

# THE WESTERN FRONT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21  
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**FEATURES: Senior art student designs paper lanterns see page 8-9**

## Student lobbyists meet with legislators

*Motor voter, student services and a Black Lives Matter protest highlight Viking Lobby Day*

**Robert Johnson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Facilitating voter access and funding for student support were among the topics of discussion during Viking Lobby Day.

The annual event organized by the Associated Students took place Jan. 17 and 18. More than 100 students met with state representatives, senators and Gov. Jay Inslee in Olympia to lobby for change this congressional session.

Lobbying is the process of discussing your position on an issue with state representatives with the intent of influencing their decisions made in government.

The reason they were there lobbying was that the legislature wouldn't hear them otherwise, said Patrick Eckroth, AS

vice-president for governmental affairs.

### Funding for student support

Some students sat down with Inslee to discuss the addition of \$2.4 million in the supplementary budget to fund student support systems at Western, including the counseling center, the tutoring center and academic advising. Western's 2016-2017 budget allocates more than \$1.3 million in state funding to Academic and Career Development Services.

Students testified about their inability to efficiently use these services due to the small amount of staff employed to serve Western and sheer amount of students attempting to use the same services.

Student demand for services at the Western's see *LOBBY DAY*, page 7



**Student lobbyists from Western stand on the state capitol's steps on Jan. 18.**

// Photo by Robert Johnson

## Homeless crisis prompts Mayor to act

*In response to increasing homeless population in Whatcom County, Linville calls for state of emergency with letter to Inslee*



**Men experiencing homelessness sit on a bench in Maritime Heritage Park, Jan. 20.**

// Photo by Daniel Liddicoet

**Robert Johnson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville is leading the charge to request that Gov. Jay Inslee declare a state of emergency throughout Washington state for the increasing homeless population.

The effort was announced at a Bellingham City Council meeting on Jan. 11. Linville and her supporters on the Bellingham City Council

hope by declaring a state of emergency, support systems for the homeless will receive more state and federal funding.

In the letter, Linville called for increased investment in services to bring people indoors and prevent more people from falling into homelessness.

The 2015 Point-in-Time Count, which records the number of homeless individuals on the street at a given

point in time, found that at least 651 people were homeless in Whatcom County, a 17.7 percent increase from the amount in 2014.

The next Point-in-Time Count is scheduled for Jan. 28.

Washington would become the second state in the U.S. to declare a state of emergency regarding homelessness, following Hawaii's lead. A state of emergency was declared in Hawaii in October, just

days after one of the nation's largest homeless encampments situated in Honolulu was cleared.

Seattle and King County also declared state of emergencies for homelessness in Nov. 2015.

"One of the purposes behind this letter is to encourage state officials to activate some statewide programs to address homelessness," said Bell

see *HOMELESS*, page 7

## Series of inclusion and equity training sessions to be added for staff

*Workshops to include discussions of race, gender and sexual orientation*

**Nicole Valley**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Campus Inclusion and Equity Forum will hold diversity workshops for staff members this quarter,

marking the first implementation of policies created in the wake of President Bruce Shepard's call for an increase in campus diversity at his 2014 convocation.

The workshops,

which launched on Oct. 15 and will run through March 4, offers a new series of courses and training sessions on a range of diversity-related topics be available for Western employees to attend on

university time and at university expense, according to the forum's website.

Nick Sanchez, employment inclusion manager for human resources at Western, selected

professors who have specific expertise in teaching diversity issues to lead the workshops.

"Part of what I'm trying to do with the program is pull on the strengths of people who

are already really good at this," Sanchez said

"I don't think this is something that ends at all," Sanchez said. "Just like this past quarter showed us, there are cur

see *FORUM*, page 6



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### ONLINE EXCLUSIVES:

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**PSYCHEDELICS:** Western's Students for Sensible Drug Policy discuss the medicinal merits of psychedelic treatment. // by Renee Holt

**FOOD BLOG:** Sara's Vegan (and Other Dietary Needs) Guide: Mediterranean Specialties. // by Sara Comstock

## RED SQUARE CHECKMATE



Western sophomore Erick McGee practices his chess skills in Red Square on Wednesday, Jan. 20. McGee was challenged to a game of chess by a friend for the first time a month ago and lost. He said he has been determined to beat his friend ever since. "I'm in chess mode all the time," he said.

// Photo by Ian Koppe

## What's happening? Events on campus and in the community

<p><b>Tig Notaro</b> Friday, Jan. 22, 2016 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Performing Arts Center 282 Nationally renowned comedian Tig Notaro will come to the PAC. Notaro has been featured on Conan and The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. She released her HBO comedy special, <i>Boyish Girl Interrupted</i>, last year.</p>	<p><b>Club Boost</b> Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Viking Union 565 This will be an informational event for all AS club members and officers focused on how to improve your club. The conference offers five workshops on leadership, marketing, social media publicity, collaboration with other parties and other program basics.</p>
<p><b>School of Visual Arts Film School Exhibit</b> Friday, Jan. 22, 2016 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. VU Gallery An opportunity to view to see some of the creative work made by Western's School of Visual Arts students.</p>	<p><b>Milk and Honey</b> Student Theater Productions Friday, Jan. 22, 2016 Saturday Jan. 23, 2016 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Old Main Old Main Theater There will be two performances this weekend of Western theater's adaptation of "Milk and Honey".</p>

### 12:56 a.m., Jan. 18

Police received a call from a drunk and confused person looking for help.

### 1:30 p.m., Jan. 19

A man in the 200 block of Terrace Place told police he found missing property in the bushes outside his house.

### 2:30 p.m., Jan. 19

Police issued an individual an infraction for using marijuana in a public space in the block of 200 West Champion Street.

### 4:36 p.m., Jan. 18

An officer responded to a call about an unruly customer in Sehome Village.

### 1:30 p.m., Jan. 19

Police cleared homeless camps in the 1500 block of Puget Street and 600 block of Dupont Street.

### Jan. 19

A man reported a burglary at a nursery to police in the 2000 block of Old Fairhaven Parkway after being alerted by his rooster.

// Compiled by Kenji Gutturp

## The Western Front

The Western Front  
Western Washington University  
Communications Facility 222  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Newsroom number:  
360-650-3162  
Email address:  
westernfrontonline@gmail.com

### Editor-in-Chief

Brenna Visser

### Managing Editor

Jeffrey Giuliani

### News Editors

Sarah Sharp

Andrew Wise

### Features Editors

Janae Easlon

Daisey James

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### Copy Editors

Kyra Bruce

Robin Michel

Ashe Lambe

### Videographer

Tyler Hillis

### Photographers

Daniel Liddicoet

Ian Koppe

Caleb Galbreath

### Illustrator/

Cartoonist

Nicole Swift

### Letters to the

editor:

westernfront.opinion@

gmail.com

### Press releases:

wfpress.release@

gmail.com

### Faculty Adviser

Jack Keith

Jack.Keith@wwu.edu

### Advertising

Department

360-650-3160

### Advertising

Manager

Kaelan Morris

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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.

