



Western Weekend

Valentine's Day exclusives online

THE WESTERN FRONT

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

City Council votes to protect immigrants with new ordinance



Bellingham City Council chamber awaits the decision on whether Bellingham will be a sanctuary city Monday, Feb. 13. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

McKenna Cardwell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham City Council unanimously passed an ordinance naming Bellingham a sanctuary city.

Local police will have no involvement

in enforcing legal immigration. This means regardless of immigration status, residents of Bellingham will receive city services, Councilmember April Barker said. In addition, revealing citizenship will now be limited by both

law enforcement and city forms.

Community members waiting to hear whether or not the ordinance would pass packed into the council chambers of city hall.

Audience members squeezed close to one

another, sitting anywhere they could find a space.

There was overflow extending out the meeting chambers to city hall's outside courtyard.

See *SANCTUARY*, page 4

Bellingham Schools fight homelessness increase

McKenna Cardwell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The number of homeless students in Bellingham is rising.

During the 2015-16 school year, 559 students in the Bellingham School District qualified

as homeless. This is an increase from the 471 of the previous school year, according to the State of Washington office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"I'm not sure if the broader community is aware of just how many

kids we are talking about. In Bellingham there are 3,700 kids who are living in some level of poverty," Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools Greg Baker said.

A student is defined as homeless if they are without fixed, regular or

adequate housing, according to the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

The trend of growing homelessness among students was felt throughout the state of Washington.

See *STUDENT*, page 4

Historic Fairhaven landmark faces demolition

Fundraiser struggles to meet mark

Katie Meier
THE WESTERN FRONT

Nearly 100 years of Bellingham history is about to be destroyed.

The red brick pillars and archways that once welcomed visitors to Fairhaven Park are unstable and unsafe, according to the city of Bellingham. Because of this, the city plans to demolish the iconic structures.

The demolition is slated to come at the end of the month.

Originally, there were six pillars built in 1925, but time has not been kind to them. Slowly the structures have crumbled, with one being removed in 2008 after being hit by a truck.

The 2008 accident showed Nicole Oliver the poor shape the pillars were in. Oliver is the parks development manager for the Bellingham Parks and Rec-

reation Department.

"Our parks operation crew had been trying to maintain them over the years," Oliver said. "They have been painted many, many times and they have been cleaned, but we are at the point where structurally they are failing."

The pillars are made of a concrete core, surrounded by two layers of brick veneer. There are also decorative corner pieces made out of concrete and poured stone masonry that make up the decorative caps and finials, which are ornaments on top of each pillar.

It all sounds stable until you realize the mortar that holds those pieces together is disintegrating, Oliver said.

See *PILLARS*, page 3



The 92-year-old Fairhaven Park arches might soon be gone. //Photo by Katie Meier



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

westernfrontonline.com
Students eligible for State Need Grant not receiving assistance due to low funding

STUDENTS FLY THE SIGNS TO END HOMELESSNESS



Sophomore Andrew Brooks stands outside Haggard Hall raising awareness about homelessness for the upcoming Social Justice Club Film Festival & Panel Monday, Feb. 13. The film festival is set to take place March 1 from 5-7 p.m. in Fraser Hall 102. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

Cops Box



Feb. 8, 8:45 a.m.
 Caller one got into a confrontation with a neighbor, caller two, over where she walks her dog on 1900 Block of Fraser St.

Feb. 10, 10:32 a.m.
 A woman called to report her neighbor was wandering around the courtyard in her throbbe, talking nonsense to herself.

Feb. 11, 12:15 p.m.
 Skateboarder lost control of board, hitting a vehicle and causing damage on 1400 block of King St.

Feb. 11, 1:49 p.m.
 Police investigated trouble with an ex-girlfriend making strange comments on social media.

Feb. 12, 1:32 p.m.
 Police confiscated switched license plates that were displayed on a parked vehicle.

Feb. 12, 3:05 a.m.
 A man was issued an arrest citation for Shoplifting after stealing merchandise from a business on 300 block of E Bellis Fair Pk.

Compiled by Jhomarie Sadang

EVENTS

What: Rock Climbing at Smith Rock
 Where: Smith Rock State Park, Oregon
 When: Saturday - Monday, Feb. 18-20
 Cost: \$200

Pre-trip meeting: 6 p.m. Feb. 15. Have you ever wanted to climb at the legendary Smith Rock? Well come on down with us to sunny, dry Eastern Oregon for a long weekend of climbing on beautiful volcanic cliffs! No experience necessary, just bring your desire to climb and a good sense of adventure.

What: Game Jam
 Where: Communications Facility room 105
 When: Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 p.m.

Plan, design and create a game in two days.

Group planning and theme assignment starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday. If you already have a group, attendance is still requested for getting a theme. Presentations start at 9p.m. Sunday and are open to anyone who wishes to see what was made during the Jam.

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City says pillars an earthquake hazard

continued from page 1

If the mortar were to fail, the whole column would come down, including two 500 pound spheres that rest unanchored at the top of the columns.

"There is nothing holding those finials from falling off in an earthquake. Because they are right by the entrance and exit to the park, we can't just cord it off and figure it out," Oliver said.

Community members have suggested repairing or rebuilding them instead of taking them completely down, but rebuilding would cost an estimated \$250,000, according to a press release from Bellingham City Hall.

"Right now we do not have the capital funding necessary to rebuild it in its current form," Oliver said.

