

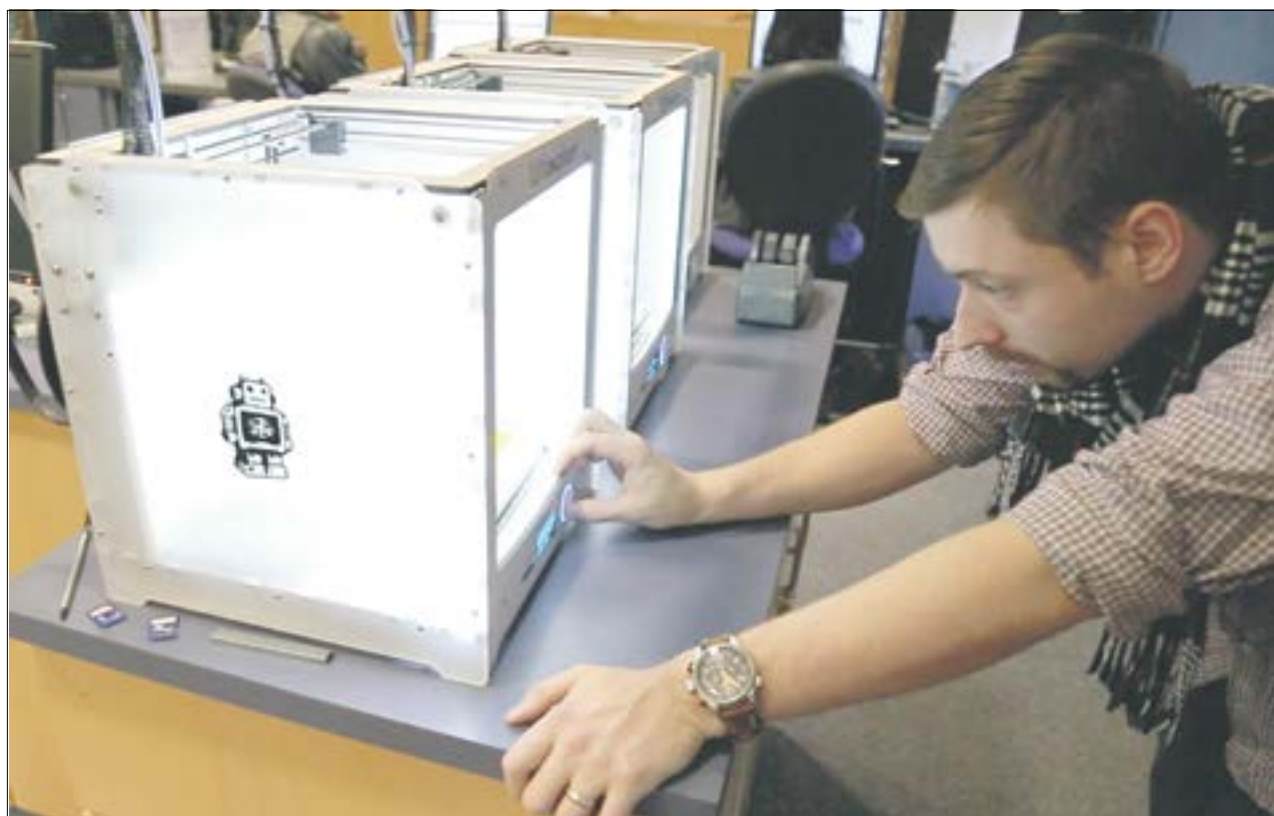
THE WESTERN FRONT

**PLUGKIN' AWAY
UKELELE ENTHUSIASTS
STRIKE A CHORD. PAGE 8**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM

STC Adds 3D Printers

Workshops to be offered to students throughout winter quarter.



AJ Barse, Training Specialist and Instructional Technologist for ATUS, loads a file into one of three new 3D printers available for student use at the Student Technology Center, on Wednesday, Jan. 6. // Photo by Tyler Hillis

Anna Kerr
THE WESTERN FRONT

No longer will 3D printers be confined to students in engineering and design fields at Western.

Three new 3D printers and two 3D scanners are now available to students in all areas of study in the Student Technology Center in Haggard Hall.

However, the STC requires students to be trained before using the equipment. Instructional workshops for the 3-D printers and scanners will be available for students to attend free of charge through the STC. One free print will be offered for those attending the workshops.

The new equipment

was purchased with \$20,000 from the Student Technology Fee, as part of a grant proposed by students Max Smith and Bailey Jones.

Smith and Jones worked with the STC to form the details of the grant proposal.

Smith, who is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in manufacturing

and supply chain management at Western, was studying industrial design while seeking the grant in spring 2015. Smith and Jones wanted to bring a new medium that could help students and teachers of all departments further their learning, Smith said.

see 3D PRINT, page 4

Student Lobbyists Prepare for Olympia

More than 100 students set to speak on behalf of Western at the state capitol

Kjell Redal
THE WESTERN FRONT

With the Washington state legislature's 2016 session set to begin on January 11, 112 Western students are preparing to travel to Olympia to meet with lawmakers about issues facing the Western community.

Viking Lobby Day, an annual trip to Olympia for students organized by the Associated Students' Representation and Engagement Programs office, will take place on January 17 and 18.

Students will meet with legislators to advance items set forth in the AS legislative

agenda for the event. The focus for some is on improving student services, asking for an increase in funding for tutoring and counseling and bolstering support for victims of sexual assault at the university.

