



**Western veterans  
build community**  
**FEATURES,**  
**PGS. 6-7**



**Western star  
goes pro in  
Iceland**  
**SPORTS,**  
**PG. 12**

# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 180, Issue 2

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THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

## Former student pleads guilty to sexually- motivated assault

**David Whorpole**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

*Content Warning:*  
This story contains ref-  
erences to sexual assault.

Isaac James Hol-  
loway, 19, formerly en-  
rolled at Western, was  
sentenced to 60 days in  
Kitsap County Jail on  
June 26 after pleading  
guilty to fourth-degree  
assault with sexual moti-  
vation.

University Director  
of Communications and  
Marketing Paul Cocks  
said in an email that  
Holloway was not cur-  
rently enrolled nor is he  
enrolled in classes for  
fall 2017, but that the  
administration is limited  
in what it can say due to  
issues pertaining to stu-  
dent privacy.

Holloway was origi-  
nally charged with third-  
degree sexual assault, but  
pleaded guilty to lesser  
charges of fourth-degree  
assault with sexual moti-  
vation. Holloway had 304  
days of his original 365  
day sentence suspended  
by the court, according to  
court documents. As part  
of his plea deal, Holloway  
is required to pay restitu-  
tion to the victim in the  
amount of \$5,252.69 for  
medical and counseling  
expenses.

According to court  
documents, the assault  
survivor, who was 15  
years old at the time, at-  
tended Bainbridge High  
School with Holloway  
before his graduation in  
spring 2016.

Holloway gave the  
survivor Xanax before  
assaulting her on August



**Isaac Holloway's  
DOL photo.** // Photo  
from police documents

4, 2016, according to the  
statement of probable  
cause submitted by the  
Bainbridge Island Police  
Department.

Holloway denied this  
in an interview with Scott  
Weiss, a detective ser-  
geant for the Bainbridge  
Island Police Depart-  
ment. According to the  
statement Holloway said,  
"I do not know where  
they would have got  
them."

According to the war-  
rant motion, an under-  
aged, unidentified wit-  
ness observed Holloway  
putting a Xanax in the  
survivor's mouth.

In a victim impact  
statement submitted to  
the court by the survi-  
vor's father, he spoke  
about the months after  
the assault and the need  
for justice.

"Young men, and all  
men, need to know that  
rape victims will not be  
silent, and the law will  
enforce serious penalti-  
es rather than thinking  
nothing will happen or a  
good lawyer will get them  
off the hook," the survi-  
vor's father said.

see HOLLOWAY, page 2

## Options for Ramirez?

*California student body president without DACA received scholarship*

**Hanna Brown**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In 2015, Jose Salazar  
Arenas was elected As-  
sociated Students, Inc.  
student body president  
at California State Uni-  
versity, Long Beach.  
He served his position  
without work autho-  
rization from DACA,

and instead received a  
scholarship.

The Deferred Action  
for Childhood Arriv-  
als program, or DACA,  
allows undocumented  
people who came to  
the United States as  
children to defer de-  
portation and obtain  
work authorization for  
two years at a time, ac-

ording to U.S. Citizen-  
ship and Immigration  
Services. Federal law  
does not allow students  
without DACA to be  
paid for work through  
direct compensation.

Sophomore Ana  
Ramirez, who was  
elected Associated Stu-  
dents vice president  
for governmental af-

fairs in spring 2017,  
finds herself in a similar  
situation at Western.  
However, she has been  
prevented from fulfill-  
ing her position due to  
her lack of work autho-  
rization.

She applied for au-  
thorization soon after

see DACA, page 4

## Fireworks erupt over Bellingham Bay



Fireworks show hosted by Haggens at Zuanich Point Park on July 4. // Photo by Kevin Lake

## Western student facing charges of cyberstalking, harassment, will have plea hearing

**Josh Steele**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western student  
Yonathan Laine Noah,  
21, is scheduled to  
have a plea hearing  
Thursday, July 6, af-  
ter being arrested on  
suspicion of felony  
harassment and cy-  
berstalking in 2016.

The felony harass-  
ment charge stemmed  
from a Twitter post  
from Noah on April 3,  
2016.

"2days until I pull  
the trigger #bangbang  
Christians and Viet-  
namese people," the  
tweet read, according  
to the University Po-  
lice report.

Noah said his tweet  
and hashtag #bang-  
bang was in reference  
to rap lyrics and signi-  
fied that "something  
big was about to hap-  
pen," according to a  
University Police re-  
port.