Hope now lies in the Whatcom community to raise the money needed, but so far not much support has been given.

A fund was started by the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation. As of Friday, Feb. 10, only \$1,123 has

been raised, which is a far cry from what is needed.

Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville is hopeful the funds can be raised.

"Because these are both historic and iconic, we are hopeful the public funds can be raised to rebuild them, and the decorative pieces will be salvaged and stored to assist in that effort," Linville said in a press release.

Heather Carter is the development director at the parks and rec foundation and is involved in managing the fund.

"We are hoping citizens will come forward who really care about this, who are passionate about it and want to lead the way on this project," Carter said.

Community members are sad to see the pillars go, including those whose job it is to remove them.

"Some things do only have a life as long as they are able to be around," Oliver said.

"I don't think we could have done anything to protect these longer than we did, but it is heartbreaking for the department."

I-5 protestors may face charges

Asia Fields
 Leah Allen
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Charges may be filed against protesters from this past weekend's demonstration against the Dakota Access Pipeline, according to The Bellingham Herald.

State patrol has been working with Whatcom County prosecutors and has a list with the names of some protesters, Trooper Heather Axtman said in an interview with the Herald.

The protest blocked northbound Interstate 5 for an hour Saturday, Feb. 11. No immediate arrests were made, but blocking vehicular traffic is illegal without a permit and is currently a gross misdemeanor.

The pipeline is a \$3.8 billion project that would stretch 1,172 miles to transport crude oil, according to the project's website. The Sioux Tribe and their allies have protested the pipeline, saying it will contaminate water and interfere with sacred land.

In Bellingham, protesters with arms locked together blocked the freeway around 12:30 p.m. at the Lakeway Drive exit. Protesters exited the



Citizens protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline on Saturday, Feb. 11. // Photo by Asia Fields

freeway around 1:30 p.m. at the organizers' request.

There was a four-mile back-up due to the protest, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation. A five-car crash caused at least one injury near the Chuckanut Drive exit, Axtman told the Herald. She said the driver was unable to stop in time after coming around a corner.

Nearly 40 people spoke out on the pipeline during the Bellingham City Council meeting Monday, Jan. 14, including Michelle Vendiola, an organizer of the Interstate 5 protest.

"[This] sets a terrible precedent to allow this bad administration to go forward with its stamping on tribal sovereignty," Vendiola said during the meeting's public comment session. "That is not something I hope you all as elected officials want to take part in. I urge you to divest from the Dakota Access Pipeline."

Ferndale Senator Doug Erickson, introduced Senate Bill 5009 in December 2016 to consider protests causing "economic disruption," such as blocking freeways, a felony. The bill is in committee.

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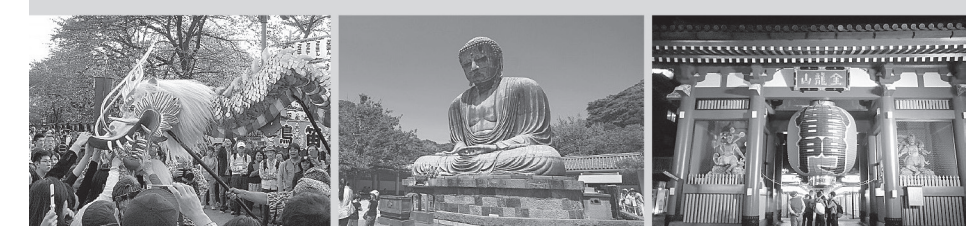
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Bellingham officially becomes sanctuary city

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Tensions ran high. Throughout the meeting, a majority of audience members

voiced their displeasure for community speakers, many of whom expressed their viewpoints against the ordinance. Opposition to the ordinance

included concerns over safety and violating a federal law.

“What kind of an example are you setting for citizens? Are you respecting law en-

forcement? Are you protecting the legal Americans that want safety?” said Ashley Butenschoen, a Bellingham resident.

Ricardo Luna was another community member who spoke against the ordinance.

“My heart bleeds, yes, there are a lot of hard times out there. But we are a nation of law, we either support the law or we don’t,” Luna said. “I am an American of Mexican descent, I am a proud American and I am against this proposal.”

Maru Mora Villalpando is the CEO of Latino Advocacy and a community immigrant-rights leader who spoke in favor of the sanctuary city.

“Bellingham could be a model city,” Villalpando told the council. “It’s up to you to be as brave as we are, to stand here in front of a bunch of racists and anti-immigrants. We are here to stay and we are not afraid.”

Some speakers voiced support for the sanctuary city, but said the ordinance proposed by the council didn’t go far enough to protect undocumented citizens.

Community members in favor of the sanctuary city expressed concerns over future police interaction with the community and asked whether the ordinance would be effective at protecting undocumented immigrants from being deported.

Josephine Mora is the daughter of Villalpando, and urged the council to table the proposal to create a stronger ordinance.

“This ordinance is a step forward. But please table the vote on this ordinance because it is not enough to protect our communities. It is going to tear families apart,” Mora said.

The council’s decision failed to fulfill the wishes of either side of the argument, Councilmember Roxanne Murphy said. There is no one answer to satisfy everybody.

“We have to start somewhere for our community,” Murphy said. “I ask you to work with us and not against us. We can’t solve all of these problems tonight but I would really like to start with this ordinance.”