Henry Pollet, a freshman planning to double major in political science and manu-

facturing engineering, is attending the Viking Lobby Day as a student representative. He has lobbied for environmental groups in Olympia before.

"It's a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to going with Western," Pollet said. "There's a lot of really interesting issues."

Students are also

see LOBBY DAY, page 4

Rash of Indecent Exposure Plagues North Campus Neighborhood

No arrests made in the wake of seven incidents since October

Alyssa Evans and Sarah Sharp

THE WESTERN FRONT
A Western student was sitting in her parked car near the

this individual though a police report has not yet been released.

"I never expected something like this to happen," she said. "I'm

"I never expected something like this to happen."

intersection of High Street and Billy Frank Jr. Street when a white male in dark clothing approached her window and exposed his genitals around 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

"I thought my headlight was out or something but he didn't lean down at all," said the student, who wished to remain anonymous. "He just walked up to the car and exposed himself."

Bellingham Police Department confirmed they received a call from

definitely not going to walk by myself anymore."

The student usually parks on High Street as most of her classes are located on the north end of campus, though she no longer feels comfortable parking there, she said.

This was the latest incident in a string of flashing and voyeurism cases near campus that have occurred in the last three months.

see INDECENT, page 5



A student receiving a notification from Western Alerts about a flashing near North Garden street.

// Photo Illustration by Caleb Galbreath



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A note from the Editor in Chief:

As the journalism industry continues to evolve, The Western Front has chosen to evolve with it. Starting this quarter, winter 2016, we will be going down from two issues a week to one to emphasize our online presence. We are committed to providing the same amount of content the Western community needs, just in more dynamic and visual platforms. With this drastic of a change, we welcome all suggestions from our readers about this decision. For more content, visit westernfrontonline.com.

Regards,
Brenna Visser, EIC

FORAGING ON THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LAWN



Environmental studies students participate in an exercise simulating foraging practices similar to those of birds of prey on Wednesday, Jan. 6, on the Communications Facility lawn. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath.

Cops Box

Mailbox Mischief

1:19 p.m., Jan. 6, 2016: An employee in the 4100 block of Meridian Street reported that someone had broken into their locking mailbox.

Window Walker

5:42 p.m., Jan. 5, 2016: Officers responded to the 2400 block of Utter when someone entered a private residence through the kitchen window.

Late for Work

9:15 a.m., Jan. 6, 2016: Officers responded to the 2700 block of West Maplewood Avenue after a man complained that his tires had been slashed.

Marijuana Make-off

8:44 a.m., Jan. 5, 2016: Officers responded to the 2100 block of Alabama Street after a man called police complaining that two other men had forcibly taken his marijuana pipe.

Too Heavy Treasure

6 a.m., Jan. 6, 2016: A man in the 3500 block of Riley Street called police after two of his tires and rims were apparently stolen out of his truck bed. The man recovered the missing tires and rims a half a block away from thieves ditched them.

Forgetful Driver

5:03 p.m., Jan 5, 2016: In the 1900 block of Iron Street, a man reported a vehicle collision that had occurred two weeks earlier.

Oldie but Goodie

2:16 p.m., Jan. 5, 2016: A 75 year old man was cited with failure to transfer a title within 45 days, no valid operator's license and driving without insurance in the 400 block of the West Baker-view Road.

Bad Bike

10:20 a.m., Jan. 4, 2016: Officers impounded a bicycle found on the 2500 block of Walnut Street.

Oldest Profession

7:42 p.m., Jan. 5, 2016: A woman reported that she was propositioned for sex in the 2400 block of Meridian Street after she had arrived for a job interview.

Bad Day

4:05 p.m., Jan. 5, 2016: A man was arrested on a warrant while on the 300 block of Grand Avenue. He was then served with two additional warrants while in custody.

Straight and Arrow

9:19 a.m., Jan. 5, 2016: In the 1500 block of 21st Street, a man reported waking to find an arrow in his backyard.

Prescription Problems

8:00 p.m., Jan. 4, 2016: Pharmacists in the 3200 block of Northwest Avenue called police after a woman became angry that they could not fill her prescription and began making comments that concerned staff.

// Compiled by Heather Bates

The Western Front

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Corrections

The Western Front strives for accuracy and will correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

Huxley alumna heads solar panel project

Sustainable Connections and local energy providers created initiative to outfit the Bellingham Food Bank with solar panels

By Robert Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sustainable Connections, a Bellingham-based nonprofit organization promoting sustainable economic development, has teamed up with three local solar energy providers to create an initiative that will donate solar panels to the Bellingham Food Bank.

Rose Lathrop, who graduated from Huxley College of the Environment in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in urban planning and environmental policy, is heading up the project, dubbed Solarize Whatcom.

The initiative aims to reduce operating costs for the Bellingham Food Bank while also providing educational workshops about solar power for the public. For each new solar energy project contracted through the Solarize Whatcom initiative, Sustainable Connections and its partners will donate one solar panel to the Bellingham Food Bank.

Whatcom County leads Washington state in solar panels per capita, making it a suitable location for programs like Solarize Whatcom, Lathrop said.

Bellingham's largest solar panel installers, Western Solar Inc. and Ecotech Energy Systems, LLC, agreed to provide a reduced price on new installations for the project, David Jack-



Rose Lathrop, the Green Building and Smart Growth Program Manager at Sustainable Connections, and Western senior David Jackman, the Energy Program Assistant, stand next to the solar panels installed atop the Sustainable Connections building on Ellis Street on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The project they are working on will donate panels to the Bellingham Food Bank later this year. // Photo by Western Front staff

man, energy program assistant at Sustainable Connections said.