## Student playwright wins Kennedy Center award

*Story of adultery, race and the complexities of marriage to be read at regional theater festival*

**Lauren Brigolin**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

What does a husband do when he's discovered his wife of 18 years has committed a sexual act with another man? The answer for Carmichael is to hire Diggery, a wannabe thug, to kill Carmichael in front of his supposedly cheating wife. However, when Diggery shows up an hour early to this low-key execution, it causes Carmichael to converse with his killer until his wife returns.

This is the world that awaits

2015, Parker learned that the play earned the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region VII full-length play award.

The award is given out by the National Playwriting Program, an organization that brings together faculty from theater departments across the country to read submitted plays. Awards are divided into categories ranging from 10 minute shorts to full-length pieces, like Parker's.

As a part of the award, the play will be read onstage at the 2016 Kennedy Center Ameri-

of what it felt like to receive the KCACTF award. "It was this moment of, 'Holy crap.' You never imagine it's going to happen. I felt honored and thankful for all the people who had helped me along the way."

Parker is a theatre major and has been writing plays for the past two years. "Smooth, Smooth Jazz" is his first full-length piece.

"One day, the first line came to me and I just wrote it down making sure, 'If I do this I'll write something at some point.' But that line made me write another line and then another one, and then six days later I had 90 pages of a draft of the play," Parker said.

The same day Parker received an email informing him his play had won the Region VII full-length play award, "Smooth, Smooth Jazz" had a staged reading put on by Student Theatre Productions. People from the community were invited to listen to the play be read out loud in Western's Performing Arts Center lobby and then given the opportunity to give feedback on

the script.

"You could feel it in the audience at the end of the show, that everyone had been on this journey with the characters and everyone had felt when the certain moments for these characters hit home," said Zoe Jovanovich, the moderator of the staged reading.

Jovanovich, a creative writing and theatre double major, said she was thrilled to be a part of the process to support the play.

"It felt very natural and real, how a conversation would go between two people who loved each other and didn't want to walk away, but didn't want to agree," said Kendall Uyeji, a senior and theatre major who attended the staged reading.

Parker plans to continue



Teague Parker, recipient of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region VII full-length play award.

// Photo by Daniel Liddicoet

writing as a playwright. He would like to see "Smooth, Smooth Jazz" performed at Western or in the community sometime soon.



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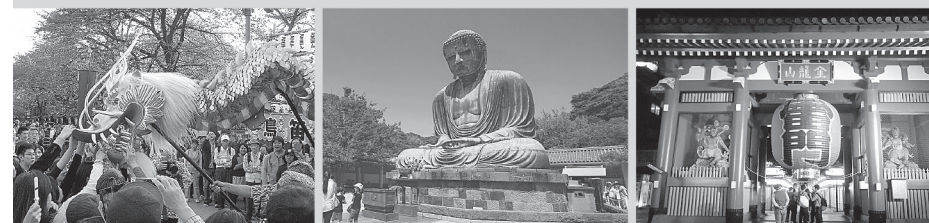
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## Teaching-Learning Academy takes aim at study question

Students and faculty work together in dialogue sessions

Kenji Guttorp  
THE WESTERN FRONT

At the first installment in a series of winter quarter dialogue sessions sponsored by the Teaching-Learning Academy, students, faculty and community members wrestled with the working definitions of words like equity, action and self sustainability. Figuring out what those words mean is a key piece of answering a larger question about inclusivity on campus.

Each year, TLA participants spend fall quarter com-

ing up with a question that addresses a particular issue on campus. Winter quarter is spent discussing the question and gathering student and faculty input in order to develop a plan of action. That plan is completed in the spring and includes recommendations for programs and policies to be implemented by the university.

The question developed during TLA's fall quarter sessions for the 2015-16 year asks, "How do we move beyond conversation to achieve self-sustaining equity and in-

clusivity at Western?"

The question is a nod to ongoing discussions of diversity on campus in the wake of student protests against discrimination across the country, as well as the racially charged social media threats that led to the closure of Western's campus on Nov. 24, 2015.

The session took place on Jan. 13. It was the first of five meetings that will take place every other week on Wednesday and Thursday through the rest of winter quarter.

Carmen Werder, director of the Learning Commons and TLA, oversees the dialogue sessions, along with Communications 339 students leading discussion groups for credit.

"I really think we are trying to be deliberate in causing a little trouble-good trouble," Werder said. "In the fall, there was a collective sense, like, 'Let's shake things up a little bit here.' There's an impatience and I think it's a healthy one."

The dialogue session opened with Werder and other facilitators introducing the question. Participants were

then given an opportunity to talk about what aspects of this year's learning question were significant to them.

During the 2014-15 academic year, TLA focused on promoting lifelong learning at Western by recommending the creation of a mentorship program in the community and conducting surveys to analyze barriers to higher education.

Communications senior Sam Reier participated in the dialogue session.

"I don't think these conversations are happening as much as they should," he said. "I think it can be an uncomfortable subject for most people to talk about so when you're put into a situation to do this and in a sense forced to it's really good."

Inclusivity takes on a different form for each student, Werder said.

"Overall we really talked about two terms: inclusivity and equity," Reier said. "I don't think anyone [at this point] has a clear idea of what they see this turning into."

The next set of dialogue sessions will take place Feb. 3 and 4 in Wilson Library 270.

Teaching Learning Academy:  
15 years of dialogue and discussion

The TLA program has generated a question to study and attempt to answer through recommendations to the university.

**2003-2004: What do we count as the features of an optimal learning environment? And what evidence of those features do we see here at Western?**

- Led to recommendations for the university about professor evaluation forms.

**2004-2005: What role, if any, should/does the University play in the development of ethical reasoning or civic engagement?**

- Produced documented recommendations to the city of Bellingham about the redevelopment of the city-owned waterfront property.

**2011-2012: How can we engage and connect multiple voices to strengthen Western as a 21st-century liberal arts university?**

- Called for more upper-level liberal arts credits available to all students, as well as recognition of the importance of liberal arts in all degree programs at Western.