Community members flood city hall to hear the city council's decision regarding Bellingham's status as a sanctuary city Monday, Feb. 13. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

Percentage of homeless students up since last year

continued from page 1

During the 2015-16 year there were almost 40,000 homeless students, a number which was released by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. This is an overall increase of 12 percent from last year.

One of the biggest issues is the lack of affordable housing available in Bellingham, Baker said.

“Not only do we have growing numbers, but in Bellingham we have the additional challenge of rising home prices,” Baker said. “Families [are] being forced out of their homes because they can’t afford to live in the city.”

Nolan Johnson is the su-

pervisor of the Drop-In Center at The Lighthouse Mission in Bellingham, an organization which provides services for the homeless. Rising housing costs and decreasing availability is a major barrier for families struggling to escape homelessness, Johnson said.

The limited housing available within the city can result in many struggling families lacking a consistent place to stay, Johnson said.

“We have a lot of resources at the bottom level where people are able to get things like food. Or places like the Lighthouse, which can provide a warm place to sleep,” Johnson said. “The gap between getting from homeless to getting a house is so hard because

it takes so long. The wait for housing is now around three years,” he said.

Western students also have had trouble finding housing in time for school.

Western alumna Katie Haffner, who was homeless for part of 2015 while attending classes, ran into this obstacle.

“It was that I couldn’t find any available housing at all,” Haffner said.

Students without stable housing are forced to bring more than homework in their backpacks to school.

“Students already have enough stuff they have to carry with them to class,” Johnson said. “Try to do that but also carry your whole life. Try to fit your whole room, your apart-

ment, your kitchen, everything into a backpack.”

Not knowing where they are going to sleep at night can also hurt a student’s ability to focus on learning, Baker said.

Haffner found finding places to sleep a stressful part of her day.

“I was at the point of just thinking of sleeping in classrooms or even camping out in the woods,” Haffner said.

To combat difficulties like this, Bellingham School District offers services to support the academic success of students. For example, transportation for students deemed homeless under federal law is provided so they can continue attending their regular school.

Sarah Simpson is one of

two homeless support coordinators who help the school district identify and support students who qualify as homeless. Recognizing students with high needs is something that contributes to the growing number of homeless, Simpson said.

“I think homelessness is increasing, but I also think we are getting much better at identifying it,” Simpson said. “We have better systems of identifying who the students are and that’s a huge reason why the numbers are increasing.”

The population of homeless students throughout Bellingham remains a significant challenge for the district, Baker said.

Cascades will see more grizzly bears

John Simmons
THE WESTERN FRONT

The grizzly bear population may increase in the North Cascades. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Department plan to introduce new bears to the area in order to bolster dwindling numbers.

The plan has several proposed options, with most of the discussion surrounding three options to introduce bears in various numbers with the hope of restoring a sustainably reproducing population.

John McLaughlin, associate professor of environmental science, said grizzly bears are endangered in the Cascades and will likely disappear completely if nothing is done.

“It’s surprising that they haven’t gone extinct already, there’s so few,” McLaughlin said. “Left as they are, we would lose them entirely, probably in a fairly short time.”

Bears provide many benefits to the ecosystem. They dig up the ground to get food, helping aerate soil and enhance nutrient cycling, as well as deposit seeds from the plants they eat around their territories. Bears also help deter animals like deer and elk from overgrazing vegetation,



Illustration by Darby Womack

McLaughlin said.

Despite these positive impacts, there still is potential for bad encounters between humans and bears.

“I’d love to see grizzly bears reintroduced and prosper in the area,” senior environmental science major Steve Getchman said. “But then I don’t know that the area is still as hospitable as it was a couple of hundred years ago to actually

hold them with the amount of human incursion that we have.”

While bears can pose a threat to humans, the threat goes both ways.

“The primary threat to grizzly bears is negative interactions with humans with guns, people killing bears,” McLaughlin said. “For all kinds of reasons: because bears become active safety

threats, bears become habituated and then become safety threats, surprise encounters or illegal acts. There are a variety of reasons why humans shoot bears, but the end result regardless is a dead bear.”

The need to keep bears and humans separate has been part of the planning process. The planners have decided to not open certain trails because humans would otherwise be

entering a bear’s territory.

Bears occasionally kill livestock, but most intended restoration areas are not near ranchlands and will not become a problem unless the population expands dramatically, McLaughlin said.

Senior Rachel Wachtendonk recognizes the fear people might have about bear introduction but thinks the restoration should go ahead.

“If people are educated on what the animals are actually doing and their ranges, there shouldn’t be too many problems,” Wachtendonk said. “I would be in favor of [bear reintroduction] if this is part of their natural range. They definitely play an important part in the ecosystem and the ecosystem would probably benefit as a whole with the diversity of species.”

The Fish and Wildlife Service is looking for public opinion. Some options on how to provide input include mail, online comments on the Park Service website or attending public meetings held throughout Northwest Washington, according to a press release from the Parks Department.

More information about the bear restoration program and ways to comment on it can be found on the National Park Service’s website.

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Mikhaela Woodward
THE WESTERN FRONT



Brad Lockhart poses on top of the Faith Life building Sept. 2, 2016. // Photo courtesy of Tommy Calderon

It's in Macklemore's hands at the Wild Buffalo. It's in Washington, D.C., waving at the Women's March. It's on the summit of Mount Shuksan. It's flying from the flagpole at Aslan Brewing Company. It's hanging in student dorm rooms and is scattered around downtown storefronts.