Solar panel manufacturer Itek Energy has also been a part of the project.

"They are working really well together," Jackman said. Jackman is a senior at Western, graduating this spring out of the sustainable business program.

"I just jumped right into it as an intern at Sustainable Connections," he said.

In April, he was hired to a permanent position. Classwork at Western had prepared him well to take on a full-time job at Sustain-

able Connections, Jackman said.

The initial response to the program has been good. "Quite a few people have signed up for each of the workshops," Lathrop said.

Lathrop hopes Sustainable Connections will get at least 20 contracts signed, which would result in 20 panels donated to the Food Bank.

"We are always looking to get more green when it's feasible," said Mike Cohen, executive director of the Bellingham Food Bank. The Food Bank facility was built in 2008 and earned a Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification, Cohen said.

It did not install solar panels during its initial construction, but Sustainable Connection's engineers determined the facility can support a solar system and would be a good group to benefit from the promotional campaign, Cohen said.

The Solarize Whatcom campaign will run through April 2016. Three workshops will be held starting on Jan. 26 at the Sustainable Connections office at 1701 Ellis St., Suite 221.

Visit the Solarize Whatcom website at westernsolarinc.com/solarize-whatcom to register or call Rose Lathrop at 360.647.7093.x107 for more information.

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3D PRINT: Students test new tool

continued from page 1

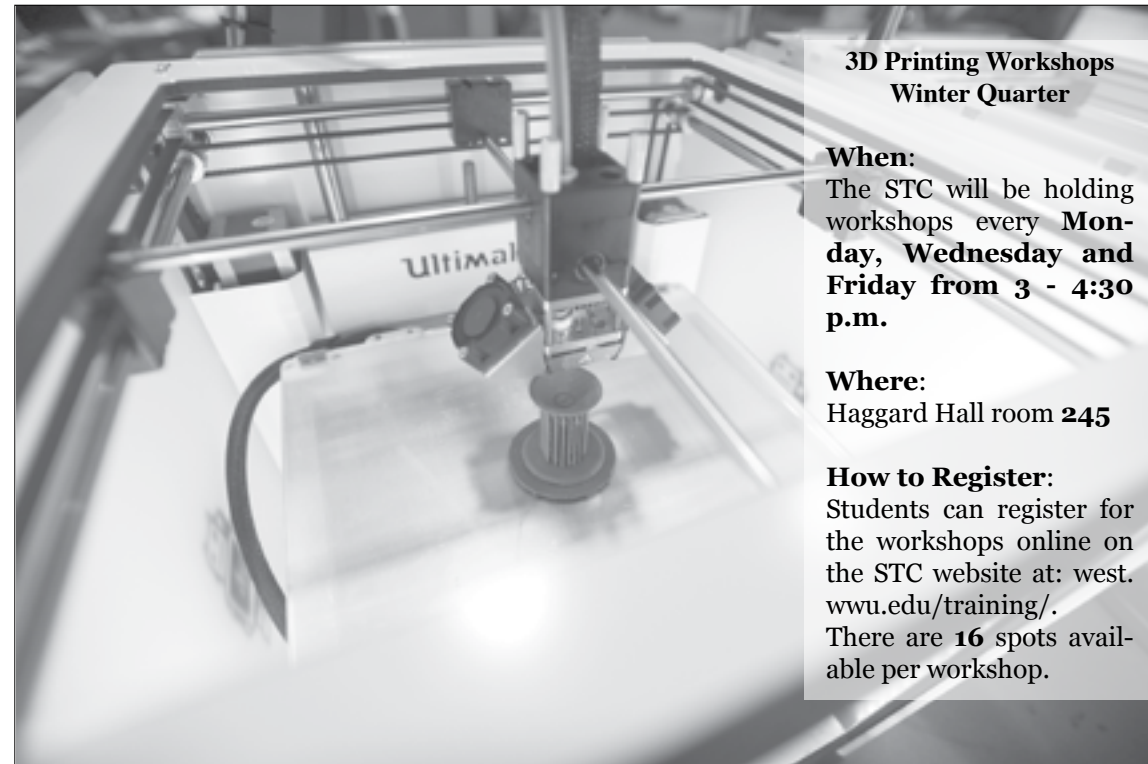
"The overall goal of the proposal was to provide WWU students and faculty with tools to be creative and think outside the box," Smith said in an email.

In their grant proposal, Smith and Jones envisioned a student in the chemistry department printing a model of a chemical formula or a computer science student using a 3D scanner to implement real-world objects into a video game.

The prints can be created three different ways: by using one of the new 3D scanners, from scratch using a 3D program, or by using an already existing model found online, Spencer Bui said.

When replicating an organic shape, using a 3D scanner can speed up the design process, Barse said.

The printers use polylactic acid, which prints in thin layers. The STC chose this material because it is versatile and does not emit dangerous



3D Printing Workshops
Winter Quarter

When:
The STC will be holding workshops every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 - 4:30 p.m.**

Where:
Haggard Hall room **245**

How to Register:
Students can register for the workshops online on the STC website at: west.wvu.edu/training/. There are **16 spots** available per workshop.

One of the three new 3D printers in the Student Technology Center prints a miniature wine glass keychain for STC employee and Western freshman Kaleb Hebert on Tuesday, January 5. // Photo by Tyler Hillis

smells while printing, Barse said.

STC employees have been practicing on the printers to become comfortable with helping others use them.

Bui, a technology assistant and hardware team leader at the STC, said they first practiced by printing self-portraits from scanned images.

