



**ICE CLIMBING:
"CLIMB INTO
THE NEW YEAR."**

FEATURES, PG. 11



**ALUMNI COOL
DOWN WITH NEW
BUSINESS**

FEATURES, PG. 8-9



**MEN'S BASKET-
BALL TEAM
WINS CRUCIAL
GAME**

SPORTS, PG. 13

THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 178, Issue 1

westernfrontonline.com | @TheFrontOnline

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Future of living costs unclear with wage increase

Economists predict little change, yet students worry



Employees at Aslan Brewing Company serve food during the dinner rush Monday, Jan. 9. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

Asia Fields

THE WESTERN FRONT

Increasing prices, understaffing and the takeover of automation.

These are some of the worries community members have about the state's recent minimum

wage increase to \$11. Those optimistic about the change argue it provides a better quality of life to minimum wage earners and are anticipating an increase in local spending.

Initiative 1433 was approved Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016 in Washington,

with 57.42 percent of voters supporting the increase in the hourly minimum wage. The minimum wage is set to increase incrementally until it reaches \$13.50 per hour by the beginning of 2020.

The Washington Office of Financial Man-

agement predicts that without the initiative, the minimum wage would have risen to only \$10.28 per hour by 2020 to adjust for inflation.

Adam Wright, associate professor in economics who studies labor, warns the Washington increase is "unprec-

edented" in how large it is, but believes significant price increases are unlikely.

Some local student workers remain worried, including Lucia Gomez-Elegido, who works at AB Crepes. She believes that with wage increases, businesses will cut the amount of hours they offer to employees.

"As a small business, it's drastically impacting us on how many hours people work," Gomez-Elegido said.

Gomez-Elegido also feels the wage increase will slow small business growth.

"We're constantly trying to improve our supply with more organic foods, local foods. But as that price goes up, we can't [afford] that, which is unfortunate because there's so much potential," Gomez-Elegido said.

see *WAGES*, page 3

Western Gallery showcases privacy exhibit

Two collections expose privacy issues

Sophie Miller

THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western Gallery is exploring timely and important questions surrounding privacy and surveillance through a new exhibit, including a collection called "The Neighbors," and another collection of pieces curated by Lee Plested called "In the Open."

"The Neighbors" collection is a series of photographs taken by Arne Svenson from his apartment in Tribeca, New York. He captured small, everyday scenes

see *GALLERY*, page 5

Mathes Hall floods, residents rushed from building

Joshua DeJong

THE WESTERN FRONT

Mathes Hall residents were evacuated from their dorm rooms after fire alarms were set off when a valve failure caused water to flood down the street near the bike storage, Western's director of Communications Paul Cocke said.

At 1:04 a.m., Monday Jan. 9, the alarm automatically tripped

when an auxiliary drain valve broke. There was no damage to resident housing areas.

A second alarm sounded briefly at 3:10 a.m. as the fire system was being cleared, Cocke said.

Both University Police and the Bellingham Fire Department responded to the emergency, Cocke said.

Sophomore Rachel

Hay was in the building as it was being evacuated.

"The stairs were really busy, and there wasn't a lot of order, we were all just filing down," Hay said. "If it were a serious emergency, I don't know if it would have been a good situation."

Students living in Mathes were left wondering what happened because no explanation was provided at

the time.

"I thought it was flooding because I could see water going down, but I wasn't actually sure what had happened. We didn't really get an explanation, they just said 'OK, go get back in bed,'" sophomore Spencer Mills said.

With the flooding being outside, the cost of damages is likely to be low, Cocke said.



A reimagining of the flood in Mathes Hall. // Illustration by Darby Womack



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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Look for the special Friday the 13th "Thrills" issue of the Western Weekend, on racks Thursday, Jan. 12

IT'S ALL GOOD ON MOUNT HOOD



Climbers scale their way across glaciers on Mount Hood May 7, 2015. Mt. Hood reaches 12,245 feet, making in the tallest mountain in the state of Oregon. // Photo by Edward Clem

Cops Box



Jan. 2, 12:04 p.m.

A lawyer was found to be taking money from clients without providing any legal services in the 1200 block of Lakeway Drive.

Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.

A person reported being robbed by two people wearing masks in the 700 block of Lakeway Drive. One of the robbers was reported as carrying a black semi-automatic pistol.

Jan. 7, 3:21 p.m.

Officers responded to the report of a possible vehicle theft in the 2700 block of West Maplewood Avenue. The investigation found that an ex-girlfriend took the vehicle of her boyfriend after she discovered his vehicle at another female's residence.

Jan. 8, 2:32 a.m.

A person was reported as being disorderly in the 1300 block of Railroad Avenue and tried to enter the vehicle of someone who didn't know them.

Jan. 4, 4:17 p.m.

Officers were dispatched to an apartment building in the 400 block of York Street after a resident reported strange smells coming into the complex.

Jan. 7, 1:35 p.m.

A residents of the 3100 block of Studio Lane called to report an arrow lodged in the wall of their porch.

Jan. 7, 7:18 p.m.

A person was contacted for urinating in front of the businesses in the 1200 block of East Sunset Drive. They were issued a trespass warning from the businesses in the square.

Jan. 8, 9:57 p.m.

A business owner reported that three unknown people threw rocks through their window and at their sign in the 1500 block of Kentucky Street the night before.

Compiled by Gwen Roley

EVENTS

What: COSMOS: Road to Moonshine with Bob Fossil and House of Blue Leaves
Where: Wild Buffalo
When: Doors open at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, music starts at 9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5, advanced
The Wild Buffalo will be hosting COSMOS for their first show of 2017. This genre-busting Seattle hip-hop group is looking to start off another great year after winning the Experience Music Project's "Sound Off!" contest.

What: Alien Tradition with Nicholas Galanin
Where: Fraser Hall, 201
When: 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12
Cost: Free
In this lecture, Galanin will discuss how his art references the alien tradition of settlers bringing beliefs of supremacy and disregard to Indigenous land. After the lecture there will be an opening reception for Galanin's exhibition, "We Dreamt Deaf," at the VU Gallery. The exhibition will remain on display until Jan. 26.

What: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Conference
Where: Syre Center, Whatcom Community College
When: Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, the event begins 10:00 a.m. and goes to 3:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
The event will include skill-building workshops and speeches for and by members of the community. Western's president, Dr. Sabah Randhawa, will give a speech about his commitment to diversity and inclusion and the Associate Dean for Woodring College of Education, Dr. Karen Dade, will give the keynote speech in the afternoon.

The Western Front

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The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring quarters and summer. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University and is published by the Student Publications Council. It is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection to advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are involved in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

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.