It's the green-striped, unofficial flag of Bellingham, designed by Western alumnus Brad Lockhart. Since winning the Downtown Bellingham Partnership's casual flag design competition in March 2016, Lockhart partnered with local businesses and worked with city and tribal governments to make the flag official.

The flag's widespread success began with Lockhart's first test on Kickstarter, an online funding platform for creative projects. His ultimate goal? Selling 50 flags in one month.

Lockhart's project sold 50 flags in six hours. The flag campaign on Kickstarter ended in July 2016, with 175 backers pledging \$7,672 to bring the project to life.

More than 500 flags have sold since the Kickstarter project ended, as well as an abundance of flag merchandise ranging from hats to pint glasses.

"I feel like maybe people didn't even realize that they wanted [a flag] until it started popping up and then they were like, 'Oh, this is awesome,'" Lockhart said. "But it does beg the question, why do we need a flag if we

haven't had one for 112 years? But I also ask the question, why not?"

Lockhart said he wasn't sure what the equation was for the flag's popularity, but he guessed it might be because of a new, locally-focused perspective.

"Maybe 10 years ago, this wouldn't have happened," Lockhart said. "We didn't have that local-centric attitude. It's just the right time."

Bellingham is one of 60 U.S. cities in the process of improving their current flag or adopting a new one. Lockhart said the Bellingham flag's widespread popularity has inspired other cities to re-vamp their own flags, but not all have achieved the same success.

Lockhart took inspiration from a TED Talk by Roman Mars, the host of a short radio show about design

called "99% Invisible." Mars talks about vexillology, the study of flags, and how flags can be a vessel for community spirit.

"The marriage of good design and civic pride is something we need in all places. The best part about municipal flags is that we own them," Mars said during his TED Talk. "When they are done well, they are remixable, adaptable and they are powerful. A great city flag is something that represents a city to its people and its people to the world at large. And when that flag is a beautiful thing, that connection is a beautiful thing."

Not only is the flag visually appealing, its symbolism tells the story of Bellingham's unique history.

Four green horizontal stripes represent the four original settlements

that joined to become Bellingham. The blue half circle represents Bellingham Bay.

The three wavy lines represent the Nooksack word "Whatcom," which roughly translates to "noisy waters," or "water dripping hard and fast." The lines also allude to the Nooksack Chief Whatcom and the mouth of the Whatcom Creek. When flown vertically, the flag is a depiction of Whatcom Falls.

The flag's two white, four-pointed stars pay homage to Bellingham's coastal Salish tribes: the Nooksack and the Lummi.

The Nooksack Tribal Council voted unanimously in support of the design and sent Lockhart the resolution in September 2016. The Lummi Nation has yet to send any official response.

Bellingham City Council Member Pinky Vargas discussed their progress on flag adoption in a city council meeting Monday, Jan. 23.

Councilmembers had Peter Ruffatto, the city attorney, research legal guidelines of adopting the flag. Ruffatto also looked into the intellectual property of the flag, since it was not created by the city.

"Peter met with Bradley, the designer, and he gave over all of it. He very gleefully said: 'you can have this intellectual property if you choose to adopt this as your flag,'" Vargas said.

Vargas said the council will continue to consider whether to adopt it officially or unofficially. The council may also create a survey to collect local public opinion on the matter.

District 2 Commissioner of the Port of Bellingham, Mike McAuley, feels confident the city will adopt the flag.

McAuley watched Lockhart present the flag to the city council in August 2016.

"I was sitting upstairs during the presentation, thinking to myself, there's no way they're not going to do it now," McAuley said. "I think it's got enough groundswell and there's enough push for it."

McAuley likes Lockhart's flag de-

sign so much he decided to paint it on the back of his box truck last summer.

Freshman Red Eldred also appreciates the idea of a city flag.

"I think it's a good idea because it does give us nationalism for our city. It brings us together," Eldred said. "I think that's a really good thing to have in a community and a country that we are united and have common ground."

In the meantime, Lockhart will continue his work animating a Christian children's cartoon as well as visiting school events as a speaker. Lockhart has worked with kids in the Boys and Girls Club, Whatcom Middle School and will volunteer at a high school art career fair in April.

Lockhart said no one spoke about art as a career field during his schooling at Mount Baker High School.

"Nobody ever told me that you can be a professional artist in this way," Lockhart said. "Even something like this could get into somebody's head like 'Oh, it actually is very possible to have a creative, professional job.' That's why I want to do it."

Although the flag still awaits official city approval, its quick popularity rise has shown us one thing for certain: the people of Bellingham will not let their new flag disappear.

"The marriage of good design and civic pride is something we need in all places."

Roman Mars
TED presenter



The Bellingham flag on display at The Black Drop Coffeehouse. // Photo courtesy of Brad Lockhart



The Bellingham flag flies outside of Aslan Brewing Co. // Photo courtesy of Lilya Vetkov



Brad Lockhart overlooks downtown Bellingham Sept. 2, 2016. // Photo courtesy of Tommy Calderon

A Pretty Sweet Gig

Western senior spends her free time piping flowers and drizzling ganache

Haley Aushun

THE WESTERN FRONT

Frosting isn't exactly a piece of cake. Just ask senior Megan Peda, a business and sustainability double-major. Peda has worked at Pure Bliss Desserts for two years. She had no prior decorating experience, but was offered a position as a cake decorator when those at Pure Bliss saw her passion for baking.