Source: [http://library.western.edu/tla\\_past\\_group#LifeLongLearning](http://library.western.edu/tla_past_group#LifeLongLearning)



Students, faculty and staff discuss this year's "big question" for the Teaching-Learning Academy on Wednesday, Jan. 13, in Wilson Library.

// Photo by Christina Becker

## Western librarians take home the Golden Apple

The Whatcom County Library awarded Nancy Johnson and Sylvia Tag with the Golden Apple Award for their work with children's literature

Mattie Wilsie  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A Western English professor and librarian, both self-proclaimed book worms, were awarded Golden Apples for their dedication to reading.

The Whatcom County Library recognized Sylvia Tag and Nancy Johnson for their literary education in the community with the 2015 Golden Apple Award in December.

Every year, the Golden Apple Award recognizes a person or persons who have made a significant impact in the lives of youth in Whatcom County, according to the library's website.

Johnson and Tag are both involved with the Children's Literature Conference and Poetry CHaT—programs at Western that promote literacy in Whatcom County.

Thom Barthelme, the youth services manager for the Whatcom County Library System, presented Johnson and Tag with the award for their work bringing young people into direct contact with authors and illustrators, he said.

"They unfailingly reach out to us so that we can build in some opportunities for our kids and teens to have that same ac-

cess," Barthelme said.

In this way, Tag and Johnson's work extends across the county, uniting Western's Wilson Library with the greater system of Whatcom Libraries. This "collaborative spirit" is at the heart of why they were recognized, Barthelme said.

"Getting the Golden Apple was a really huge, huge deal," Johnson said. "It was another acknowledgment of the ways Western and the community really are partners."

Johnson founded the annual Children's Literature Conference, which takes place in the Performing Arts Center, nearly 13 years ago. Tag also participates in and contributes to the conference as an active board member.

Well-known authors and illustrators from around the country gather at Western to educate the conference's attendees about the field of children's literature and help them improve their writing and illustrative skills.

Authors Peter Brown, Cynthia Lord, Melissa Sweet and Gene Luen Yang will speak at the 2016 conference on Feb. 27.

"The whole purpose of the conference when it started was to bring to Western the

best of the best in the field," Johnson said.

Western and Whatcom Community College students are highly involved in the conference—more than 80 attended the last event at a reduced cost, Johnson said.

Western alumna Hannah Newman, who graduated in June with a degree in creative writing, worked closely with Johnson and Tag in preparation for the conference for two years as a student volunteer coordinator.

"Their passion for the topic is infectious," Newman said. "It's absolutely one of the most motivating forces I had when it came to determining that young adult literature and children's literature was going to be a part of the rest of life in some capacity or another."

Many children and young adults in Whatcom County attend the conference, in addition to college students, Johnson said.

"Our audience is really broad, and that was the intention," Johnson said. "It's a day of inspiration. That's really what it is."

Johnson and Tag are also actively involved in Poetry CHaT, which is the Children & Teen Poetry Collection, which



Nancy Johnson, left, and Sylvia Tag, right, stand in Wilson Library at Western Washington University on Wednesday, Jan. 20. // Photo by Daniel Liddicoet

includes works written and published from 1920 and on.

There are many children's collections all over the United States, but none that specialize in poetry, Tag said.

"It's been building momentum and we've recently started to really make valuable connections with poets nationally," she said.

Johnson and Tag's motivation to promote literacy stems from a shared love of reading.

"I bet if you pulled us apart, we'd have this same philosophy. To us a library, whether it's the building or the concept

of library, is really the heart of so much," Johnson said.

Johnson, who has been an educator since college, holds the philosophy that education should surpass the walls of a classroom, she said.

Like Johnson, Tag believes libraries should be a lifetime tool.

"For me, the connectivity of libraries is very important," Tag said. "Literacy is something that starts at the beginning of a child's life and then goes through to [higher education]. It doesn't end at high school."

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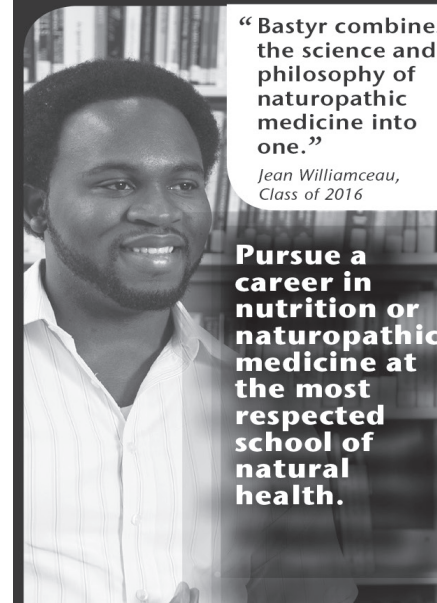
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# FORUM: Training sessions to facilitate discussions of equity and inclusion

Staff time to be allocated and paid for by university

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rent issues, whether they be in the media or right here on our campus, that we need to respond to.”

Political science professor Vernon Johnson was chosen to instruct a workshop because of his knowledge in the area of diversity. Last quarter, Johnson led a workshop titled “What’s up with White America?”, which looked at racial socio-economic disparity and continuing racial segregation, as well as issues around becoming a white ally.

“There’s this kind of fundamental distrust of the institution and, by association, all of the institutions of society,” he said. “I don’t really think anyone is really doing the equity and inclusion thing in a very substantial way and so we have to generate and create tools for how to do it.”

Johnson was on the advisory committee to the Rev.

Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaign in 1988 and helped found the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force. Johnson has presented publicly numerous times on race and law enforcement since the protests in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, and in 2015 received the Philip E. Sharpe Community Engagement Award, presented by President Shepard, for that work.

While different universities around the country have attempted to champion diversity, Johnson doesn’t believe any university, including Western, really knows how to go about handling it in the proper ways, he said.

“When we talk about diversity, equity and inclusion, I think that President Shepard believes that that’s the way the university must go to really serve the public in the 21st century,” he said.



“Just like this past quarter showed us, there are current issues, whether they be in the media or right here on our campus, that we need to respond to.”

Nick Sanchez  
Employment Inclusion Manager

Nick Sanchez, the Western employment inclusion manager, leads a discussion on micro-affirmations and subtle discrimination on Western’s campus, Wednesday, Jan. 13. // Photo by Ian Koppe

While it’s hard to predict the outcome of the training sessions on campus culture, Sanchez feels positive those involved have taken away a lot of good from it.

The overall response to the workshops so far has been positive, Sanchez said. In addition, 11 courses are currently scheduled for this quarter with an additional six still to be added. “I was expecting something

purely academic and less personal,” said John Lund, assistant professor of electrical engineering, referring to the workshop, “The Larger the Table, The More Room for the Feast: Serving Up Empathetic Education in a Diverse Society.”