Understaffing and automation a threat with new wages

continued from page 1

The uncertainty surrounding potential price increases worries Gomez-Elegido, despite economists like Wright predicting little change.

"My income will be a little bit more, but it probably won't be enough to fully compensate for the prices going up," Gomez-Elegido said.

Wright said increasing prices could be possible in businesses that lack competition. This especially applies to small businesses for which paying workers is their greatest expense.

"The biggest issue long term is that as people become more expensive as an input to production, machinery or automation looks relatively cheaper," Wright said.

Automation is inevitable, according to Wright. Wage increases may simply speed up the process.

"I think there will be a short term benefit to most workers working low paying jobs. I think the prices will increase a little bit but not necessarily on par with the new amount they're making, so they'll feel a little better off," said Wright. "But in the long term this could mean the jobs they used to have won't

exist anymore."

Jack Lamb, CEO and owner of Aslan Brewing Company, which employs a number of Western students, is optimistic about the future. He said all of the Aslan owners voted yes for the initiative.

Lamb's background is in economics and he believes as minimum wage workers earn more money, they will start to spend more at local businesses like his own.

"We have no plans yet to increase anything in terms of prices, cutting hours or cutting number of employees," Lamb said. "We're really going to see and cross our fingers that the economics works out, and equilibrium is found again."

Lamb said businesses that give employees minimum wage and rely on tips to increase their wages will likely experience a more drastic impact. Due to Aslan's success and his financial planning, Lamb finds he has room to take risks, which may be more difficult for smaller businesses and those in different sectors.

For Western, implementing the changes has proven challenging. However, human resources and the Student Employment Center have ensured that all employees eligible for

the \$11 per hour wage are now receiving it.

"Discussions are underway to determine if there is additional funding that can be provided to support this wage increase. The state has not provided additional funding for the work study program," Barbara Luton, Student Employment Center manager said.

As Western works to incorporate the wage increase, changes have been unclear to many student workers.

McKenzie Rugo, who works for Extended Education at Western, is a student who made more than minimum wage before the increase, raising issues on fairness of wage increases.

Before this year, she made \$10.50 per hour, which was around \$1 more than minimum wage. Rugo said she is now making the new minimum wage, but said she and her supervisors did not discuss the changes.

Despite this, Rugo welcomes the increase in wage.

"It was really hard to live off of our minimum wage, which is actually high. So I'm pretty pleased that they're starting to make the change," Rugo said.

At Aslan, while Lamb noted many employees were making more than minimum wage be-

fore this year, he said that there are no plans to make up for this difference. For him, this change is welcome, and he feels his employees will understand it's about doing what is best for the community.

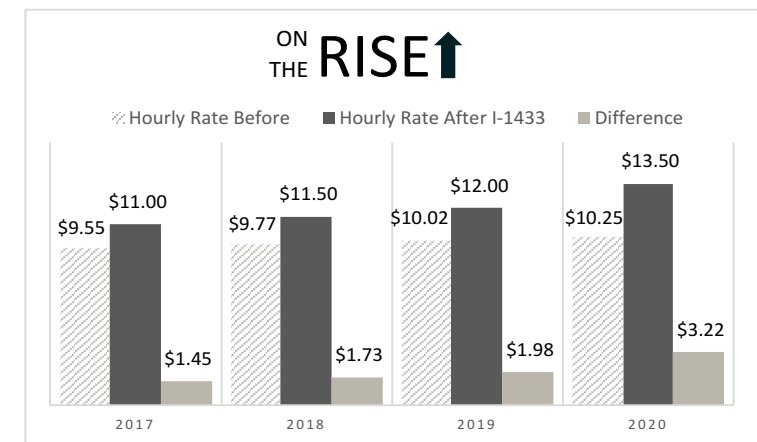
"That's the kind of community we're trying to build here," Lamb said. "Now we can all live very well and that's a good thing."

Western is examining the wage schedule and employee classifications, which can be found on the Student Employment Center website. The classification guidelines scale seeks to organize employees on basis of factors such as difficulty of

work, amount of responsibility and training required.

These classifications then inform employers of a minimum and maximum amount student employees may make, giving employers the discretion to award raises within the boundaries. The Student Employment Center said there is not a wage freeze in place, but supervisors must adhere to the wage schedule system for raises.

The wage schedule has been updated to correspond with the wage increase. However, the Student Employment Center said they are continuing to work on determining which model might "best fit going forward."



Infographic by Brie Cleveland

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Rule Changes to Student Rights and Responsibilities Code Chapter 516-21 WAC

Proposed changes include:

Repealing section 516-21-320 WAC titled Relationship of the Code to University Residences.

Adding a new section on amnesty in order to clarify the current practice of encouraging students to seek medical assistance and/or report sexual violence without fear of punishment through the code.

Adding a new section regarding violation of university policy, rule, or regulation.

Updates to sections regarding alcohol; drugs and paraphernalia; and weapons and destructive devices to better align with recent changes to state law.

New sections that better define prohibited conduct related to Title IX.

New violation section for notification of criminal arrest to match admissions application question and comply with changing state law.

Updates to the process for violations of the code.

To view the proposed changes, please see <http://lawfilesexp.leg.wa.gov/law/wsr/2017/01/17-01-127.htm>

Public comment will be heard at the time of the hearing and written comments may be submitted through January 24, to Jennifer Sloan, Rules Coordinator, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225-9015, e-mail Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu, or faxed to (360) 650-6197.

For further questions or to request disability accommodations, please contact Sloan at 360-650-3117.

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Huxley gains national recognition

College's Urban Planning Program awarded by the Planning Accreditation Board

Alex Martinez
THE WESTERN FRONT

This past December, Huxley College's Urban Planning Program was awarded with a national accreditation by the Planning Accreditation Board, placing the program alongside only 15 other universities worldwide.

Western is the third university in the state to have been accredited for the program, along with Eastern Washington University and the University of Washington. The Urban Planning Program was established in

the 1960s and is older than Huxley College itself.

"We're really happy to be the second accredited program in Washington because Washington state has a very progressive planning policy, the growth management Act, and it requires all communities to do planning under that act," Nicholas Zaferatos said.

Urban planning programs allow students to apply environmental studies to real-life situations by working through transportation, population and other issues.

Senior Thomas Tague

is an Urban Planning and Sustainable Design major.

"There's a number of jobs in larger cities looking for students who have a degree from an accredited university, so it opens up a lot of other job opportunities for me after school," Tague said. "It increases my respect for the program knowing I am getting the best education I can for what I want to do."

"It's a very prestigious designation for Western and for Huxley College," Zaferatos said.

Students applying to the program are encouraged to

submit a portfolio to show their interest in the program. They can also show their writing, drawing or community service.

Most planning programs are professional masters programs, so Western is unique in that it's one of the only accredited undergraduate planning programs, Hollenhorst said.