Peda decorates cakes twice a week, but typically focuses on keeping the front of the store stocked with cakes. When decorating, she chooses the texture of the cake, as well as frosting. While using her creativity, Peda keeps the Pure Bliss style, a cake that reflects the store's high quality standard for every detail.

"I like doing the chocolate bliss cake. Anything with a pour-over of dark chocolate ganache," Peda said. "[We] get a dark chocolate ganache warm and runny. Then we pour it on the top of the cake and are able to do anything we want."

Peda's sister, Western alumna Kristen Behrends, thinks the job brings Peda a lot of joy.

"She has amazing coworkers who

are passionate about the same thing. It's cool to work in a place where people have a shared interest," Behrends said. "She'll even text my husband and [me] when certain desserts are in the case because she's excited to share them with us."

Peda also gets to have more fun with the celebration display case, she said. The celebration case has cakes for anyone who is in a hurry to get someone a cake. Peda adds words and additional decorations for customers by request.

Peda is always looking for more training. Even if it's just taking a cake out of a pan or rolling cookie dough, there's always new tips and tricks to learn.

She often works late shifts because of her school schedule, so her boss has to trust that she knows how to check everything, Peda said.

Peda and her coworkers are always exploring new techniques. They recently have added French macaroons and crème brûlée to the menu.

"We are always checking out Instagram and Pinterest and different wedding designs we can pull inspiration from and then make the cakes our own



Pure Bliss customers can sit outside the storefront to eat the sweets they purchase. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

Pure Bliss style. It's really fun," Peda said.

Roommate and friend Lydia Ritchie, said Peda loves cake and is always talking about her job. Living with someone who works at a dessert shop means there's always cake in the fridge, so Ritchie has tried all the flavors, she said.

"She brought home a cookies and cream [cake] the other day. I think it's limited edition," Ritchie said. "It was really delicious."

When feeling confident, Peda tries her hand at bigger orders. She loves helping others with weddings and events. She works meticulously, making sure every cupcake has been frosted.

"It's pretty important," Peda said. "Some people's best day of their lives is their wedding so it has to be perfect."

Peda's favorite part of her job is when she gets to deliver a dessert and see how happy her work makes the customer.

"It's something I'm around every day, so sometimes I forget how important it is to someone else," Peda said.

Peda likes experiencing her regular customers' celebrations, she said. It can be anything from graduations to local businesses' monthly birthday cake for all their employees.

Behrends said Peda is always getting creative in the kitchen.

"She's always enjoyed, not just bak-

ing, but cooking and whipping up new recipes," Behrends said.

Peda always baked with her mom, she said. Her family bakes a lot for Christmas and gets really into it.

"I remember us each taking turns following the directions and rolling out the dough. Making Christmas stuff," Behrends said. "It was a cool experience for us to do that together with our mom."

Ritchie has noticed Peda's love for cooking and baking since the oven is always on. Peda plans to continue cake decorating on the side once she graduates.

"I hope that what I'm learning from Pure Bliss is something I am able to apply to my own life," Peda said.

This past summer Peda was able to incorporate what she's learned into creating a cake for her cousin's birthday. Her family always makes "doll cakes," which is a doll pushed into a round cake that resembles a dress. This time Peda decided to add flowers in icing instead of their usual simple style.

"I think [Pure Bliss] has given her more inspiration to be creative," Behrends said. "Even just in our conversations of different desserts she gets to work with, I think she's more knowledgeable of the behind the scenes stuff. More than what goes into just baking at home."



Megan Peda smooths out one of her cake creations Thursday, Feb. 2. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 | THE WESTERN FRONT

Frontline: Protesting remains an act of privilege

Opinions of the Editorial Board

It was a rough weekend to travel north.

A portion of Interstate 5 near Lakeway Drive shut down Saturday, Feb. 11, as anti-Dakota Access Pipeline organizers blocked the northbound lanes of the freeway, protesting the controversial pipeline.

The protest resulted in a car jam a few miles long and delays for over an hour. One person was injured in a crash because of the block, and the Bellingham Herald reported a five-car crash at the rear of the jam.

Protesting is supposed to be an act of the people but what happens when it no longer benefits the people?

Protests and solidarity marches have drawn thousands to the streets in recent months over a number of issues. The most popular was the Women's March the day after President Donald Trump's inauguration, widely reported as the largest mass protest in history.

The organizers behind the march are already back in action. A "day without a woman," a general strike, was announced on Twitter Monday, Feb. 6. The date of the strike remains to be determined, but it brings up some interesting issues.

The strike would likely include a mass walkout for women from work or school; every woman in America taking a day off to prove a point. Women from every walk of life, from CEOs to fast food workers, stepping out in defiance and



Protestors come out in full force for the Worker and Immigrant Solidarity March in Burlington Sunday, Feb. 12. // Photo by Allison Tannahill

protest. Sounds good, right?

Wrong. There is a profound amount of privilege that comes with the ability to protest. Having the ability to leave work

and take to the streets isn't something everyone can afford. The point of the protest falls flat for those whose circumstances don't allow them to skip a day

of responsibilities.

This isn't a women's strike, it is a women-who-can-afford-to-strike. It will force women to choose between their day-to-

day livelihoods and personal beliefs.