Lund said his curiosity is what drove him to attend the workshop, since the concept is unique. The knowledge he

gained from it was beneficial, he said.

“It was a surprisingly good self-reflection as much as it was just a ‘being lectured to’ sort of thing,” Lund said.

The workshops, which will be held between Jan. 13 and March 4, include topics on discrimination, transgender, genderqueer and non-binary students and social constructions.

# HOMELESS: Mayor calls for emergency funding



A cart filled with essential supplies for a person experiencing homelessness sits in Maritime Heritage Park, Jan. 20. // Photo by Daniel Liddicoet

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ingham City Councilmember Michael Lilliquist on Monday, Jan. 16.

Western sophomore Cody Stephens researched homelessness in Bellingham during professor Tara Perry’s Interpersonal Communication class last quarter when the class spent November devoted to Homelessness Awareness Month.

Stephens believes declaring a state of emergency is the appropriate step in acknowledging the homeless crisis, though he hopes the mayor’s statement truly results in change.

“I really hope it makes more people aware of the [homeless] epidemic but also brings a lot of hope about how much we, as a state with a good amount of resources, are capable of fixing it,” Stephens said.

**Homelessness and a lack of affordable housing**

The increased funding would be provided through two legislative actions: allocat-

ing “significant resources to the Consolidated Homeless Grant,” which provides secure permanent housing for people who are homeless or are at-risk of becoming homeless, and giving the government more “flexibility with the use of state and federal Medicaid dollars,” Linville wrote.

A complication surrounding Bellingham’s affordable housing is due to college students living near campus, Stephens said.

“An issue we have here is that students can’t afford to live on campus so they move off campus,” he said. “Renters very clearly would rather trust college students with a lease than trust someone who is coming off the street. ... I think more affordable housing needs to be made around Bellingham.”

Ron Buchinski, executive director of Bellingham’sighthouse Mission Ministries, has been working with the homeless in shelters for close to 30

years.

The mission’s building on 910 West Holly St. can house up to 160 people, and reaches full capacity every night, Buchinski said.

Buchinski believes the key to a successful homeless outreach program starts with temporary shelters, he said.

“It takes millions and millions of dollars to build apartments for individuals and family people, but what do we do in the meantime?” he said.

A Washington State Department of Commerce study conducted in 2013 found almost half of the funds for short-term housing are collected through auditors’ document recording fees. As more of these government documents are moved to online formats, the funds for short-term housing are expected to decrease by 62.5 percent in 2017, according to the study.

For the whole story, go to [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

# LOBBY DAY: Inslee applauds student plan

Students call for capital gains tax to cover new projects

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counseling center has doubled over the past five years, according to the AS Legislative Agenda.

“I would love to help on this,” the governor told students regarding their demand for supplemental funding. Inslee praised Western lobbyists on their preparedness for their meeting and their ability to create funding plans for each issue they were lobbying. Those funding plans are centered around a proposed tax on capital gains of over \$25,000 a year, which could potentially raise up to \$1.6 billion. Capital gains is the amount of money obtained by selling bonds, stocks and real estate.

However, when students spoke to Rep. Dan Kristiansen, he told them to focus their efforts on speaking with Western’s Board of Trustees to prioritize existing funds to student support resources rather than lobbying legislators.

**Voter access**

Western students advocated for facilitating voter access to make the process more accessible for people of color and marginalized groups.

“Implementing the Washington Voting Rights Act would be critical for young voters,” AS VP for business and operation Hannah Brock told legislative staff.

The act would allow local governments to remedy the problem of minorities being excluded from elections, according to the Washington voting rights act website.

Students also lobbied their representatives for greater voter preregistration, supporting the implementation of a “motor voter” program, which would automatically pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds to vote when they obtain their driver’s

license.

Last year, the Western Votes program registered about 3,000 students to vote, more than any regional university in the state combined, Brock said.

Western Votes accomplished this in the first 11 days from the start of the school year to the registration deadline. However, the AS recognizes an extended registration period would encourage more students to participate in local elections, Brock said.

A potential issue with implementing the motor voter program is non-citizens obtaining drivers licenses, Gov. Inslee said while speaking to student lobbyists. Washington is one of nine other states that issues driving permits to people without a Social Security number.

Ninety-nine percent of local elections use an “at large” voting system, which allows slim majorities to dominate on city and county councils and results in minority communities being under-represented, according to the Washington voting rights act informational pamphlet. The WVRA would help local governments shift away from at large voting systems.

**Black Lives Matter protest**

During the students’ meetings with legislators, Olympia’s capitol building also hosted a Martin Luther King Jr. rally. About 200 people were crowded on the capitol’s rotunda, holding “black lives matter” banners and listening to speakers talk about the importance of King’s message and black youths’ access to education.

“Your access to education should be a matter of your zip code,” said Sen. Bruce Dammeier, a speaker at the rally. “[King] had a dream not only for his children, but for my children and your children.”

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# MAKING ART OF LIGHT

**Samantha Barber**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

**H**ome to hundreds of sheets of varying textures, colors, sizes and densities, the fine arts building nurtures creativity. Oddities are strewn throughout the large space and numerous cabinets open up only to reveal even more papers and fabrics.

Here, surrounded by paper, senior Bekah Schroeter constructs her captivating paper lanterns attracting both the eye of art fanatics and non.

"I think they're different because they have more personal care and individual thought behind them," she said. With their iridescent hue-engulfing spiraled lights, Schroeter said her delicate lanterns resemble the environment of Bellingham.

"I take inspiration from nature," Schroeter said. "Mushrooms are a big influence, their shape. I look at really flowing movements, really soft shapes take my interest."

Having practiced the arts since she was a child, Schroeter is now a studio arts major at Western. Schroeter first became interested in designing her lanterns after taking a paper folding class last fall.

Professor Seiko Purdue of the art department specializes in fabric forms, and can develop skills through such classes as Papermaking and Mixed Media and 3-D Forms in Fiber.

"We give an assignment to find what they like, because paper has so many different qualities, it depends on what you use or what you put in," Purdue said.

The classes are popular and over the years Purdue has seen students take many creative liberties when experimenting with paper.

Purdue said students do really unique things when dyeing the fabric and creating different textures and color tones for their projects. She has seen students incorporate wine, bean sprouts, ginger and other objects to reach the perfect result.

It was through Purdue that Schroeter began to love the art of papermaking, and for an assignment, began creating paper lanterns.

