ASCWU President, Edith Rojas



STEP 2 Share your thoughts on what YOU would like to see in a SURC expansion



STEP 3 Automatic entry into a \$500 book scholarship opportunity



CWU

WHAT'S HAPPENING
HYPE
MARCH 7 - 12 2019

THUR. MARCH 7
Managing the Trust of Your Team: WLA Workshop

3 p.m. • Black Hall 152 • Free
Learn effective interpersonal relationship skills for leaders.

Allyship and Psychology: What's the Connection?

4 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free
DEC student coordinator Levi Blessum shares lessons learned.

Media Matters: Latinx Media and Social Change

5 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby • Free
Learn about the importance of Spanish-language television and radio.

Open Mic Night: Feminist Poetry and Voice

7:30 p.m. signups, 8 p.m. start • 1891 Bistro • Free
Share pieces themed around feminism.

THU. MARCH 7 - SUN. MARCH 10

Central Theatre Ensemble: The Transition of Doodle Pequeño

March 7 & 8 at 7:30 p.m. • March 9 & 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Milo Smith Tower Theatre • cwu.edu/tickets
A heartwarming look at the consequences of misused language, and an examination of gender-bullying.

SAT. MAR. 9

Lt. General Terry Robling Speaker Series: Author Phil Klay

11 a.m. talk/interview
Noon book signing • McConnell Auditorium
U.S. Marine Corps veteran and award-winning author of "Redeployment" which examines a soldier's complex feelings of war and homecoming.

8th Annual Late Night Carnival

9 p.m. - midnight • SURC • Free for CWU students
Carnival food, inflatables, music and more!

MON. MAR. 11

Monday Movie Madness: First Man

7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free for CWU students

FINALS WEEK STRESS BUSTERS!

MON. MAR. 11

Paws and Relax

4 - 7 p.m. • Brooks Library, 2nd Floor
Finals prep got you beat? Come cuddle with our friendly and soothing therapy pups.

Packets and Pancakes with the National Residence Hall Honorary

8 p.m. • Wellington Event Center
Join the NRHH Executive Board for pancakes and an opportunity to learn more about becoming a member of this awesome service organization.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Waffle Night at Brooks Library

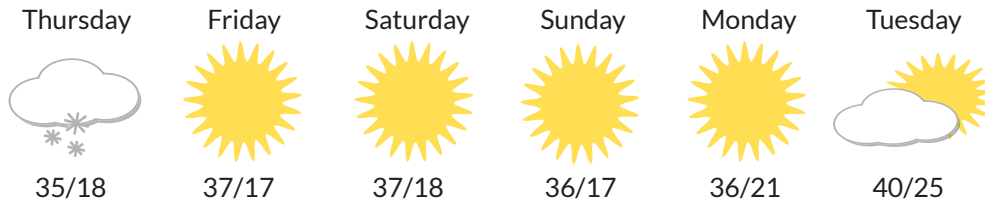
8 p.m. • Brooks Library Fishbowl
Take a study break and recharge your batteries with fresh waffles, coffee and tea.

#CWUHYPE



Editor: Alexa Murdock

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast



Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Mostly cloudy with a high of 35.

Friday: Mostly sunny with a high of 37 and a low of 17.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high of 37 and a low of 18.

Sunday: Sunny with a high of 36 and a low of 17.

Monday: Mostly sunny with a high of 36 and a low of 21.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a high of 40.

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

This week in Observer history



On March 6, 2003, students came together on the Ellensburg campus to counterprotest anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church protesters.

Westboro Baptist protesters came to CWU to protest the theatre department's docu-drama production "The Laramie Project," which describes the emotions felt by Laramie, Wyoming after a hate crime shook their community.

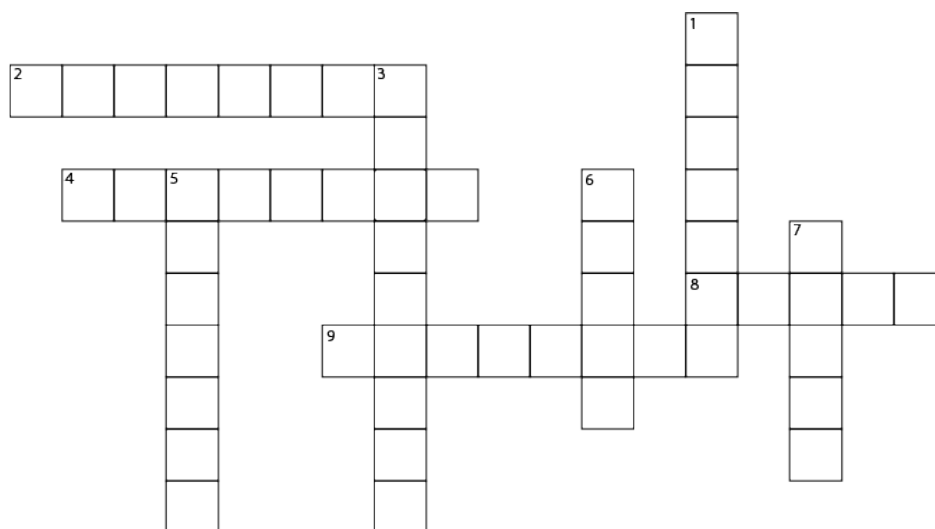
Students responded by wearing T-shirts that read "Love All. Hate None," holding signs, and showing public displays of LGBT affection.

According to the article, the cheers of the crowd could be heard from blocks away and protesters were not intimidated by the Westboro Baptist Church.

Heated arguments occurred but both groups remained relatively peaceful, according to the article.

Crossword of the week

De-stress with this spring break themed puzzle



ACROSS:

- 2. A journey traveled mostly by car
- 4. A period of time spent away from home for leisure
- 8. Unwind or de-stress
- 9. A gathering where food is cooked on a grill

DOWN:

- 1. A party around a large campfire
- 3. A large gathering around a swimming pool
- 5. Vacationing in a camp, tent, or camper
- 6. A popular sandy getaway destination
- 7. A popular activity for college students when class is not in session

ANSWERS: ACROSS: 2. Roadtrip 3. Bonfire 4. Vacation 5. Camping 6. Beach 7. Sleep 8. Relax 9. Barbecue DOWN: 1. Bonfire 3. Roadparty 5. Camping 6. Beach 7. Sleep

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,

What are some fun, reasonably-priced things I can do during spring break? I'm tight on money but I don't want to sit in my apartment for the whole week. I have a car and a small group of friends (about 3-4 of us).
Sincerely,
Planning

Dear Planning,

Spring break is a time for resting and recuperating in-between winter and spring quarter. Chances are that you and your friends are probably both mentally and physically exhausted, so doing something low-key and stress-free would be optimal.

I recommend hitting up the local hardware store and buying several buckets of their cheapest, slowest-drying paint (pool your money if necessary), gathering your friends and making an evening of watching it dry. You can each make a paint spot on a wall and make bets on whose paint dries first. You can even make some low-investment foods and beverages to go along with the experience. I find that a proper paint-drying session goes down smooth with a bowl of cold oatmeal and room-temperature tap water.

Alternatively, if paint is just too expensive for you and your pack of broke college students, you can bring lawn chairs or a blanket to your local park and spend an evening listening to the grass growing. Bringing along a barbecue and making some unseasoned, bunless beef patties ought to round out the night.

That, or put your friends in the car and go to one of the many cool places just a short drive from campus. Umtanum Creek Falls and People's Park just get better with company.

Sincerely,
Rune

Submit a story tip

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