"The purpose of this program is to train students to become professional planners," Zaferatos said. "It's a professional degree program and students find employment doing planning work in the private sector,

working with consulting firms, but more so in the public sector," Zaferatos said.

Hollenhorst said students, faculty and the college community were supportive of the initiative to submit a proposal to get the program accredited.

"I was just following the faculty and students in supporting them however I could," Hollenhorst said. "It was really the vision of some of the faculty saying 'we need this program to be accredited.'"

Western student wins prestigious award

Isabelle Morrison
THE WESTERN FRONT

Audrey Cheung, a chemistry major, was shocked when she and her faculty advisor, associate professor John Gilbertson, won an award from the American Chemical Society for a research project published with surprising speed.

At first, Cheung and Gilbertson were interested in researching reactions between copper compounds and molecules such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and oxygen.

Their original plan didn't work, but during her research, Cheung had discovered some rare copper compounds with structures they hadn't seen before.

Copper is found in many

metal enzymes that have important functions in life and the environment, and can be reproduced in an industrial setting.

"Research is a funny game," Gilbertson said. "You start out with a goal in mind but usually there's a fork in the road and you have to make a decision on what to do."

The team decided to further investigate the unique compounds. Within a year, they had wrapped up the project and had it published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, "Chemical Communications" by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

"It's a team award but really it's the student's work that is driving the reason why the award is won," Gilbertson

said.

Sponsored by the American Chemical Society, the award is given to one student from an undergraduate-focused school each year.

It is rare for an undergraduate to finish and publish a research project as quickly as Cheung did, Gilbertson said. Getting published typically takes a student three to four years.

For the majority of the project, Gilbertson was away on sabbatical, a paid period of leave, at the University of California, working on electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy. He and Cheung worked together through phone and email.

"You have to know when to cut bait and when to actually pursue something, I think

having the right quality control there is key," Gilbertson said. "But independence of thought is really the driver of whether or not something is going to be successful."

Cheung enjoys the exploration and unpredictability science offers.

"It's like following recipes or making up your own," Cheung said. "I think that part is fun, it allows a lot of room for creativity. We don't know what won't work until we do it, that's the challenge."

Cheung, who is originally from Hong Kong, transferred to Western from Whatcom Community College because of its science program.

She is currently working toward her master's degree. Cheung hopes to eventually earn a Ph.D. and go on to

research the development of low-cost and efficient renewable energy.

Assistant professor of chemistry, Robert Berger, did the computations for Cheung and Gilbertson's project.

"The fact that Audrey and John have won such a prestigious award is great for our department," Berger said. "I think it's well deserved by both of them and it speaks to the strength of the research that happens throughout the department."

Cheung will accept the award at the society's National ACS meeting in April, where she will also give a speech at the Frontiers in Undergraduate Research symposium.

Gallery displays surveillance issues

continued from page 1

neighbors as they went about their daily life.

The collection was eventually published and those photographed realized his photo series featured their private lives. Svenson was sued, but the New York Supreme Court found that his First Amendment rights outweighed his neighbors' rights to privacy.

The collection addresses timely issues of privacy in an ever-globalizing world. Svenson used modern technology, a camera, to capture scenes many feel should be private. The reaction of those being photographed speaks to how living in a media-centered world causes anxiety, stress and worry.

"It is, to my mind, a fascinating work because it's so beautiful, so sophisticated, photography so well composed and very problematic work," said Hafthor Yngvason, director of Western's Gallery.

The exhibits work together to present a well-rounded examination of privacy issues and surveillance in modern culture.

One piece featured in the

exhibit is Dries Depoorter's "Jaywalkers." The piece is a collection of images taken from surveillance cameras at stoplight intersections in Seattle. It shows the overwhelming presence of surveillance in our daily lives.

"Stoppage," a piece by Antonia Hirsch, is a physical representation of geographical borders. This piece was the favorite of student Natalie Hall because she found it to be a really good abstract representation of borders.

When Yngvason decided the show needed a second exhibit, he contacted Lee Plested, a Western Gallery curator, to pull together pieces from a variety of artists to create "In the Open." The second exhibit addresses how people are constantly under surveillance in our modern society.

Surveillance and privacy issues were brought to the forefront during the last presidential election, due to the actions of Edward Snowden and organizations like WikiLeaks and Anonymous.

"Surveillance is one of the most important topics right now. It is a very complicated issue," Yngvason



"The Neighbors" features a collection of photographs of subjects captured through their windows. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

said.

Chris Casquilho, manager of marketing and special events for Western's College of Fine and Performing Arts, found the complementary nature of the two exhibits working together to be the most intriguing.

Casquilho noted an important detail about the collections, "This was the first thing that inspired the second thing, but one is not

primary and one is not secondary."

Hall thought the "In the Open" exhibit was less invasive than the others, especially because in some pieces you can't tell who anyone is, but they're real people.

Casquilho summed up the theme of the exhibit, "That's kind of what this whole show is about. We're talking about what can be seen, and these guys can be

seen from the street." Casquilho said.

The Gallery will be hosting an opening reception and panel discussion on surveillance on Tuesday, Jan. 10. There will be a variety of other events hosted by the Gallery between now and when the exhibits close on March 10.

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SURVEILLANCE AND VOYEURISM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 5:00PM AT THE WESTERN GALLERY
Opening reception and Panel discussion with artists Garry Neill Kennedy and Evan Lee and Andrea Gogrof, Professor of Liberal Studies.

CYBER-SURVEILLANCE: WHO'S WATCHING US ONLINE, AND DOES IT EVEN MATTER?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 5:00PM AT THE WESTERN GALLERY
Public lecture by Shay Colson, Cybersecurity Engineer who focuses on the design and implementation of large-scale new technology deployments. Discussion will follow.
The event is presented in connection with the exhibitions In the Open and The Neighbors.



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Local documentary seeks to inspire change

Haley Ausburn
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the 1980s, Stoney Bird was a lawyer working for Mobil Oil. Today, he is hoping to inspire Bellingham locals to fight for nature using a documentary titled, "We the People 2.0."

Lifelong bird environmentalist Rick Dubrow hosted a screening and discussion of the documentary on Friday, Jan. 6 at the Bellingham Public Library.

"The movie is all about rights of nature," Dubrow said. "By all measures of environmental health, things are worse than they were in the 70s. I came to understand it was the structure of law in the way."

The documentary, first featured in the Seattle Film Festival, shows people's disappointment for how municipal powers are unable to handle issues like fracking, coal exports and corporate interest.

It looks at what was a small, non-profit law firm called the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, which now hosts statewide coalitions and international work.