"I gave her a lighting sculpture for an assignment and she really liked it," said Purdue. "Afterward she just kept going."

**// Her work is really delicate and subtle, but it has this immediate presence when you walk in the room. The lights instantly capture your attention."**

– Rona Bryan

Despite Schroeter's humble attitude regarding her projects, constructing her lanterns is no easy task.

The cutting machine she uses to create her paper can be quite dangerous, as it can be harmful to students if used improperly, said Purdue, and the overall project is very much process oriented.

"We soak the fiber a couple days before, and preparing the paper requires cooking, beating it and placing it in a vat," Purdue said. The single sheet must then be formulated into its desired shape, say, a lantern, and it will then dry over the course of several days.

Though the process is difficult, and a single lantern can take up to several weeks to complete, the result is visually intriguing.

Senior Rona Bryan is also pursuing the arts at Western, majoring in sculpture with a focus on multimedia installation.

Last December, Bryan shared a sculpting class with Schroeter taught by professor Werner Klotz, who was said to be another major influence in Schroeter's artwork. Bryan also shared her artwork in the same room as Schroeter during an art installation at the Herald building that displayed several pieces of art from sculpture students of that class.

"There's such an incredible sensitivity in her work," Bryan said of Schroeter's lanterns. "Her work is really delicate and subtle, but it has this immediate presence when you walk in the room. The lights instantly capture your attention."

Bryan and Schroeter also displayed work together last spring at one of the Friday art walks downtown.

Schroeter said naming the price of her lanterns is a different art.

Criticized by peers for having sold her first lantern for what many thought was much too little, she said she is still figuring out how to price her pieces for sale. Even knowing many art pieces of similar variety to hers can be sold for much more, at times upward of \$1,000, Schroeter said she stood by her sale of just \$100.

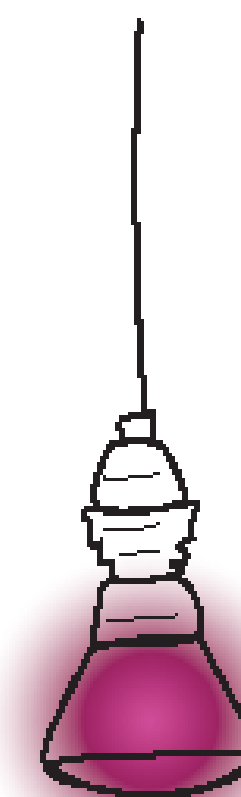
"My idea is to provide really cool lighting for people with small spaces – small apartments – that's not really expensive," Schroeter said.

Schroeter hopes to continue selling her pieces and working alongside prospective buyers in achieving exactly what they envision. She is currently selling her lanterns mostly by word of mouth but is attempting to reach more buyers.

After graduation this spring, Schroeter is striving to get her master's degree in education and hopes to incorporate her artwork into teaching young kids.

Schroeter said, "I really want to do elementary education, but tailor my teaching style more toward an artistic way."

Schroeter is in the process of creating a website, striving to have a permanent viewers.



Illustrations by  
Nikki Swift



**Lanterns designed by Schroeter displayed at her showing last year. //** Photo courtesy of Bekah Schroeter



**Bekah Schroeter leafs through the pages of her sketchbook in which she sketches ideas for her lanterns. //** Photo by Caleb Galbreath

**Visit [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com) to watch VLOG: How to make a paper lantern.**



**Schroeter poses outside the Fine Arts Building. //** Photo by Caleb Galbreath

# Solutions for stormwater run deep

Alyssa Evans  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Frigid winds and a dreary gray sky weren't enough to hinder the plans of curious citizens. Filled with a desire to learn more about their community and how they can improve it themselves, they followed a rain garden tour for hours in the stormy winter weather to learn about stormwater management systems.

RE Sources is a local organization that promotes sustainable communities and protects the health of Washington citizens and ecosystems, according to the RE Sources website. RE Sources Pollution Prevention Specialist, Lee First, led a group of intrigued community members on a tour Saturday, Jan. 16.

City of Bellingham Stormwater Engineering Technician Mark Howard and RE Sources volunteer Hank Kastner assisted First in teaching the group about local stormwater management facilities. The tour, beginning in Fairhaven, featured stops including the Firehouse Performing Arts Theater, Matthei Place, Buchanan Towers and Millworks

Cohousing.

When BT was expanded to include BT East, low impact development features and stormwater treatment facilities were required by the Washington Department of Ecology to ensure rainwater was treated.

Situated behind the BT parking lot is a cluster of nine rain gardens. These are small gardens full of vegetation that work to manage any runoff water from the dorm's roofs.

Along 24th Street, stormwater runoff from roads is treated in a large one-year-old rain garden. Designed to contain flows from two, 10, 20, 50 and 100-year floods, the structure is separated into sections to prevent water from overflowing, First wrote in an email.

The drainage area this garden could handle is quite large, Howard said. When 25th Street was redone, it was viewed as redevelopment under the city's guidelines and therefore, had to mitigate for the treatment, he said.

"There's a flow splitter and it diverts water. The volume of water it diverts is in compliance with those guidelines," Howard said.

In the structure, water flows into the first section, then goes

through a pipe underneath to the next section and so on, until water eventually reaches the last section. The structure regulates the flow of water to the city system and treats the water, Howard said.

First encourages citizens of Bellingham to help prevent stormwater pollution in their own communities.

"The more we can do on our personal property, the better. Every one of us contributes to stormwater pollution. We can help by driving less, we can help by creating rain gardens and more pervious surfaces at the places we live and we can talk to our neighbors and try to get them to do the same thing, try to get them to stop doing things like washing their car in their driveway, that sort of thing," First said.

On campus, Western students are also learning about stormwater management. Western junior Willa Cooksey, an environmental policy major and the Students for Environmental Equity and Disaster Reduction president, learned about stormwater management in both wilderness and urban settings in her Environmental Systems course.

"Because of the high usage of cement, there is a lot of

runoff, which causes problems with backup, which can cause sanitation problems and is just generally bad for the environment because it has

a high peak flow," Cooksey said.

To learn more about RE Sources, visit [www.re-sources.org](http://www.re-sources.org).



Mark Howard, the stormwater engineering technician for the City of Bellingham, shows the depth of the storm-water holding tank located underneath the parking area directly behind Buchanan Towers East on Saturday, Jan. 16. // Photo by Ian Koppe

# A FESTIVAL OF HER OWN

Devin DeGagne  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Music emanates up the narrow stairwell from the basement of Make.Shift Art Space as local music lovers venture down to experience Miniham, a miniature music festival. A crowd gathered in the dimly, but colorfully lit cellar to enjoy the sounds of a number of local artists.