"We've been testing what works and what doesn't work on our printers," Bui said. "You have to calibrate it and make sure your settings are correct."

Bui has created other prints such as little elephants, small figurines and a structure that holds his phone.

Other creations from the staff range from practical objects like a screwdriver, to objects for entertainment, including a miniature replica of the iron throne in "Game of Thrones" and robots from "Star Wars."

Barse encourages professors to contact him to find ways to incorporate the printers into their classes at aj.barse@wvu.edu.

INDECENT: Seven reports, No arrests

After a string of reported flashing, indecent exposure, and voyeurism cases, residents in the Sehome neighborhood are on edge.

continued from page 1

Indecent exposure on campus since October

A Western student was walking on North Garden Street in the evening on Nov. 5, 2015, headed home from campus. Near Laurel Park, she encountered what she described to police as a white male in his 20's with dark hair and a white hooded sweatshirt masturbating with his pants down.

"I don't walk that way anymore. I don't walk at all," said the student, who wished to remain anonymous. "I don't feel safe, and it's really awful."

There have been six reports of indecent exposure and two possible cases of voyeurism north of campus since late October, according to the Bellingham Police Department. They have yet to confirm if the cases are connected and no arrests have been made.

"It wasn't until I was talking to other people later on that I realized nobody knew [these incidents] had been going on and nobody knew that it had been happening in that area before and continues to," the student said.

During January and Feb-

If you or someone you know has been affected by violence, please feel free to call Western's Consultation & Sexual Assault Support center at (360) 650-3700. CASAS is a safe and confidential resource where all students are welcome.

Anyone with information about these incidents or similar ones is asked to contact the Bellingham Police Department at (360) 778-8800. If you have information about similar activities occurring on Western's campus, please contact University Police at (360) 650-3555. For emergencies call 911.

"It is really weird hearing about things like this," Abeglen said. "I need to be aware of those things when I'm choosing a house. I need to know who my neighbors are going to be."

To help prevent these incidents from recurring, Bellingham Police Department Officer Lt. Bob Vander Yacht said he encourages residents take a look at their own homes.

"Go outside at night. Close your blinds and look into the rooms to see what you can see," he said. "If you can see

ing around at night, either let people know where you are going to be walking to, or more importantly, walk with someone. The buddy system works," Vander Yacht said. "Having a flashlight or something that can illuminate your way is also something good to have."

Indecent exposure is a form of sexual harassment. In Washington State, indecent exposure is a misdemeanor and can result in up to 90 days in jail and up to \$1,000 in fines.

Voyeurism is a form of sexual exploitation and considered sexual misconduct. Under Washington state law, voyeurism is a class C felony.

Committing indecent exposure or voyeurism as a Western student constitutes a violation of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, which can result in a number of sanctions including loss of privileges, restriction from contacting others, treatment programs, campus relocation, suspension from the university and expulsion from the university, according to the Office of Student Life's website.

"I don't walk that way anymore. I don't walk at all."

ruary of 2014, similar cases occurred near campus, ranging from High Street to Nevada Street, according to Bellingham Police Department records.

Sophomore Jacob Abeglen said he was considering living on north campus next year, but hearing about the most recent series of flashing and voyeurism has given him pause.

anything, then you need to find a way to make it so someone couldn't."

Vander Yacht also recommends checking the lighting around homes and trimming down any shrubbery people could conceal themselves in.

When walking around at night, Vander Yacht said it is important for students to be aware of their surroundings.

"If you're going to be walk-

Online Exclusive: westernfrontonline.com

Behavioral Neuroscience Crowdfunds a Freezer.

Currently, two of the behavioral neuroscience program's freezers contain brain tissue dating back 15 years — when the program first began collecting research samples. They are running out of space.

LOBBY DAY: Efforts focused on student services, dedicated revenue

continued from page 1

calling for enhanced voting rights and access across campus, and enacting fiscal changes such as decreasing tuition and further funding financial aid programs.

Josie Ellison, AS legislative advocacy coordinator, said many of these requests were on the agenda in previous years as well.

Cost of attendance reduction

"The dedicated revenue piece has been on our agenda for a while," Ellison said of the proposed changes in tuition funding. "A perpetual problem with higher education is a lack of funding."

The "new and dedicated revenue" piece of the AS legislative agenda for Viking Lobby Day clarifies that a reduction in tuition for all students should not come at

the expense of financial aid programs or be subsidized by out-of-state or graduate tuitions.

Voter rights and access
Students have brought the voting rights topic to Olympia before. This year will lobby for an extension of the voting registration deadline and voter education programs. Some of its specifics are new this year.

One of the new additions to the agenda this year is the request to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote when they receive their driver's licenses as part of the current statewide "motor voter" system. The current law, created by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, allows people over the age of 18 to register to vote when they receive a driver's license.

Support for sexual assault victims

Students introduced the sexual assault proposal to state legislators last year. It has stayed largely the same, Ellison said.

The agenda calls for dedicated funding specifically for increased counseling services, including specialized personnel resources and staff training to better equip the university to respond to sexual violence and involved parties.

"What that's working toward is increasing funding for universities to provide more training for staff, professors, anyone who's potentially going to be interacting with survivors of sexual assault," Ellison said.

The increased funding that the agenda calls for would support programs like the

Consultation and Sexual Assault Support office at Western, Ellison said.

Currently, Western's Counseling, Health and Wellness programs, which include CASAS, receive \$641,992 in state funding per year.