About 30 people showed up for the screening, in-

cluding Bellingham Council Member April Barker and members of the Occupy Bellingham movement. Occupy Bellingham is a group that aims to oppose the unregulated corporate structures they say are derailing America's democracy.

Afterward, Bird, Dubrow and other attendees discussed plans to further the messages being shown in the documentary.

Bird's role as a corporate critic is a stark contrast from years of work as a corporate lawyer.

"Part of me wishes I'd gotten where I am now much more directly," Bird said. "But having spent almost 20 years acting as a corporate lawyer I have some insight into what they're up to."

Bird and Dubrow are no strangers to Bellingham environmentalism. The two were active in Living Democracy, an organization that attempted to pass a Community Bill of Rights in 2012, which focused on banning coal trains in the city.

Bird and Dubrow received 10,000 signatures for the Community Bill of Rights, which was double what they needed, Bird



Community members gather Jan. 6, 2017 at the Bellingham Public Library for a showing of "We the People 2.0." // Photo by Haley Ausburn

said. But the city, and later the Board of Appeals, did not let the bill make it on the ballot.

Change on a local level isn't always easy, Bird said. Protecting the environment through local government can be a challenge because of something called "Dillon's Law."

The law says local governments can only do what the state allows, Bird said.

"There's often a feeling that the most responsive part of your government

is local. But they can't really do anything for you on things that count in a big way."

Jeanie Birchall and Penny Chambers attended both the documentary screening and the discussion.

"Consciously or unconsciously, we all know pollution is happening and have felt like there is nothing we can do about it," Birchall said. "Well, [the movie shows] there is something we can do about it. So this was really heartening to

me." Chambers saw this screening and panel as hope for a new movement.

"I think the time is perfect, because we are all frightened by what this new government has in store for us," Chambers said.

Bird and Dubrow will have two more showings on Monday, Jan. 16 at Whatcom Community College and March 16 at the Pickford Film Center.

Pot shops explore payment methods



Local cannabis shop Trove Cannabis uses technology within its business Monday, Jan. 9. // Photo by Alex Powell

Jacob Land
THE WESTERN FRONT

Buying marijuana in Bellingham might become easier this year.

In late December, local cannabis shop 2020 Solutions became one of Washington state's first recreational cannabis stores to start using a method of payment other than cash, according to the Bellingham Business Journal.

Instead, the store has started using an app called CanPay. CanPay allows customers to preload their account and then scan their phone on a receiving device

in retailers who accept the payment method.

2020 Solutions was reached for comment, but did not respond in time for publication.

Since Washington state legalized cannabis, retailers have had to conduct business on a cash-only basis. Cannabis is not currently legal under federal law, leading to issues with federally insured banks conducting business with cannabis shops.

The only cost to the customer is a 99 cent annual service fee, according to CanPay's website. This method may have the potential to be well received. Some com-

panies have allowed certain cards but they often charge customers and retailers swiping fees.

Phillip Olson, an employee at Trove Cannabis, said CanPay would streamline the payment process by providing alternative methods, but he would want to make sure it was safe for their customers and well researched.

"In order for us to progress, people have to know why we're at where we're at with the lack of federalization," Olsen said.

Having a better understanding of why things are the way they are will help with issues and stigmas sur-

rounding the cannabis industry, Olsen said.

Rory Hogan is the manager of a local cannabis shop called Green Leaf. Hogan and his employees said working with banks directly would be very helpful, although an app is a nice step in that direction.

"I think a new app that allowed for card transactions would be a great help," Hogan said.

Dealing with high volumes of cash can be dangerous for employees and customers, said Aaron McShane, an employee at Green Leaf.

"Every time [cash is] transported, it's always run-

ning a risk, especially when it's a high-end business," McShane said.

In a recent letter written to the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Sen. Murray and others said only dealing in cash is "creating huge logistical and safety problems for communities across the country."

With 2020 Solutions taking progressive steps in the cannabis market and state senators pushing for legislation to make purchasing cannabis safer for all, consumers may see even greater steps as 2017 gets underway.

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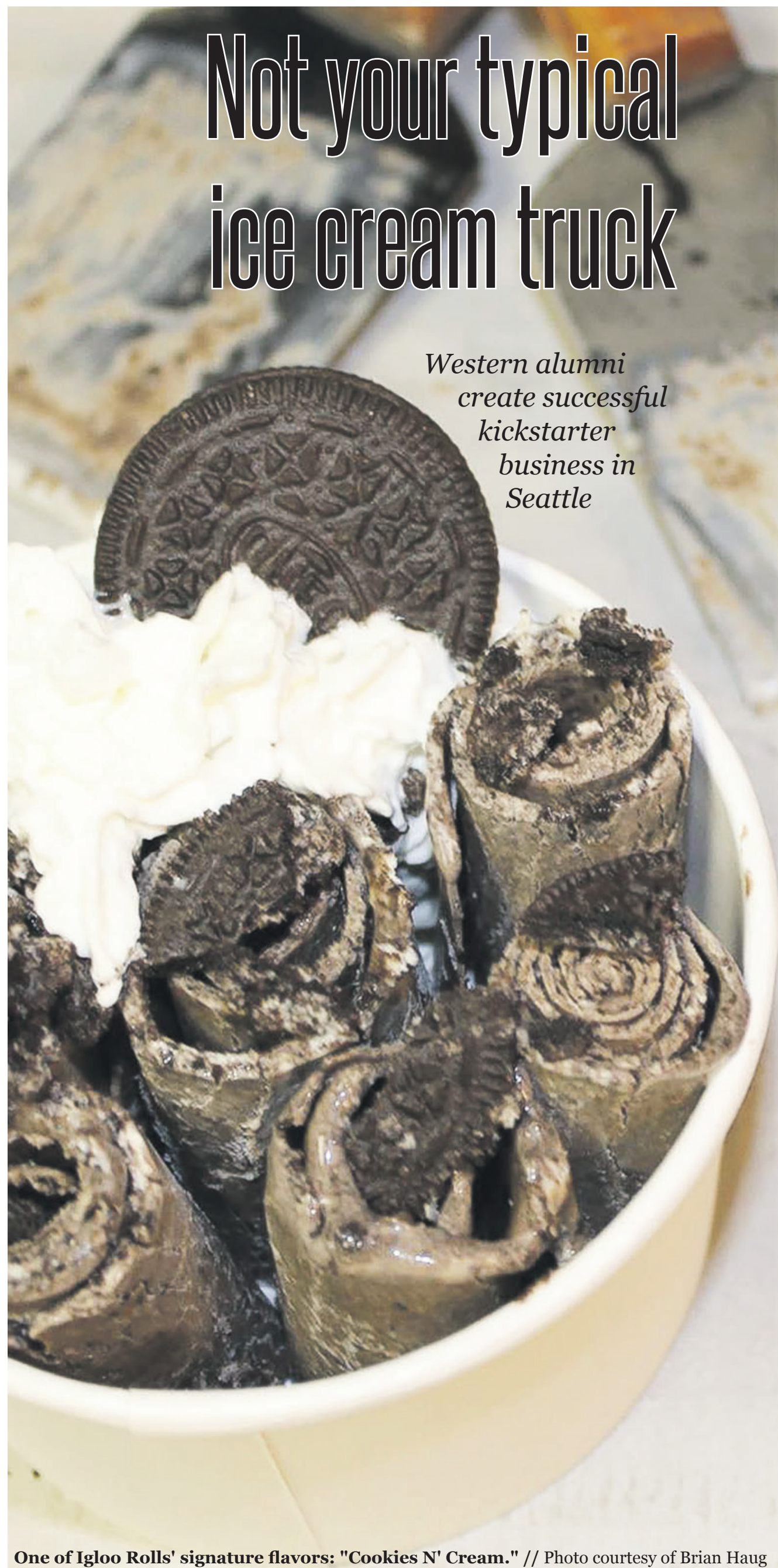
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Not your typical ice cream truck