Created by Western alumna Katie Gray, Miniham is a two-day-long event designed to give local musicians an opportunity to perform. The all-ages festival, held at Make.Shift, included a face painting booth, tarot card readings, a photo booth, a raffle for a ukulele and performances by over 10 artists and groups, including the men and women's a cappella groups.

"I have been a musician in Bellingham for five years now, and I reached a point where I was a part of some of my different friends' organizations and shows," Gray said, describing what inspired her to organize Miniham. "I had a moment where I was like, 'I think I can do this better.'"

Gray said she wanted to provide support for local musicians, including Western students, and give them an opportunity to play shows in Bellingham.

"Giving people an opportunity to play a show and to help promote the local scene is really important," Gray said.

During her time on campus, Gray was a part of the a cappella scene. Gray said she was a part of Major Treble for her first three years at Western. Major Treble, the women's a cappella group and Rebel Clef, the men's a cappella group, have performed at Miniham both times since it began last year.

"I love having the a cappella groups here because



Alumna Katie Gray shows the crowd of Miniham Musical Festival a ukulele that can be won in a raffle. Gray organized the event that took place on Friday, Jan. 15 and Saturday, Jan. 16. // Photo by Tyler Hillis

that's a thing that is close to my heart from my college experience," Gray said.

"Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield and "Settle Down" by Kimbra are just two of the songs Major Treble performed on Saturday, Jan. 16, during the second and final night of Miniham. With multiple vocalists and energetic attitudes, the crowd swayed to the beat and applauded every song.

Dressed in button-ups and ties, Rebel Clef, the men's a cappella group was ready to make the audience swoon over their performance. Beginning with an a cappella cover of "If I Ever Fall In Love Again" by Shai and ending on a classic rendition of "Mack The Knife" by Bobby Darin, the audience was swaying to the music throughout the performance.

Miniham is just one of the events where Major Treble and Rebel Clef will perform this year.

"We did the [International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella], just like in 'Pitch

Perfect,'" assistant director of Major Treble, Emilie Foltz said.

In addition to the a cappella groups, there were bands from all over the Pacific Northwest region, including Bygeau Noil from Denver, Colorado and Raphel from Seattle, Washington. Other bands featured at Miniham include Bailey Ann Martinet, Sam and the Savages, Bob Fossil and Moonhat performing on Friday night. JudyJustJudy, Bad Hex, Crooked Neighbours, Bygeau Noil, Mono Grace and The Katie Gray Band playing on Saturday night.

## Want more?

Visit [westerfrontonline.com](http://westerfrontonline.com) to watch VLOG: Major Treble performs

# GET TO KNOW WESTERN

Carolyn Trainer  
THE WESTERN FRONT



With each entry of Get to Know Western, The Western Front will interview students and staff for a new insight on campus life. This week we interview **Ellie Seaman**, a junior and psychology major.

**Q: What do you like to do outside of class?**

I am a doTERRA oils distributor. They're an essential oils company, and they are dominating the alternative medicine area right now. I plan on incorporating that into a practice or whatever I decide to do and incorporate Eastern medicine with my psychology degree.

**Q: What do you like about Western?**

I like the fact that personality-wise, I feel like you can meet so many different types of people here. There is an underlying theme of people being pretty chill with each other. I like that it's very accepting, I've never run into an environment where I felt really judged here.

**Q: Any extracurricular activities?**

I take barre classes a lot with my roommates. It's like a mix of Pilates, ballet and yoga. You use a ballet bar and studio and then incorporate a lot of abs and a lot of squats. It's really intense... It's worth it. They play good music, and it's probably the best workout I've ever done.

**Q: What's the best class you've ever taken at Western?**

I think my English 214 class; it was a Shakespeare class with Christopher Patton, he was awesome. He was an amazing teacher. I had done Shakespeare in high school for drama so it wasn't hard for me, but usually people have a really hard time with Shakespeare, and he made it really interesting. It was a really good class, and I really enjoyed it.

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Opinions of the Editorial Board

Break down the stigma around seeking mental health care

Our college students are experiencing a mental health crisis and they aren't seeking the help they need.

In an constantly stress-filled environment, our peers are under a constant strain to maintain a healthy lifestyle, keep up with school work, be gainfully employed, check in with family and friends and somehow at the end of it all, pack in eight hours of sleep. The weight is heavy and the toll isn't always registered on the surface.

It's easy to see how it all can become too much for many people, and it's happening across the U.S.

The statistics in a 2014 American College Health Association survey paint an uneasy picture: 33 percent of college-aged students had experienced depression in the past 12 months, 87 percent reported feeling overwhelmed by their responsibilities and 8 percent had seriously contemplated suicide.

Worse than all of this, however, is the disturbing stigma that surrounds accepting treatment for mental health. In the public sphere, depictions of those suffering from mental health issues range from being incompetent to unpredictable to dangerous, and these stereotypes have been debilitating to our culture.

This leads to discrimination against these people, and in turn, to stigma. We have come

to a point where diseases or disorders of the mind are seen as embarrassing weaknesses, and often times rather than seeking help, many disregard or hide their issues. Here, we have failed as a culture. Here, we must remedy these beliefs.

The question, of course, is why this happens. Is it our ideal of rugged individualism? The call to pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and get over it? The answer is that no person should have to go it alone. Just as any other sick organ sometimes requires professional medical help, so does the brain.

More than ever before, there is a substantial and pressing need to unshackle ourselves from the stigma of seeking help for mental health services. We need to bring up our peers, realize that every life is deserving of stability and often times the answer is a simple visit to a counselor.

On Western's own campus, there exists multiple options for those who are having issues in life, including the Counseling Center, Student Health Center and BRAVE, a suicide prevention program. Even if you don't personally require their facilities, fostering a supportive community surrounding mental health can make the difference in other's lives.

Remember: we're not only here to fill our brains, but to keep them happy as well.

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

Viking Voices

How do you cope with the gloomy and dark days in Washington?



"I lock myself in my room and make music and complain to my girlfriend about how dark and gloomy it is. I listen to happy music to take away the dark and gloominess of the outside."

**Eli Wills**  
Junior and Fairhaven music and psychology concentration



"Well I'm usually on campus all day, so when it gets dark and sad I just go home because my roommates are there and it's just kind of nice to go home and take a break from everything."

**Linsey Gardner**  
Sophomore and industrial design major

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

Letter to the Editor

Gun control is a very sensitive topic, especially in our society today. There are polar extremes in how every person feels about what should be done to control the mass shootings that have become an everyday occurrence.