Student services

The measures proposed by the AS to increase funding for student services, such as tutoring and counseling, have also been a topic of conversation at the Viking Lobby Day for the past three years, Ellison said.

"When we get close to registration and there's lines out the hallway to get to academic advising...things like that are what students complain about," Ellison said.

In Western's 2016 list of legislative priorities, the university calls for \$2.4 million in state money to invest in

student support services, including the Academic Advising Center. Western's 2016-2017 budget allocates over \$1.3 million in state funding to Academic and Career Development Services.

"Last quarter, we had times when it was an over two-week wait for an advising appointment. If you're a student with a really pressing concern, that feels frustrating," said Tina Loudon, director of academic and career development Services at Western.

Sophomore Emily Anderson said she hopes to get into the kinesiology major but has had a hard time both organizing her schedule and getting into the classes she needs. She thinks it would be helpful to have more counseling services available to her.

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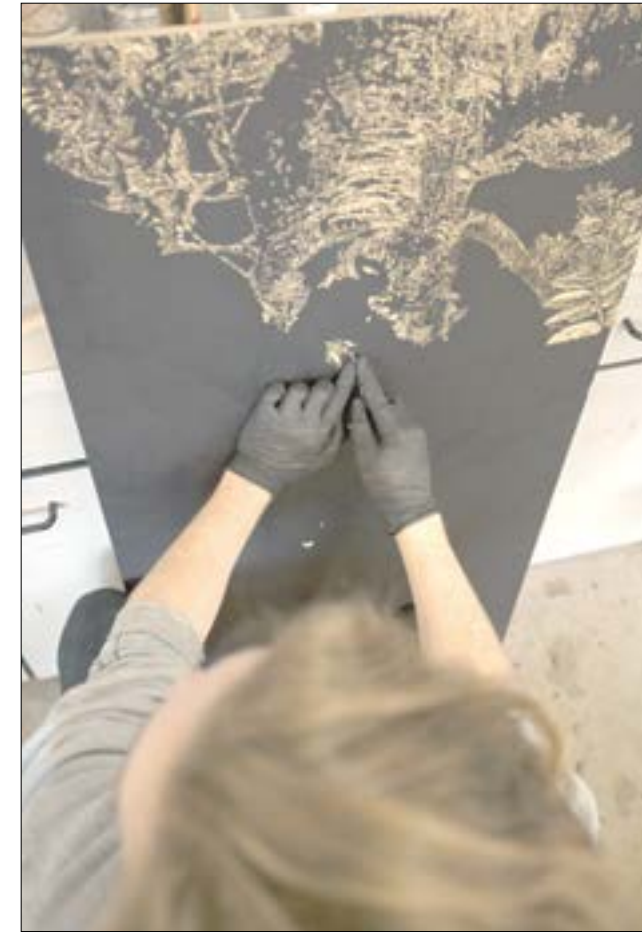
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Western senior Hugh Rountry carves a relief print of a tree into a wood particle board in the Fine Arts Building on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The project is for the Bachelor of Fine Arts end of year show that will include work from many other BFA students. // Photo by Ian Koppe

A Western gardening crew loads the tree planters near Carver Gymnasium to take them back to the shop on Tuesday, Jan. 5. They will work on replanting trees in them once the ongoing construction at Carver is finished. // Photo by Ian Koppe



Construction crews working on Sam Carver Gymnasium on Tuesday, Jan. 5, drill ground supports deep into the earth to prepare for further construction on the new building. // Photo by Ian Koppe

Capturing the New Year's Changes

A look at the subtle transformations taking place around campus during the first week of winter quarter 2016.

Top: Senior Dallas Roberts, junior Lisa Antonio and community member Doug Gustafson gather in Red Square to raise awareness for their group WWU Students for Bernie Sanders on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The organization is hosting a viewing of the sixth Democratic Debate in Artzen Hall 100 on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath



Students begin to fill Red Square on a sunny day in between classes on Wednesday, Jan. 6. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

Right: Students from two upper-division environmental science classes participate in ice-breaker activities in Red Square on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The group made expressive motions that described each person. "They are going to become outdoor educators, so it is also them learning how to do an ice-breaker," Wendy Walker said, professor of one of the classes. // Photo by Tyler Hillis



CATCHING THE MUSICAL BUG

By Renee Holt
THE WESTERN FRONT

A circle forms as people of all ages come together to compose a friendly, welcoming and musical environment. The gathered group shares a love of a small but mighty instrument — the ukulele. Their strums match one another, with each musician bringing their own personal creativity to the circle.

“It’s kind of a smiling instrument, kind of a joyful instrument — it seems to make people feel that way,” said Brian Griffin describing the ukulele.

The Bellingham Ukulele Group, or BUG, is a collaborative music group comprised of players who are just beginning to those who are experienced.

At the monthly “bug jams,” a skilled member of the community will teach new players during the first hour and loaner instruments are provided for those who do not own a ukulele. Basic chords are taught, and those unfamiliar to

the instrument can decide to stay for the remainder of the session and play with the rest of the group. Some members are even part of a special orchestra ensemble, which requires an audition.

Griffin is a member of BUG who builds ukuleles from his home. Building ukuleles has been a hobby for him ever since learning about the craft in Hawaii. He is typically able to make up to three ukuleles in a two-month period. Griffin is currently working on his 79th ukulele, he said.

“It’s a very informal organization,” Griffin said, describing the atmosphere as pleasant, friendly and joyful.

Patrick Madsen, a Western alumnus who studied art education, joined the group four years ago after playing the guitar for most of his life. He played guitar professionally in Los Angeles, he said.