Western alumni create successful kickstarter business in Seattle



One of Igloo Rolls' signature flavors: "Cookies N' Cream." // Photo courtesy of Brian Haug

Sascha Guenter-Schlesinger
THE WESTERN FRONT

Peculiar flavor combinations aren't the most unusual part of Igloo Rolls. Western alumni Zach Ortega and Brian Haug created their pop-up business to bring Thai ice cream rolls to the Seattle area.

Instead of offering a typical ice cream scoop, Igloo Rolls is mixing heavy cream with flavors like basil and lemon before laying it out on a chilled surface and rolling it up to be served.

Ortega saw the lack of rolled ice cream businesses in the Pacific Northwest and thought it was a good idea. "With both my brother and I being foodies and myself being an entrepreneur, we decided to go for it and see where it takes us," Ortega said.

Customers can witness the atypical process after they choose their flavor. The rolls are hand-made directly in front of them and is quite the show.

"That's the experience we want to offer with our food truck. You order your ice cream, flavors and toppings and watch it get made and rolled up right in front of you," Haug said. "We're selling more of a food experience rather than a product."

Ortega and his brother Cameron began their interest in the world of Thai ice cream through videos on social media. Starting the business was a learning process, Ortega said. After discovering the large amount of paperwork and legal aspects of owning a small business, Ortega invited Haug to join.

Ortega is Igloo Rolls' CEO and handles general operations, Haug is in charge of marketing and Cameron creates the menu and various flavors the company sells.

The team utilizes social media to spread the word about their food truck, using Instagram and Facebook. Igloo Rolls has completed two large events in the greater Seattle area and just got their own food truck last month, Haug said.

With a new truck in hand, the two hope to create a Thai ice cream trend throughout Washington.

The company's honorary taste tester and friend of the Ortega brothers, Andrew Teimouri, witnessed the amount of time put into perfecting the unusual flavors.

According to their menu, some of Igloo Roll's more unusual flavors include horchata, PB & J and vegan pina colada.

"They are very unique," Teimouri said. He particularly likes the way Igloo Rolls incorporates a mix of fresh fruit and sometimes even candy to create odd flavor mixes.

From living with the Ortega

"We're selling more of a food experience rather than a product."

Brian Haug
Marketing/Operations Director of Igloo Rolls

brothers and seeing the flavors being created, Teimouri said it is great seeing all the events the company is doing. Teimouri said the audience's response to the rolling method and the flavors has been amazing. "It's pretty damn inspiring [to watch] as a friend," Teimouri said.

Mary Bruemmer, Ortega's mother, has watched Igloo Rolls grow over the past months and is happy to see it become successful.

"Zach has been wanting to start a business since he went to Western, or even before, and I thought it sounded like a good idea," Bruemmer said.

Bruemmer said she can see her son's business expanding past Washington and down the West Coast, since the public reaction has been so positive.

"I've watched [events] and people think it is a really neat idea. It was cool to see how excited the customers were," Bruemmer said.

In terms of expansion, Haug said their next step is to tackle the eastern side of Washington state.

"We are a mobile food truck, so we're not stuck to the typical brick and mortar of one location," Haug said.

Before expansion, the two must first tackle the challenges of growing their business within the Seattle area.

Ortega said funding was difficult in the beginning since they had little income right out of college. They now have a food truck and a cart, so Igloo Rolls can be two places



The "S'mores" rolled ice cream consisting of marshmallow, fudge and graham cracker by Igloo Rolls. // Photo courtesy of Brian Haug



The "Strawberry Cheesecake" ice cream is made up of strawberries, cream cheese and graham cracker. // Photo courtesy of Brian Haug

at once.

Once further established, the two plan to revisit their alma mater and serve the Bellingham community. They hope to purchase a new food truck in time for summer, which they believe might be their busiest time.

"Going to Western and getting the background in not just marketing, but business in general, gave me the confidence to really go for it," Ortega said. "You only live life once and it's short. Why not go for it?"

THE HISTORY OF ROLLED ICE CREAM

- This dessert originated in the streets of Thailand.
- It became popular in the U.S. in early 2015.

Information according to www.businessinsider.com/



Igloo Rolls' official truck that travels throughout the Seattle area. // Photo courtesy of Brian Haug

LAUGHING AND JAMMING

Get to know Western's resident funny-man

Brooke Carlson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Whether Ruben Gomez is rocking a house show with his band or making crowds laugh with his teammates in the Dead Parrots Society, he is taking Western by storm.

With passions for teaching, music and comedy, Gomez has created quite the repertoire throughout Western's campus.

A junior majoring in mu-

sic education, Gomez participates in multiple music scenes around Western. Outside of classes, Gomez's band, The Dawn Bombs, continues to gain popularity by performing in house shows throughout Bellingham. Yet, while on campus, he spends his time playing violin in Western's orchestra.

Alex LaVallee, Gomez's teammate on the DPS and former roommate, said Go-

mez has a natural knack for seeing the humor in situations that can be pretty humorless.

LaVallee talked about a prank Gomez pulled on him when they were living together, where he tried to dress as similarly to him as possible. Gomez even shaved his head when LaVallee sheared his own hair.

Gomez said he got started in stand-up comedy and improv as a way to learn to deal with performance anxiety he faced when performing music.

Friend and bandmate Benjamin Waight said Gomez balances his obligations of upholding a music career and performing improv well.

"Ruben is a hell of a bassman," Waight said, adding that he practices his parts meticulously and is always prepared.