It is very difficult to address the issue of gun control without offending someone's values or views, however, the article concerning this issue examined the topic carefully and was very well articulated. Gun control has, oddly enough, everything to do with everyone.

There are so many shootings that occur, especially in schools, and the decision of whether to allow them on campuses will be a decision that will change the responses to gun control. Feeling safe and comfortable should be the most important outcome of the talk about what to do about gun control.

Increasing the difficulty of obtaining firearms, as President Obama intends to do, could be a huge factor in decreasing the number of possible shootings.

Gun control is a very serious topic and it should not be taken lightly and having all angles represented is very important in the process. Being informed on the status of gun control laws is very important to the well-being of all students as these laws concern all of us.

This letter to the editor was written by Courtney Carver, Western freshman and business administration major

Front Funnies



Illustration by Nikki Swift

Vikings Fantastic Four leads charge

Four women's basketball players average over 10 points per game, but they say success starts with their defense to contribute to winning record

**Ryan Parish**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The best offense is a good defense. At least that's what the leaders of the Western women's basketball team will tell you.

Despite having four players all currently averaging double-digit points per game, the players insist a good defense is the key to their success.

"Defense wins," said junior forward Tia Briggs about the Vikings' style of play. "A lot of our points honestly come off of our stops."

Behind the defense Western has enjoyed an 12-5 start to its season, with a 8-1 mark in conference play, thanks in no small part to the scoring ability of four of their veteran players.

Collectively they make up about 72 percent of the team's scoring output.

However, the players insist that it is head coach Carmen Dolfo's defense-first scheme and a focus on sharing the ball that have benefited their individual numbers.

"Carmen has no interest in outscoring other people," Taylor Peacocke said about their approach. "She wants to win off defense. We really don't look at how many points we had at the end of the game, or who had what. It's more like, 'How was our defense? How did we play together?' That's the first thing she asks us after every single game."

"It's all about 'we' all the time," Kayla Bernsen added.

That much is apparent just listening to these women talk of their teammates.

First there is Peacocke, whom Dolfo has praised for her switch to the team's primary point guard after playing most of her career in a shooting guard role.

Peacocke is the team's leading scorer over the last two seasons. She leads by example and brings a quiet intensity to the court.

"There's something in her eyes that's there, there's so much passion," Bernsen says laughing. "She's the hardest worker on the floor."

Briggs agreed. "She's someone everyone



Western's Kiana Gandy, Kayla Bernsen and Tia Briggs stand for a portrait after a game against Simon Fraser University (Taylor Peacocke not pictured) // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

can depend on to be there," Briggs said. "Seeing her work hard inspires other people to do the same and

PLAYER POINT AVERAGES

- Kiana Gandy**  
10.2 PPG
- Tia Briggs**  
11.1 PPG
- Kayla Bernsen**  
11.2 PPG
- Taylor Peacocke**  
15.6 PPG

work hard for her."

If Peacocke is the team's quiet passion, then Bernsen is the team's rowdy, emotional leader. A 6'3 center, she brings the most experience to the team as well as a fire her teammates say they feed off.

"What I really love about Kayla is that she's passionate about everything. It brings excitement to the

game," Briggs said of her fellow player. "She's honestly our loudest person on the team as well as the person who is our spirit-starter. She gets everyone pumped up."

Peacocke talked about Bernsen's presence in the post.

"Her presence on the floor opens everything up," Peacocke said of Bernsen. "In the majority of the games we've played, Kayla gets doubled or tripled and she gets the ball out. That's why our inside-out game is so important. They start shutting down our guards and Kayla gets hot."

Briggs is the more fun-loving member of the group. Described by her teammates as goofy and sweet, Briggs is the team's Swiss Army knife. She rolls back in her seat with laughter often throughout the meeting.

"I think Tia could be the leading score post on any other team, but for us I'm on the block a lot," Bernsen said. "Tia can drive, even though she might not look a really good driver, but she's amazing. And she can shut down the best driver on any other team."

Not only is she versatile on offense, but also on defense.

"Tia's the most flexible person we have. If we need her to guard a guard, she'll

the hoop. [On defense] she does have to guard the best player on the team, and she doesn't care. She steps up and she wants that job."

Having four players who

*"We just adjust to whatever comes our way and I think that's pretty indicative of how we play."*

**Senior Kayla Bernsen**

guard a guard. If we need her to be on the perimeter, she'll be on the perimeter. If we need her on the block, she'll be on the block," Peacocke added of Briggs.

The last member of the group is Kiana Gandy. Her teammates speak highly of her defensive prowess, handling skills and ability to be the level head of the group.

"Kiana's just hard to guard," Peacocke said of Gandy, eliciting laughter from Briggs and Bernsen. "She's so strong and so de-liberate. When she has her eyes on that basket, you're not going to come between her and putting that ball in

can score has helped alleviate some of the pressure off the offense and allows the Vikings to take better shots. This shows with the Vikings leading the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in field goal percentage with a 39 percent conversion rate.

With 12 games left in the year, the players are confident they can face any challenges that come their way down the stretch.

"Things don't always go the way you plan, but we're used to it now," Bernsen said. "We just adjust to whatever comes our way and I think that's pretty indicative to how we play."

# Seahawks' season ends, but not without hope

The Seahawks are eliminated from the playoffs, look forward to 2016

Ryan Parish

THE WESTERN FRONT

I know most of you are still grieving. Trust me, I get it.

After a Murphy's law of a first half, the Seahawks' season came to an end at the hands of the Carolina Panthers.

Perhaps the most excruciating part was that the Seahawks were able to make a game of it in the second half. They gave fans hope that they might somehow pull it out.

That has many fans asking the same soul-crushing question they were left asking at the end of Super Bowl 49: What if?

It's the same question that seemed to hang over the entire season for the Seahawks.

What if they had given Marshawn Lynch the ball? What if he had been healthy this year? What if Kam Chancellor had shown up to mini-camp instead of holding out? What if the Seahawks had been able to close out games early in the season? What if Jimmy Graham hadn't gone down in Week 12? What if the Seahawks had never traded for him at all and kept Max Unger?

These are the type of questions that keep us sports fans up at night.

Sunday's game was ugly and exposed a lot of what was wrong with this Seahawks team.

But don't lose hope, Seahawks fans. You still have a lot of great things to look forward to.

For starters, all of the young talent is coming back. The Seahawks have locked up all of its core players for the next several years. Russell Wilson, Richard Sher-

man and Chancellor are all 27. Earl Thomas is 26. Bobby Wagner is 25.

Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril combined for 19 sacks this year and are still considered one of the fiercest pass-rushing duos in the league.