Learning to play the ukulele has been compelling because it allowed him to continue being involved in music, Madsen said. After playing the guitar



Karen Folger plays the ukulele for her mother, Bert Folger, during a group jam session with the Bellingham Ukulele Group at St. James Presbyterian Church, Saturday, Jan. 2. Karen brings her mother to the ukulele sessions every month to help facilitate her long-lasting love of music. // Photo by Daniel Liddicoat

for 55 years, Madsen said music was starting to leave his life as time passed. However, playing with BUG has brought music back.

He joined BUG after buying a ukulele from Griffin who mentioned the group to him.

He now leads the BUG Community Players, who perform once a month at various locations in Whatcom County, such as assisted-living homes.

The members meet for song circles on a monthly basis, where players sit together and play sheet music with chords.

“[BUG is] open to all instruments but is mainly uke oriented,” said Tom Hodge, a co-founder of the group. He said string instruments like the guitar and fiddle, or even horns come into play from time to time.

In 2007, Hodge co-founded BUG with Aryn and Ravyn Whitewolf, who were both involved in keeping the group running in its early years. Hodge began teaching music lessons in 2003 at Whatcom Community College and a majority of the original BUG

members were his students, he said.

The first meeting took place at Hodge’s house. He said he remembers thinking only four or five people would show up. However, the first meeting welcomed 25 people and he realized a larger space would be needed.

u-ku-le-le
yōoke/lāle/
noun

a small four-stringed guitar of Hawaiian origin from the late 19th century; literally meaning ‘jumping flea.’

different tuning.

Shapiro said she loves how the ukulele is light and portable. She said that because it has four strings, it is easy to play right away.

Hodge said he thinks the instrument is popular because of its affordability, portability and how fun it is to play.

“It’s hard to play music on a uke and feel sad,” Hodge said as he laughed.

Griffin said he has seen remarkable growth in many of the players in the group, including himself.

“The ukulele can be a very simple instrument, or it can be as complex as you want to make it,” Griffin said.

Griffin said the group has allowed him to meet a variety of people that he would not have met otherwise. Shapiro, for example, said she met a woman who came down from Canada just to join the group.

In order to enjoy the ukulele, age is not an issue, Griffin said. In his opinion, one of the great things about BUG is that it only requires enthusiasm.



BUG members meet monthly to learn the basics of the ukulele and to sing and jam together on Saturday, Jan. 2. // Photo by Daniel Liddicoat

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Twitter takes on the trolls

Whether it’s keeping up with old friends or schmoozing it up with celebrities who won’t ever tweet you back, Twitter has become a huge player in online communication. But what happens when the little blue bird begins hurling expletives?

Abuse online is nothing new. Behind the screen of anonymity, so-called trolls have plagued Twitter for years. This year however, it seems Twitter’s resolution for 2016 is to handle these users once and for all.

On Dec. 30, 2015, Twitter announced a revamp of their community guidelines that primarily targets abuse and harassment, all

saging the account and providing contact information to mental health hotlines.

This type of outreach is seemingly unheard of on social media platforms and is much needed in an era where, even with millions online, you may still feel alone.

As journalists, our jobs rely heavily upon our ability to disseminate information to the general public. Faster and faster, social media is becoming ingrained in those strategies and Twitter is a fine example of a company that is committed to the principles of free speech, while cutting out those who abuse with their words.

Maintaining the balance of free speech should always be paramount in dealing with mass communication forums.

in an effort to protect free speech. Of particular note is Twitter’s commitment to cutting out all abusive behavior.

“We do not tolerate behavior that crosses the line into abuse, including behavior that harasses, intimidates, or uses fear to silence another user’s voice,” according to the new rules set out by Twitter.

That last line is key. Maintaining the balance of free speech should always be paramount in dealing with mass communication forums and this recent move is highly commendable.

Being in control of a communication powerhouse demands constant monitoring, screening and reworking. The increase in responsibility for what they have created shows that Twitter truly understands the power of the digital world.

In addition to new abuse rules, Twitter will also begin to reach across the digital divide and offer assistance to those who threaten self-harm. This help includes mes-

Take, for example, a story about a local murder, followed by a tweet updating the situation. A more draconian set of rules might utilize a program to skim for any keywords and pull the tweet based solely on that. Twitter’s new rules maintain our ability to talk about unfortunate events but act to stop those who seek to abuse directly.

The worry with reigning in of speech in any medium is the ‘chilling’ effect, where users may hesitate to use their right to free speech for fear of legal repercussions. Here however, Twitter has taken a sane approach, truly targeting only those who have reason to fear repercussions.

There will always be those who slip through the cracks. It’s the Achilles’ heel of supporting a free speech ethic. However, by taking responsibility for those actions when they occur, we can do much more to curb their effectiveness. Keep fighting the good fight, Twitter. #freespeech.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Nick Belcaster, Brenna Visser and Jeffrey Giuliani.

Viking Voices

What do you hope to accomplish in the New Year?



“I hope to fulfill my commitments and keep to my commitments. I want to keep growing as a student and get as good as I can.”

Andrew Graminski
Freshman, undecided

“Set different goals for having a lot of organization and get classes going well. I’m also part of Campus Christian Fellowship and we’re starting things up this quarter again too.”

Naomi Blankenship
Junior, Chinese major



“I want to graduate. I want to do something that I’m happy with and get situated for the next five years or so. [I’ll] try and hopefully plan out my future a little bit more than I am now.”