Since he joined the DPS team, Gomez is excited to get into the teaching part of improvisation. He plans on teaching both through the DPS as well as a workshop he designed on his own. After reading more about the art of improv, Gomez plans

to teach newcomers himself.

LaVallee has known Gomez since he first started attending the group's Tuesday meetings. Throughout the past few years, LaVallee has watched Gomez grow.

"He's got a great mind for being an educator," LaVallee said. "He gives a lot more thought into how information is passed along between people."

Neco Pacheaco, Gomez's partner as well as teammate, praised Gomez on the way he interacts with others.

"I really respect and enjoy the value he puts into his interactions with everybody," Pacheaco said. "He values people."

Gomez saw DPS perform during Summer Start his freshman year and knew he wanted to be a part of it, despite having no improv experience.

Gomez attended the club's weekly meetings for two years before being invited to join the performance team.

It was difficult at first getting into the swing of things and getting over

stage fright, but practicing helped Gomez immensely, he said.

"I'm really proud to say in these last six to eight months, I've really tackled performance anxiety and I feel pretty comfortable in front of big crowds of people," Gomez said.

Since becoming more comfortable, his desire to educate has continued to grow.

"I'm excited to learn more about improv myself, connect with students and just get that teaching experience that I feel like I've lacked," Gomez said.

Gomez isn't sure where his involvement in improv will go as he graduates and moves on from Western, seeing as music is his main passion. Yet, he still has a bucket list of comedy related activities he would like to complete, such as doing some sort of improv series at Second City in Chicago.

Regardless of what path he chooses to follow, Gomez plans on using his time at Western to teach and learn from other students about the passions they share.



Ruben Gomez. // Photo courtesy of Ruben Gomez

CLIMB TO THE TOP

Test your limits and explore the ice walls of British Columbia

Jhomarie Sadang
THE WESTERN FRONT

During winter, most people try to stay indoors to avoid Bellingham's biting cold and harsh winds. But some courageous souls may choose to brave the weather and scale frozen waterfalls during the Outdoor Center's annual ice climbing excursion, taking place Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in Lillooet, British Columbia.

Ice climbing is similar to rock climbing but instead of scaling a cliffside, you're climbing frozen waterfalls. When waterfalls or any other moving water freeze, it forms a sheet of ice solid enough to climb.

Junior Natasha Hessami, a rock climber who participated in the excursion last year, describes the act of shuffling up the waterfall as many small but difficult maneuvers requiring a lot of forearm strength.

"You have to wear crampons on your boots, which are like very spiky cleats. And you have one ice pick in each hand," Hessami said.

On the trip, staff members will place ropes at the top of the ice sheet and a belay at the bottom, which secures the participant from falling. Participants will be able to perform ice climbs all the way to the top of frozen water, said Gus Landefeld, front desk staffer at the Outdoor Center.

Hessami said she wanted to try ice climbing, but didn't know how to get started in the sport.

"It was a type of trip I could not take on my own because I had no training, so going with the Outdoor Center was a perfect introduction," Hessami said.

At the beginning of the trip, Hessami said she didn't know what she was doing. By the end of it, she was more comfortable and was able to build up a technique instead of clambering up the waterfall.

During her first ice climbing experience, all Hessami could think about was how much her arms hurt, how cold it was and how tired she was.

"Once I got to the top I was really proud of myself for accomplishing it and I definitely enjoyed the view," Hessami said.

The Outdoor Center marketing coordinator, Sarah Pearson, also went on the December trip.

"It was something I had never done before and never thought I would do," Pearson said. "Just being out there and on the ice was a once in a lifetime experience," Pearson said.

The Outdoor Center does a similar ice climbing excursion in December, which involves going to Banff, Canada for six days. Hessami attended this trip as well and mentioned the climbs were amazing, but the

conditions were colder and the trip was longer.

Since the upcoming trip is only a weekend long, there won't be any other group activities besides ice climbing. Students are allowed to relax and enjoy themselves whenever they are not climbing.

"While you're not actively climbing or belaying, there is always some down time to hangout and drink some hot coco with everyone else," Pearson said.

The trip costs \$200, which covers transportation, lodging, ice climbing gear, guidance and dinner, Landefeld said. Students have to provide their own warm clothing.

"It is a great way to get outside and do something you wouldn't be able to do on your own," Hessami said. "Everyone can go on a hike on their own, but you really can't go ice climbing on your own."

Students can sign up and pay at the Outdoor Center front desk. For more information, students can visit the Outdoor Center, located on the first floor of the Viking Union.



Emily Muth hangs out during the trip Dec. 15, 2016. // Photo by Tatsu Ota, courtesy of Sarah Pearson



Natasha Hessami scales a frozen waterfall Dec. 12, 2016. // Photo by Tatsu Ota, courtesy of Sarah Pearson



Students ready to start the excursion Dec. 11, 2016. // Photo by Tatsu Ota, courtesy of Sarah Pearson

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Frontline: Act to protect Oyster Dome

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Somehow, whenever new budgets are rolled out, it always feels like the environment is the first thing to get cut.

Gov. Jay Inslee has released his proposed budget for 2017, containing a legislative funding gap of about \$6.2 million. The gap leaves 1,600 acres of forest in the Blanchard area unprotected and at risk of logging, according to a Skagit County press release.

Blanchard Forest is an area in Skagit County. It includes the Oyster Dome hiking area, a popular 5-mile trail. Oyster Dome is known for being one of the most well-liked hiking areas locally, particularly for its views overlooking the Samish Bay.

The area was historically logged extensively until it was put into the state trust in 1925, protecting the zone from clearcutting.

And therein lies the problem.

Washington state is home to some of the most incredible natural landscapes in the nation. We are surrounded by spectacular lakes, mountains and rivers on our front doorstep. And arguably no nearby hiking area is more popular for beginner and moderate hikers than Oyster Dome, due to close location and beautiful



views.

Local voices are not silent, though. Already there are Facebook groups and activists springing up throughout the northwest. Conservation Northwest, a popular organization for land usage in the area, already has an action alert setup to directly contact legislators. The Skagit Land Trust, another conservation group dedicated to the county area, has begun advocating for direct contact with government officials as a means of action. People

are talking, as they rightfully should.

One of the difficulties that come with conservation efforts is the age-old tragedy of the commons. Everyone wants to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors, but no one wants to be the one to take responsibility. Collective action becomes difficult when everyone uses something individually, and doesn't think unitedly. We can't all take advantage without giving something in return.

We are lucky enough as is to be surrounded by

Illustration by Darby Womack

the great variety of landscapes that we are. Skiing? Mt. Baker is an hour and a half drive west. Sailing? Bellingham Bay is minutes away from campus. And if you like hiking, horseback riding or mountain biking, Blanchard Forest is one of the most easily accessible places nearby.