Wilson continues to develop. After a slow start to the year, the light came on for the Seahawks offense as they entered the play-off push. Wilson became the first player to compile

*Don't lose hope, Seahawks fans. You still have a lot of great things to look forward to. For starters, all of the young talent is coming back.*

4,000 passing yards, 500 rushing yards and throw for 30 touchdowns in a single season, showcasing his unique skillset. After losing Graham, he and Doug Baldwin evolved into a lethal combination, connecting for 11 TDs during a five week span towards the end of the season.

The Seahawks have an exciting new rivalry. The 49ers turned into a joke this last year and left many Seahawks fans missing the thrill of having a yearly rival to compete with. The Panthers seem to have answered the call. The Seahawks had won the four previous meetings since 2012 prior to this year. If both teams continue to play at the levels they did this year, we could have one of the next great rivalries on our hands.

One negative was Lynch

getting hurt for most the year and only amassed 417 yards rushing with 3.8 yards per carry, his worst numbers as a pro.

Enter Thomas Rawls.

An undrafted rookie out of Central Michigan University, Rawls quickly became a fan favorite by giving a jolt to the Seahawks running game that had grown stagnant without Lynch. He produced over 800 yards with a 5.6 YPC average before his season was also cut

give the Seahawks offense hope.

However, there is work to be done.

The Seahawks offensive line is atrocious. Russell Okung was a Pro Bowler in 2012, but has not always played like it since and has been injury prone. He's also a free agent. The Seahawks should bring him back if possible if only because they have nobody prepared to replace him. Guard J.R. Sweezy is an unrestricted free agent and starting center Patrick Lewis is a restricted free agent.

The interior of the Seahawks defensive line, Brandon Mebane and Ahtyba Rubin are also free agents. So is edge player Bruce Irvin and cornerback Jeremy Lane.

The Seahawks will be unable to bring all of them back. Okung and Lane are the two most important. Okung is tough to replace and Lane's ability to play the nickelback position proved valuable for the Seahawks after he returned from injury.

The Seahawks will not have a lot of cap space with a lot of their money going to the core players that have signed huge contracts in the past two years.

They could potentially target some free agent linemen, guards Alex Boone or Ramon Foster could provide some improvement if they decide to leave their teams.

That means a lot of work will need to go into the Seahawks projected nine draft picks this year.

That said, the Seahawks have one of the best front offices in the NFL and will more than likely prove up to the task.

Until then, seven months until Seahawks football.

## SEAHAWKS SEASON REVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

11-7 RECORD OVER-ALL

237 PASSING YARDS PER GAME

142 RUSHING YARDS PER GAME

210 PASSING YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

82 RUSHING YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

# A cross-country road trip- on two wheels

Western cycling club team member Jim Labayen reflects on his cycling trip to San Diego

Morgan Stilp-Allen  
THE WESTERN FRONT

It was Dec. 13, in Clatsop County, somewhere along Southbound 101. Precipitous clouds were dumping their contents forcefully. The wind whipped and the rain fell sideways, but a lone cyclist braved the elements in order to reach his destination.

Western student and member of Western's Cycling Club, Jim Labayen began the fourth day of a 1,661-mile journey to San Diego and succumbing to the poor weather conditions meant giving up on the trip of a lifetime. He carried with him two waterproof bags that hung off the side of his bike, he said. Inside were two dehydrated meals—for emergencies—a day's supply of food, a flask, two pairs of cycling clothes and a casual outfit, Labayen said.

The mileage plan for the fourth day was 80 percent of what he would accomplish on his longest day of the trip, but his hands and feet were numb and the rain felt like needles against his skin, Labayen said. The waterproof clothing he brought for his journey was already failing, but his waterproof bags sheltered his belongings as long as he packed them tightly enough, Labayen said.

A couple of days into the trip and the weather was threatening to doom his plans. He could have easily given up, called it quits and gone home to spend the duration of his winter break in Gig Harbor,

Washington, but returning was the last thing on his mind, Labayen said. He tilted his head forward and proceeded to grind out 55 miles against a 45 mph headwind, he said. By sunset, he reached Tillamook, Oregon, he said.

"I quickly found out during the trip that you cannot plan 26 consecutive days in a row. I scrapped a lot of the plans and ended up going by feel and just making a plan for the day or the next couple of days," Labayen said.

Labayen longest day was 104 miles from Arcata, California to Leggett, California. "I put myself through so many things that other people would not consider doing and that's the way I like it," he said.

Labayen said travelling by bike was more beneficial than a car.

"You don't just blaze by it at 50 mph," Labayen said.

"You really get a sense of what the earth feels like. You feel the wind on your face you feel the rays of sunshine. Even the worst aspects of it, feeling wet, you know what it feels like to be out there instead of being trapped in this metal box that isolates you from nature. Nature can be horrible and nature can be really good too."

Labayen was familiar with persevering through a challenging situation and would go on to complete his trek from Gig Harbor, Washington to San Diego, California in 26 days, he said. Labayen wasn't a stranger to long distance bike tours. Labayen completed a 400-mile Olympic Peninsula tour in September 2013 and another 750-mile tour throughout the Puget Sound and the Cascades in September 2014, so it was no surprise to his girlfriend, Dana Hasert, that he embarked on the journey.

"He was working all summer so he didn't get a chance to go out and travel," Hasert



Jim Labayen takes a break from his trip to pose for a picture at Hermosa Beach Pier in Los Angeles // Courtesy of Jim Labayen

said. "It's definitely something I want to try. I feel inspired."

Labayen knew what he wanted his trip to be about as soon as he started planning it.

"I wanted this trip to be less about myself and more about learning about people and learning about the world," Labayen said.

Labayen knew he didn't want an easy cycling trip.

"People bike tour all the time with no gear on their bike and they settle down at hotels every single day and they eat glorious meals. I'm not into that," Labayen said.

Besides staying with family and friends in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San

*"You don't just blaze by it at 50 mph...you really get a sense of what the earth feels like."*

Jim Labayen

Diego, Labayen was able to stay with hosts provided by a program called Warmshowers, a free system that allows touring cyclists the opportunity to stay free of charge in exchange for your future hospitality, he said.

"In general when you're a guest you're expected to give back a little bit, whether it's a knowledge of storytelling or skills that you might pass on

or just helping out around the house," Labayen said.

Labayen was able to make it to San Diego and plans on completing more cycling tours in the future, including a trip across Oregon next summer from Portland to Bend to Hood River. He also eventually plans to tackle the Continental Divide Tour that extends from Banff, Alberta to Mexico, he said.

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