Cole Morgan
Senior, operations management major

“I’m not making any New Year’s resolutions necessarily. Just going about business, same as I would before, just trying to graduate and move into a career.”

William Francis Hennessey VIII
Senior, biology major



Compiled by Nick Belcaster

Submission Policy

The Western Front publishes submitted opinion items on a space-available basis. Submit letters to the editor and guest columns, along with your name, title (such as “Western sophomore”) and major to westernfront.opinion@gmail.com. Anonymous letters or those containing hate speech will not be published. The Western Front reserves the right to edit for length, spelling, style and grammar.

Word count limits: letters to the editor: 250 words, guest columns: 400 words



Illustration by Tyler Hillis

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Q&A with Diane Flick

Get to know the longtime volleyball coach

By Caleb Albright
THE WESTERN FRONT

After reaching the final four in her 16th season, head volleyball coach Diane Flick, sat down with the Western Front to answer some questions for Western students.

Q: What is your pre-game ritual?

A: "You know, before matches start, the team is kind of off on their own so I don't know what it is. I let them have their own space to do whatever it takes to get ready for matches."

Q: What makes coaching at Western so special?

A: "It's really nice to be here for as long as I have. Most of the coaches have been here for quite a long time and that camaraderie and the ability to bounce ideas off of people and the comfort level you have is really important so you can focus on the right things. [We] have a really great university in general, so recruiting is not difficult. We have great academics; we've got a great city; and then we've got great people who have come ahead of them. Alumni help to sell it too because they set the tone of what kind of athlete we want to bring in. You put all those elements together and it's a pretty special place to be."



Head coach Diane Flick

Q: What is your coaching philosophy?

A: "Give them roots and wings. The whole idea is to teach them a foundational set of values or technique, whatever it is, and then give them the opportunity to try, fail, learn and try again."

Q: What was the most memorable moment from the 2015 season?

A: "There were a lot of them. But I have to say, coming back from being down two games to zero against [California State

University, San Bernardino] in the [NCAA II West Regional Final] was quite a special moment. Rachel Roder hitting the last shot off someone's hands, having it fly somewhere and realizing we were going to fly to Tampa in a day or two was pretty exciting. That was one of the best moments we had, among many."

Q: Is there one game you look forward to each season?

A: "We seem to be everyone else's rival, you can't help to be excited to play [Central Washington Uni-

versity] since they have been a rival for many, many years. [University of Alaska Anchorage] is always a great team to play, especially at their place. They have an incredible arena to play in. I just look forward to playing each week. It's a great time to test and see where we are at that part of the season and what we need to get better at."

Q: What is your favorite sports team? (Besides Western Women's Volleyball)

A: I am very interested in human-interest stories that pop up. I can't say that I have one team that I follow but I definitely like to see the human side of sports. When those moments come up, I think that's where I can learn a lot and add to my coaching with it."



Redshirt freshman Michaela Hall blocks an attempted spike by a University of Alaska-Anchorage adversary on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015 at the Whatcom Community College Pavillion. Western swept Alaska 3-0. // Photo by Daisey James

UP NEXT

Northwest Nazarene Crusaders vs. WWU Vikings Women's Basketball
When: January 7, 2016 7 p.m.
Where: Whatcom Community College

Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves vs. WWU Vikings Men's Basketball
When: January 7, 2016
Where: Alaska-Anchorage University

Seahawks look forward to playoffs

The Seahawks play the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday in an NFC Wild Card playoff game

By Ben Goldstein
THE WESTERN FRONT

After a 17-week-long roller coaster ride, the Seahawks will play the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday in the Wild Card Round, giving the Seattle Seahawks their fourth straight trip to the playoffs.

Early in the season, the Seahawk's chances of making the playoffs were grim, as the Arizona Cardinals took an early hold of the division and the Seahawks were relegated to fighting for a Wild Card berth. The playoffs looked like a pipe dream for many, but the players and coaches continued believing.

The results of the Seahawk's regular season games are an accurate representation of what happened off the field as well.

The first off-field incident was when safety Kam Chancellor held out from his contract because he wanted a more money. Chancellor sat out two games and the defense was not the same. He eventually made the right decision and returned to the Seahawks, which did

improve the defense.

During all of this, running back Marshawn Lynch went down with an abdominal injury. Then superstar tight end Jimmy Graham went down for the season with a knee injury.

The black cloud above the Seahawks grew as the offensive line continued to struggle. They looked

a trouncing of the Cardinals in the regular season finale last Sunday. The team seemed to finally make some progress and the offensive line started to mesh to help Wilson and wide receiver Doug Baldwin shatter records. The Seahawks finished 10-6 and clinched a playoff berth along the way.

Now come the Minne-

fense to sleep and then take a shot downfield with quarterback Teddy Bridgewater to their deep threat wide receiver Stefan Diggs or tight end Kyle Rudolph.

The Seahawks did crush the Vikings in week 13 at Minnesota, 38-7, but that Vikings team was missing their top three defensive players in safety Harrison

coverage, so he will be a key to the Viking's defense against Wilson and his receivers.

What might make Barr less effective is the presence of Lynch returning to the Seahawk's backfield. Lynch will keep the Viking's defense honest, but so will backup RB Christine Michael, who should receive some serious carries.

This will be a hard-fought game as both teams are prepared for a physical battle in freezing weather in Minnesota. Both Lynch and Michael, and Peterson from the Vikings should control the pace of the game.

The key to this game will be Wilson and his ability to throw the ball in the freezing weather. He will be needed to stretch the field vertically and add a balance to the Seahawks offense.