With that being said, it seems unnecessary for us to have to watch as the land is once again cleared away. An increasing amount of forests are already being clearcut.

Conservation International reports nearly half of the earth's forests have already been decimated, and deforestation accounts for nearly 11 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Ultimately, we take authority. Think larger than ourselves. Choose what to prioritize, and what to push to the wayside. A primary aspect of enjoying the area we live in must be taking care and being good stewards of it. Even if you aren't an avid outdoorsman, there is importance in appreciating the significance of the land others use, rely on and enjoy.

Letting our representatives know why preservation of the Blanchard Forest area is of paramount importance to their constituents is one of the best ways to enact change. It may not feel like it, but they do listen. Understanding and acknowledging the necessary protection of our lands is our best chance of keeping the places we care for untouched. Legislature was, after all, created to be representative of the people.

And if already there is outcry, more will follow. Silence so often equals acquiescence in situations like these. It's in our —and the land's— best interest to contribute.

Men's basketball sinks Alaska Anchorage

Eric Trent
THE WESTERN FRONT

Senior guard Taylor Stafford dropped 32 points and senior forward Jeffrey Parker added 21, helping the No. 24 Western men's basketball team upend the University of Alaska Anchorage 91-84.

The Vikings claimed sole possession of first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference after the battle between the two first-place teams on Saturday, Jan. 7.

"It's exciting," Western men's basketball coach Tony Dominguez said. "It's a momentum-swinger. Winning this game gives us momentum, rather than going the other way."

The Vikings were sparked by a red-hot first half from long range, hitting 7 of 13 shots from beyond the arc at a 53.8 percent clip. This includes 4-for-5 from Stafford and 3-for-4 from Parker.

"We definitely brought a lot of energy," Parker said. "We were very confident going into this one, to just show the GNAC how great our potential is."

Despite being a close match for much of the game. The Vikings seemed in control throughout the night, never feeling threatened until the final three minutes.

Excellent perimeter defense by the Vikings helped stave off the feisty Seawolves, who took their only lead of the night just before the half.

"They kept the game a little bit tight," Parker said. "We just stayed together and composed. I'm really proud of my

teammates for that."

Alaska's lead was quickly squashed as junior guard Blake Fernandez connected on two free throws to regain their advantage going into the break.

The only areas the Vikings seemed to struggle with was defending the paint and giving up second-chance opportunities.

The Vikings allowed 18 points in the paint, some uncontested, along with 12 points off offensive rebounds.

Nonetheless, the Vikings' consistency proved to be the winner as Western answered every comeback attempt the Seawolves threw at them.

Western took a 12-point lead, their largest of the night, after two free throws by sophomore guard Trey Dreschel, giving the Vikings an 80-68 lead with 3:27 left to play.

But the Seawolves wouldn't go away, with junior guard Augustus Simmers scoring 8-straight points to cut the lead to four with 1:35 left.

With 36 seconds left and the Vikings holding an 82-77 lead, Stafford elevated and drained a contested 3-pointer from the top of the key, giving Western an 8-point lead and all they would need to secure the victory.

"I've been in that kind of situation before," Stafford said. "It felt very good because there's kind of a rivalry between us."

After dropping three of their last five games, the win gives Western a league-leading 5-1 record in the GNAC and brings their overall record to 11-3.

"It means a lot because



Taylor Stafford attempts a layup against the University of Alaska Anchorage at Whatcom Pavilion Saturday, Jan. 7. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

we've been through so much," Stafford said. "We've been so down these past couple weeks. This is what we needed to get us back on that win streak we had in the beginning when we were 8-0. I'm just thankful right now."

Dominguez praised the energy and perseverance of his team, and the continuity they displayed throughout the night.

"They're trusting in the process and they're living in the moment," Dominguez

said. "That's what I love to watch, because it's fun to watch people play with passion."

The Vikings had three players in double-digit scoring.

Redshirt freshman Daulton Hommes contributed 17. Stafford and Hommes tied for a team-high of five rebounds.

UP NEXT

Western at Concordia University
When: 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12.
Where: Portland, Oregon

The Editorial Board consists of Anna Edlund, Alyssa Evans and Robert Johnson

Viking Voices

Do you have a New Year's resolution?



Junior Cassandra De Santiago, biocultural anthropology

"Work on my mental health and do better in school. It's pretty simple."



Freshman Brenna Larsen, music

"I've been balancing a few, but overall more organization and prioritization of different areas of my life and school work."



Senior Marissa Lemon, marketing and art history

"[I] really didn't make them this year. I guess to just to choose things that make me happier."



Postbaccalaureate student Garrett Knoll

"To relax more this quarter... Last quarter I was stressing out more because it was kind of like being a freshman again, so learning to relax and exercise more I guess."

Compiled by Alex Martinez

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Women's soccer staff honored



Women's soccer head coach Travis Connell. // Photo by Connor Jalbert

Jhomarie Sadang
THE WESTERN FRONT

The 2016 season is over for the Western Women's soccer team, but the winning hasn't ended yet.

The coaching staff, led by head coach Travis Connell, was named Staff of the Year by the National Soccer Coaching Association of America.

"We feel honored to receive the award," Connell said. "The team has accomplished a lot this season and we have a great support staff that helps them achieve their goals."

The award also recognized assistant coaches Claire Morgan and Jamie Arthurs, who are both former Western soccer players. The rest of the 2016 staff was made up of athletic trainer Lonnie Lyon, and former Western soccer player and volunteer, Joanna Houplin.

"It was a tremendous honor to receive that award," Morgan said. "We all complement each other really well. Travis does a really good job of allowing us to utilize our strengths

as individuals to help make the team better."

Western finished first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and completed an undefeated season with an overall record of 24-0-1. Their season was capped off by winning the first NCAA Division II Women's Soccer National Championship in school history.

Connell said with 26 players on the team, not every personality will connect with every personality. "Having a diverse staff like we do that can motivate and encourage and challenge our players that have different personalities and different motivating factors makes us much more well-rounded," Connell said.

Lyon, the team's athletic trainer for the last 11 years, was also a big help during the season. The team could not perform the best they could if players missed crucial game time, Lyon said.

"[The players have a] burning desire to be the best players they can be at all times, which means [being] injury and pain-free," Lyon said. "They were will-

Slate set for 2017 softball season

Nick Vitalis
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western softball team's 2017 schedule has been announced, which includes non-conference matchups in Utah, California and Hawaii.

The schedule also includes their annual trip to the Tournament of Champions hosted by California State University, Stanislaus, in Modesto, California. The tournament takes place over three days, from March 31 to April 2. The team will also return to the Dixie State Classic Tournament from February 9-11 to finish the non-conference season in Saint George, Utah.