Many solidarity acts focus on inclusion. A protest that excludes working class women is going to exclude a massive portion of the population. Not to mention the millions of women who take care of their children full-time or who are students; those who physically cannot leave their responsibilities.

Women's walkouts have effectively happened, notably in Iceland, which has a long history of women's strikes. In 2016, thousands of female workers left work to protest the pay gap between men and women. In 1975, a whopping 90 percent of women walked out of their duties for a single day.

But would this type of protest work in America, a country with a population a 1000 times greater?

This might seem like a different issue than the blocking off I-5 by anti-DAPL protesters. But both bring up serious concerns about the effects of large protests. The intent is good, but the effect is lost. If a national protest movement intends to be successful, it has to include everyone.

So how is this fixed? How can protests be inclusive, non-dangerous and effective? There isn't right answer. The more people are aware of these issues, the more prominent they become. Accept that protesting is not and cannot be for everyone, then move forward, together.

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

Letter to the Editor

Submitted by
Amr Ismail

Recently, Donald Trump issued an executive order that effectively put out a Muslim Ban. He claims that it isn't a ban on Muslims, but I disagree. Even Donald Trump called it a ban himself. "If the ban were announced with a one week notice, the "bad" would rush into our country during that week." That's right from his Twitter. I am a Muslim and I want to provide my thoughts on the ban.

Growing up, my parents used to tell me stories about America. Stuff about how

much they loved it here when they visited in 1998. I've grown up hearing these stories about what America is, and that I will be getting a college education there one day. I grew up with high expectations of what America would be like. I am currently a freshman here at Western, and I have to admit that America has not met my expectations. The main reason is because of this executive order that Donald Trump has issued. He did so because he wants to keep the "evil out of this country" (that's from one of Trump's tweets). The ban targets 7 countries, all of which are predominately Muslim countries.

Not only that, but none of those countries have committed a terrorist attack in the U.S. since 1975. The countries that actually have committed terrorist attacks are not on that list. Why? Because of the business ties that the U.S. has to them. I don't feel safe in this country anymore because of how the U.S. is treating Muslims elsewhere. Before I came to Western, I lived with my host family in Spokane. I spent my senior year of high school there, and I made many great friends and really enjoyed my time there.

But as many of you know, Spokane tends to skew conservative. I know

many people who voted for Donald Trump there, and it confused me. The worst of all was when I found out that the parents of my best friend decided to vote for Trump. They have always been nice to me, but I just can't understand why they would vote for him. Is it his policies? Are they just voting because he's a Republican? It makes me feel like the friends that I made and the time I spent in Spokane was a lie. Do those people actually want me here? Or do they want me out of the U.S. because I'm a foreigner?

If you support Donald Trump for whatever reason that may be, I want you to

think about how your choice might affect other people, especially Muslims. My feelings for America have changed, and not for the better. I know many people oppose Trump though, and I want to encourage all of you to not only vocally oppose Trump, but to take action and fight for the rights of all of us. Trump is using fear mongering to rally the people against an enemy. But we aren't the enemy. The view of America that my parents gave me isn't what I met when I came here, but I know there are many good people out there. We can all fight this together.



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Tough break for men's basketball

Sophomore guard stays positive despite suffering possible season-ending injury

Nick Vitalis
THE WESTERN FRONT

When Western men's basketball sophomore guard and team captain Trey Drechsel got bumped going for a rebound and landed on the side of his foot, he knew it was bad.

"I landed right on the side where I had surgery, I knew something was off. I knew right there it was broken," Drechsel said.

Drechsel is no stranger to foot injuries. The game against Western Oregon University on Jan. 16 was the third time he had broken his foot and the second time he's broken the same bone.

Drechsel re-broke his fifth metatarsal, a small bone on the outside of the foot. This type of break is known as a Jones fracture, a common injury for basketball players.

During the entirety of last season, Drechsel unknowingly played on a stress fracture, before breaking it at the end of the season.

"I stepped weird and I snapped it in half," Drechsel said. "I had to have a screw put through [the bone] and rehab all summer."

Drechsel admits to taking too aggressive of a recovery so he could begin working out with the team sooner.

However, doctors told Drechsel it was uncommon to rebreak the fifth metatarsal.

"My doctor told me 'This will never happen again,'" Drechsel said.

Another doctor told Drechsel he had never seen someone break it twice in



Sophomore guard Trey Drechsel goes up for the shot in Western's game against Quest University Nov. 27, 2016, at Whatcom Pavillion. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

20 years.

Drechsel is most likely done for the season after playing just 16 games, he said. Though he could possibly be back in time for the playoffs, Drechsel said he wants to get his mentality in check, something he hasn't always done in the past.

"Instead of getting mentally right, I was focused on getting really big in the gym, instead of really focusing on what would separate me in these moments," Drechsel said. "Both times I reacted very negatively. This time I was negative for a week but now with way

more perspective, I've been a lot more positive."

Drechsel is seeing a sports psychiatrist who specializes in mental recovery from injury, something he said helps tremendously.

Though they currently are ranked No. 23 in the country, fellow captain and senior guard Taylor Stafford said the team misses Drechsel's presence on the court.

"He's one of our best defenders when he's healthy and on the floor with us," Stafford said.

In addition to outstanding defense, Drechsel pro-

vides more attacking fire-power.

Stafford said most teams have just one or two quality defenders, making it difficult to slow down a Viking offense with three potent weapons in Stafford, Drechsel and senior forward Jeffrey Parker.