It would be unusual to see the Seahawks obliterate the Vikings again, and it probably won't happen, but with how well the Seahawks are playing (excluding the Rams game) as of late they should pull out a rugged victory to take one step further towards the Super Bowl.

With how well the Seahawks are playing as of late they should pull out a rugged victory.

like swiss cheese, allowing quarterback Russell Wilson to get hit every other play. The going was tough for the Seahawks and their fans, but slowly the cloud diminished above their heads.

After splitting their first eight games 4-4, the Seahawks had a beneficial bye week. They lost to the division leading Cardinals 39-32 in the first week back, but then won six of their next seven games, including

sota Vikings, a ground and pound type of team. The Vikings gameplan starts with their running back, Adrian Peterson, who is considered by many as one of the best in the league.

Peterson is the bread and butter for the Viking's, and as odd as it is sounds, he also contributes to the defense by keeping them off the field for as long as possible. Peterson will also try to lull the Seahawk's de-

Smith, linebacker Anthony Barr and defensive lineman Linval Joseph. All three players are supposed to play on Sunday and that will make things more difficult for the Seahawks.

Barr is a disruptive force that is very versatile. He can rush the passer, and offensive tackles Russell Okung and Garry Gilliam will have to give Wilson enough time to execute. Barr is also exceptional at dropping into

HOW DO THE TEAMS STACK UP?

Seattle Seahawks		Minnesota Vikings	
Record	10-6	Record	10-6
Rushing Yards Per Game	142	Rushing Yards Per Game	138
Passing Yards Per Game	237	Passing Yards Per Game	183
Rushing Yards Allowed Per Game	81	Rushing Yards Allowed Per Game	109
Passing Yards Allowed Per Game	210	Passing Yards Allowed Per Game	235

Men's Soccer team to hold tryouts

By Morgan Stilp-Allen
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's soccer team will be hosting an open tryout at the Robert S. Harrington Field on Jan. 31. Western finished last season with an overall record of 5-10-3, while going 3-9-2 in conference play.

Assistant men's soccer coach Conner Moe will be on the lookout for new talent after losing six seniors. Among the departing seniors are Kurtis Pederson and Uche Ugwoaba. Ugwoaba was a selection to the 2015 Second

Great Northwest All-Conference team, while Pederson tied for the team's second leading goal scorer with seven on the year and made the second All-GNAC team the prior year.

The Vikings hope to reach the playoffs in 2016 for the first time since the 1990s.

If interested in trying out, email Moe (ConnerWilliam.Moe@wwu.edu) by Jan. 18. In order to try out, players must fill out the paperwork listed on the men's soccer program's website.

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Western's womens teams complete historic seasons

Both the women's soccer and volleyball teams reflect after successful seasons

By Ryan Parish
THE WESTERN FRONT

On the surface, coach Diane Flick's volleyball team and coach Travis Connell's soccer team don't appear to have a lot in common. However, as the 2015 fall quarter came to a close they both had one important similarity.

While most Western students were wrapping up their finals, the Vikings volleyball and women's soccer teams were putting the bow on top of their record setting seasons with both teams reaching the semi-finals of NCAA Division II national tournament for their respective sports.

The only real difference is how they got there.

Connell's team came into the season with 16 upperclassmen. Flick's team only had four. Connell's team didn't lose a single match at home during the regular season, enjoying their home field advantage on Robert S. Harrington Field, which opened in the fall of 2014. Flick's team, on the other hand, was without a true home this season while Sam Carver Gymnasium undergoes renovations. This forced Flick and the volleyball team to have practices in the Wade King Student Recreation Center. Home matches were played at both Whatcom Community College and Squalicum High School.

"It was almost like having a classroom with open doors and everybody watching," Flick said about practicing at the rec center. "We were undefeated on the road in conference... We actually had a better routine on



Freshman forward Gabriella Pelogi celebrates with teammates, Nov. 21, following a 3-1 victory over Dallas Baptist University which lifted the Vikings to the Semifinal Round of the NCAA Tournament in Pensacola, Florida.// Photo by Daisey James

the road."

Despite these differences, the teams had several things in common, including experienced coaches.

Prior to the 2015 season, Connell had 157 wins through 12 seasons. Under Connell's guidance the team has made four straight national tournament appearances. The team won 21 games this season, setting a school record. Over the

last four years, the team has managed a record of 76-9-6. Connell has also been named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times.

Flick's record has similar highlights. 2015 was her 16th season as Western's head coach. Prior to this season, Flick had amassed an overall record of 317-85. During her tenure, the Vikings have had

eleven seasons of 20-plus victories and she has been named the GNAC Coach of the Year eight times. With a record of 27-6, the volleyball team also broke its team record for wins in a season.

Despite all her success as a head coach, Flick doesn't claim all the credit for the success of the program.

"I might get a lot of the stats under my name, but I'm

definitely not the person who does it all," Flick said. "I'm just lucky. I'm surrounded by great people."

Connell echoed those sentiments. A lot of credit has to go to the players for their maturity and desire to always get better, he said.

"Everyone's a leader," Connell said of his team philosophy. "I think the seniors really bought into that."

TEAM AWARDS

Volleyball

Abby Phelps- GNAC Freshman of the Year
All-Conference First-Team Selections- Abby Phelps, Rachel Roeder, Kayleigh Harper
Honorable Mention- Jennica McPherson

Soccer

All-Region First-Team- Catherine Miles, Savanna Moorehouse, Delanee Nilles.
Second-Team- Emily Webster

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