The team will then take two weeks to practice before getting into the Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

GNAC play begins with four home games over two days against Montana State, Billings, on March 4 and 5, at Viking Field in Bellingham, Washington.

"Our conference has gotten stronger and stronger every year so that prepares us for the postseason," Western's softball head coach Amy Suiter said.

Last year, the team finished with a 15-13 conference record. They narrowly missed the GNAC championships, finishing one game behind fourth-place Saint Martin's University (16-12).

"[Being one game short] lights a fire, right?" Suiter said. "A lot of times, lessons aren't learned verbally. Sometimes they need to be learned in person."

The lesson? "Every single game matters. Every pitch matters," Suiter said.

Junior first baseman, Emily Benson feels confident in the ability of this team to

make the playoffs after last year's disappointing finish. Benson believes the team's strength is its passion.

"I think we have a different mindset going into this season, and we're all on the same page, so I really think this year we're going to bring it all to our games," Benson said. The Vikings have a deep pitching rotation this year, Suiter said. The team is returning two pitchers, junior Makinlee Sellevold and sophomore Shearyna Labasan. There will also be two freshman pitchers stepping up: Paityn Cyr and Anna Kasner.

Depth at the pitching position is important in Division II softball, as most games are doubleheaders, sometimes on back-to-back days.

"Doubleheaders are tough. You have to have two or hopefully three strong pitchers," Suiter said. "Having four deep this year will be huge."

The lineup also will be rich with experienced talent, Suiter said.

"We have a lot of returners from the lineup that will continue to hit well. Emily Benson and Makinlee [Sellevold] hit well for us last year," Suiter said.

Last season Benson had a .342 batting average and set the school record for home runs in a season with 12.

Benson is excited about the upcoming season's schedule.

"I feel like our conference is going to be really good. It's always fun to get to travel," she said.

Freshman outfielder Mackenzie Palmer is excited about the opportunity to travel with her team and for the season to start.

"It will be a good way to start off the season [in Hawaii]," Palmer said.

Winter migration to paradise

Zachery Schmidt
THE WESTERN FRONT

The peaks and valleys of Maui, Hawaii provided the perfect place for the Western Longboarding Club to go to while trying to get away from wintery Washington weather.

Known to be a longboarder's paradise, Maui is covered with hills stretching for miles, ditches to

skate in and roads going down the sides of volcanoes.

Western's Longboarding Club had their annual Migrate to Skate trip, spending 11 days in Maui to get away from the bad weather and skate new areas.

The club skated Maui as much as possible, where temperatures were in the 70s and 80s, with some rain.

Sophomore Ben Bartlett, a member of the club, said skating down the highway on the south side of Hana in Maui was his favorite part.

"All my friends were there and it was a 10 minute run with the sun setting right as we went," Bartlett said. "There were amazing steep downhill sections that flattened out. It was like a big roller coaster ride."

Another part of this trip was being able to bond as a group. Eleven people went on the trip, including eight current students, two incoming students and one Western alumnus.

During the 11 days in Maui, the group lived on the beach sleeping in hammocks and their three rental cars. When they weren't on their longboards, they spent time swimming and cliff diving in the Seven Sacred Pools, visiting Lavender Farms and seeing Mount Haleakala.

The club has been doing the Migrate to Skate trip since 2013. The trip was started by Western alumni Nate Braks and Jason Windham. The Associated Students and business sponsors help fund trips.

The club does not have official meetings and in-

stead holds unofficial meetups through members texting each other to see if anyone wants to skate.

"Having a good time on a skateboard is everything. That is what it is all about," junior John Slugg said.

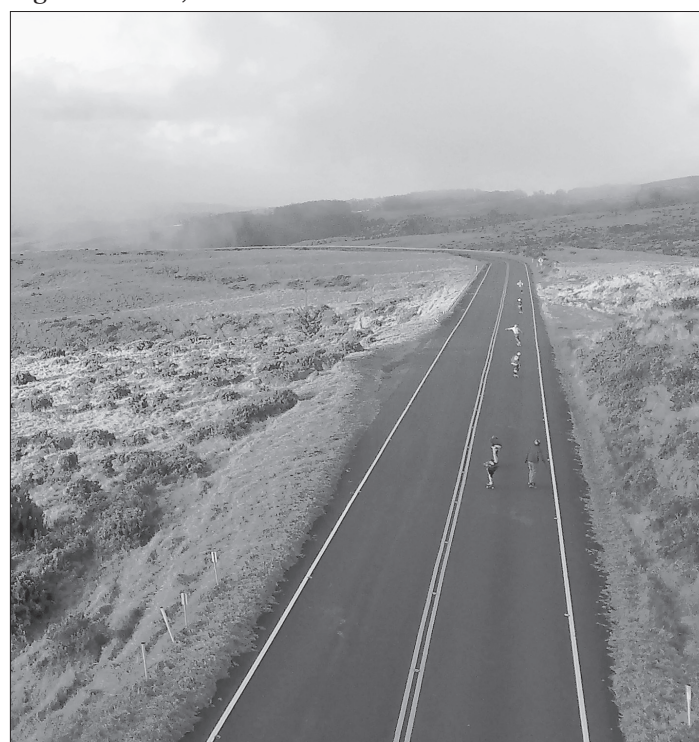
Slugg takes part in organizing Migrate to Skate. He said the trip was difficult to organize, but it is rewarding when it goes well. The club is open to longboarders with varying levels of experience. Lessons on how to slide and stop are provided for inexperienced longboarders.

"Safety is a huge concern," Slugg said. "If you have someone who doesn't know how to control their board, you don't want to take them on an open road."

Maui is not the only site they will be going this year. For spring break, the club will be going to San Francisco to skate the steep hills there.

Migrate to Skate is considering going to either Costa Rica, Ecuador or Taiwan for their next winter break getaway, Slugg said.

A movie of the Migrate to Skate trip in Hawaii is currently in the works and is planned on being released in March.



Members of the Western Longboarding Club riding down from the top of the volcano Haleakala. // Photo courtesy of Michael Rivera

Familiar face

Scott Blumenfeld
THE WESTERN FRONT

Pee Wee Halsell, Western's men's and women's track and field head coach, enters his 30th year at Western as the teams aim to top the Great Northwest Athletic Conference after coming up short of a conference title last season.

Halsell's 30-year coaching career at Western has led the Vikings to 16 different top 20 national meet finishes.

"I've seen the track team evolve, but I've also seen Western evolve to become a destination university," Halsell said. "The athletic department is some of my extended family, as well as Western. I wouldn't be here for 30 years if I didn't like it."

The indoor track season will begin Saturday, Jan. 14, at University of Washington's Indoor Preview.

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