"[Drechsel is] also a good leader, he keeps us together," Stafford said.

That leadership presence off the court is something Drechsel has tried to maintain, despite not being able to contribute on the floor.

"I try to find ways I can still impact the game [from

the sidelines]," Drechsel said.

It's something that isn't lost on his teammates. Junior guard Blake Fernandez said Drechsel is still a leader for the team.

"He's a leader on and off the court and he's very vocal as a leader," Fernandez said.

Stafford said he can see the positivity in Drechsel's recovery.

"It's amazing to me to see he's still being strong and smiling," Stafford said. "I really applaud him."

The positivity is what Drechsel said has defined this recovery in contrast to past ones, as well as an understanding and willingness to let things go.

"I feel I'm maturing more as a person than I ever would have if I never got hurt," Drechsel said.

Drechsel said the most important lesson to take away from his story is to learn how to push through setbacks.

"I think the part I want people to know the most is how to react to adversity," Drechsel said. "You can't say what's going to happen next, but you can influence them just with your attitude and the way you learn from situations."

TUNE IN

Men's basketball at
Central Washington
When: 8 p.m. Thursday,
Feb. 16, on ROOT Sports
Where: Ellensburg

Women's soccer sign 7 recruits



Western celebrates its National Championship victory Dec. 3, 2016. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

Eric Trent
THE WESTERN FRONT

Following up its first national championship in program history, the Western women's soccer team is tasked with the challenge of reloading a talented roster.

Thankfully for them, winning a title has its perks.

After losing only five players from last season to graduation, Western brought in seven recruits from Washington state to help maintain the Viking's high level of success.

Western's head coach Travis Connell is particularly pleased and optimistic about this year's incoming recruits.

"We're really excited about this group," Connell said. "What they've accomplished on the field is probably one of the strongest classes we've ever had. We expect them to make a big impact on our program."

One vital asset Connell looks for in all his recruits is character. Do they rise above their mistakes?

"What makes good players great is the character they have inside of them," Connell said. "The most valuable time for me when I'm evaluating players is after they make mistakes or after their team goes down

a goal."

For Bellingham High School senior Alice Hiebert, one of the new recruits, getting a chance to play for Western is a dream come true.

"I've grown up around them and got to go to a lot of the games," Hiebert said. "There's always been a part of me that wanted to be a Viking, ever since I was younger and watching Claire Morgan play. When I was little I'd go to the games, just visualizing myself in the uniform."

Assistant coach Claire Morgan, a former Western women's soccer player, said Hiebert's skill set and mentality were factors in her recruiting.

"Alice is a great soccer player, but she's also a great person," Morgan said. "The type of student athlete we're recruiting now is not only a great player on the field, but has a great character off the field. She meets both of those standards."

Being comfortable and familiar with the coaches made it an easy choice to sign with Western, Hiebert said.

"I've had the privilege of getting to work with [some of the Western coaches] over the years," Hiebert said. "Travis was my club

coach for three years. The coaching staff was definitely a big part of my decision."

The consistency of the program has been a factor in bringing those talented and high-character recruits to Western.

"Not just winning the championship, but being a good program over the last five years," Connell said. "We've taken a big step forward as a program. When you're making Final Four after Final Four, then people start taking notice."

The Vikings have seen an influx of potential transfer students seeking scholarships.

"There's way more transfers that contact us," Connell said. "There's a lot of kids that go away to Division I schools, then for whatever reason, it doesn't work out. Now a lot of those kids are contacting us, so we've benefited in that way."

Connell starts recruiting as early as some players' junior year of high school.

"My first contact with [the new recruits] was two years ago, so it's a big process," Connell said. "When we first reach out to players, a lot more of them get back to us now. I attribute a lot of that to the success our players have had on the field over the last five years."

Softball pitcher delivers in debut

Freshman gets off to hot start in Hawaii

Nick Vitalis
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western softball's freshman pitcher Anna Kasner has arrived in style.

The freshman pitcher for Western's softball team was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II player of the week after a dominant debut by the right-hander.

Kasner made three appearances in Hawaii, where the Vikings were on a six-game road trip. She threw two complete games with 13 strikeouts a piece, including a one-hit shutout in her first collegiate appearance in a 2-0 win against Chaminade University of Honolulu Sunday, Feb. 5.

Kasner added a trio of perfect innings in relief against Chaminade later in the day, garnering another six strikeouts.

Vikings head coach Amy Suiter, said Kasner's off-speed pitches were what helped her succeed.

"She was able to mix pitches and keep hitters off-balance," Suiter said.

Mark Anderton, Kasner's pitching coach of six years, said Kasner's spin is what makes her dangerous.

"She's got enough speed to beat most batters, and when you can move the ball up and down, it's pretty hard to hit," Anderton said.

The velocity on her pitches reaches around 60 mph, a figure Suiter said is above average.

Kasner said she's known for a while she wanted to pursue fastpitch in college.

"I had the dream to play college ball since I was 12 years old," Kasner said.

Anderton said Kasner is consistent. Over the last couple years Kasner has led the Acers, her club team, to multiple national championship tournaments.

In addition to being a

standout player on the diamond, Kasner is equally as good off the field, Suiter said.

"She's a great team player, she's humble and selfless as it gets," Suiter said.

Kasner said above all else, her goal is to win a national championship with the team. Her only personal goal this season is to have fun.

"The point of the game is to have fun and when you're having fun, you play your best," Kasner said.

Kasner had a rougher time in her appearances in Utah at the Dixie State Easton Classic, taking a pair of losses against Cal Baptist 8-2 on Thursday, Feb. 9, and California State San Bernardino 12-0 Saturday, Feb. 11. Suiter said getting hit around is a part of growing as a pitcher.

"She'll face teams where everything isn't working, but that's part of being young and working through everything," Suiter said. "But she definitely has the skill set."

Down the stretch, Suiter said along with fellow pitchers Sellevoid and Labasan, Kasner will be a player they rely on.

Despite the tough starts in Utah and California, Suiter has no doubt in Kasner's potential and future.

"She's going to break a lot of records and do a lot of things in the next four years."

The Vikings will play next at home against Montana State University Billings on March 4 and 5, playing doubleheaders both days starting at noon.

KASNER BY THE NUMBERS

Record: 2-2
ERA: 3.45
Strikeouts: 39

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Ski and snowboard report

Mount Baker

Snow Depth: 200 feet
 New Snow in last 24 hours: 0 feet
 Lifts Open: 8
 Runs open: 38

Whistler:

Snow Depth: 102 feet
 New Snow in last 24 hours: 0 feet
 Lifts Open: 36
 Runs open: 200

Information from OnTheSnow.

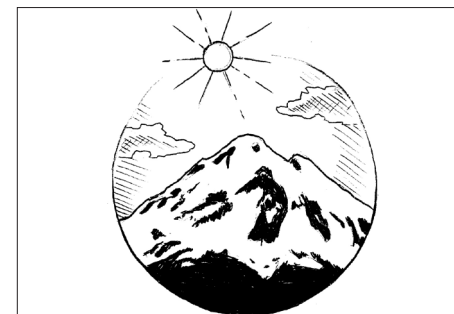


Illustration by Darby Womack

Western sports roundup

Zachery Schmidt
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Western men's basketball continues its winning ways.

Latest Result: Western beat Concordia University 87-64 Saturday, Feb. 11, at Whatcom Pavilion.

Overall Record: 19-5, 13-3 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play.

Ranking: Ranked No. 23 nationally, tied for first in GNAC standings with Alaska Anchorage University.

Next Game: Western plays Central Washington University at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Ellensburg.

Notes: Sophomore forward Logan Schilder had a career-high 10 rebounds against Concordia University. The game against Central will be televised on ROOT Sports.

Western Women's Basketball Team:

Peacocke's shot gives women's basketball late lead over Saint Martin's.

Latest Result: Western beat Saint Martin's University 59-57 Saturday, Feb. 11, in Lacey.

Overall Record: 21-3, 15-1 in GNAC play.

Ranking: Ranked No. 21 nationally, second in GNAC standings behind Alaska Anchorage University.

Next Game: Western plays Simon Fraser University at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Whatcom Pavilion.

Notes: Western has won 15 straight games, which is the fourth longest streak in Western women's basketball history. Senior guard Taylor Peacocke is now the fourth leading scorer in GNAC history and third all-time in Western women's basketball history.

Track and Field set personal bests in Husky Classic.

Top Performances: Junior women's pole vaulter Anna Paradee finished second in pole vaulting at the Husky Classic Friday, Feb. 10, in Seattle. Paradee cleared 3.63 meters.

Senior men's thrower Brandon Pless finished 11th in the shot put



Jeffrey Parker dunks the ball in their 87-64 victory over Concordia Saturday, Feb 11. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

at the Husky Classic. Pless' throw of 15.86 meters was a season best.

Notes: GNAC Championships are on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18, at Northwest Nazarene University.

Softball team gets off to a quick start.

Latest Result: Western's game against Colorado Mesa University was rained out on Saturday, Feb. 11, in St. George, Utah.

Overall Record: 7-3.

Next Game: Western faces Montana State Billings University at noon Saturday, March 4, at Viking Field.

Notes: Junior first baseman Emily Benson became Western's all-time leader in homeruns with 23.

Women's golf team finished tournament in California.

Latest Result: Western finished sixth in the 15-team Point Loma

Nazarene University Reach in San Diego on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Junior golfer Jenn Paul finished 16th in the field, Western's best finish.

Next Tournament: Western's next tournament will be March 4-5 all day in Vallejo, California at the Tim Tierney Pioneer Shootout at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club.

Notes: Western Women's golf team plays four tournaments in their spring schedule.

Women's lacrosse season begins with win.

Recent Game: Western beat Oregon State University 17-1 on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Next Game: Western takes on University of San Diego at the Santa Barbara Shootout at noon Friday, Feb. 17.

Western men's lacrosse earn first win.

Recent Game: Western beat Western Oregon University 17-6 Saturday, Feb. 11, in Monmouth.

Next Game: Against Simon Fraser University at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Men's rugby team remains undefeated.

Recent Game: Western beat University of Oregon 39-0.

Next Game: Western travels to Boise State University for its next game Saturday, Feb. 18.

Notes: Western is 3-0 on the season.

Undefeated women's rugby game canceled.

Recent Game: Western's game against Seattle University was canceled because of a lack of players on Seattle University's team on Saturday, Feb. 11. On Saturday, Feb. 4, Western beat Southern Oregon University 94-0.

Next Game: Western plays Reed College at home at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at Robert S. Harrington Field.

Notes: Western is 6-0 this season.

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