The tweet was made  
after Student A, Stu-  
dent B and their friend

Student C wrote and  
delivered a note to a  
separate individual,  
saying they overheard  
Noah talking about  
pouring paint thinner  
on his truck, accord-  
ing to a court-issued  
probable cause docu-  
ment.

see NOAH, page 3



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**ONLINE  
EXCLUSIVES**

Westernfrontonline.com

Western student cyberstalking and  
harassment charge updates



## "SKYVIEWING SCULPTURE" REPAINTED



Western mainenance workers add a new coat of paint to "Skyviewing Sculpture". The sculpture was created by Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi and installed on campus in 1969. The school repaints the sculpture roughly every year, although this year they are using a new type of paint that will last longer than a year. // Photo by Kevin Lake

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## Holloway arrested on campus, facing 60 days in jail

*continued from page 1*

The maximum penalty for fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation is just under one year. In comparison, the maximum penalty for third-degree sexual assault in Washington State is five years, according to Washington state law. The fourth-degree assault charge with sexual motivation also means Holloway will not have to register as a sex offender.

Paul Cocke, Western's director of communications and marketing, said in an email the university can deny admission to any student if they are perceived to pose a risk to people at Western.

"That judgment will be based on an individualized determination taking into account any information the university has about a student's criminal record and the court findings along with a primary focus on safety and due process," Cocke said.

University Police collaborated

with Bainbridge Island Police to arrest Holloway, according to an email conversation between Ron Carpenter, a police sergeant at Western, and Weiss, obtained through a public records request. The emails revealed that both parties knew Holloway was at Western and intended to arrest him before his 11 a.m. class on March 1st, 2017.

In Kitsap County District Court, Holloway pleaded guilty on June 26, under what is referred to as an "Alford plea," which allows a defendant to state their belief in their innocence while acknowledging a jury would most likely convict them based on the evidence presented.

Jennifer Koo, the prosecutor in Holloway's case, said there were evidentiary issues in the case that, along with additional factors, led to a plea deal being offered to Holloway. Koo would not elaborate on the evidentiary issues in question.

### Forgotten Firearm

**June 29 4:00PM**

A subject reported a theft that occurred on the 1200 block of E Sunset Drive at 4 pm Thursday, June 29. Someone had stolen the subject's gun... that they accidently left in a bathroom stall.

### A Legal Crime Scene

**June 28 11:47AM**

Around noon Wednesday, June 28, Bellingham police responded to a report of a pool of blood located at an apartment complex at the 3300 block of Racine St. Officers determined the cause to be "nothing criminal".

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### Corrections

The Western Front strives for accuracy in our coverage. Please notify us of any inaccuracies at westernfrontonline@gmail.com



## Original trial date moved up for student involved in harassment case

*continued from page 1*

Western Student A read the tweet and assumed it was directed toward her and her friend, Student B. According to a University Police report, Student A stated she at one point feared for her safety.

When University Police asked Noah about the paint thinner comments, he said it was a joke because the individual deeply cared for his vehicle, according to a University Police report.

Noah had also made threats to hack the social media accounts of Student A and Student B if they did not confess to writing the note warning of the paint thinner comments that Noah had made, according to a University Police report.

A call was also made from Noah to Student C at 3:35 pm on April 3, in which Student C recalled Noah saying something along the lines of "I don't care how long it takes me, it might take me until I die, I don't care if I have to kill

them, I will get my confession," according to the police report.

After learning of the incident and arrest, Western Residence Life and the Office of Student Life sanctioned Noah. He was required to relocate from his university residence, complete a full neuropsychological examination and serve a school suspension through fall quarter of 2016, according to Western readmission records.

Western also instituted a no-contact order banning Noah from all contact with Student A and Student B for the remainder of their time at Western, according to the court-issued no-contact order.

After the suspension was served and Noah completed the other items on the checklist, he would have been eligible for readmission to Western during winter quarter of 2017, as long as the administration approved his readmission application. Noah did not register for winter quarter of 2017, but was fully readmit-

ted and registered for classes in spring quarter of 2017, according to an email from Michael Sledge obtained through public records request. Noah is also currently attending summer classes, as of July 5, according to the Registrar's Office.

Noah has had two status hearings in the past year, the latest on June 28, in which he declined to speak about his case.

Cyberstalking, a class C felony, holds a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Felony harassment holds the same maximum sentence, with a minimum of one to three months in jail for a first offense before appeal.

Noah's plea and sentencing hearing will take place at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 6 in Whatcom County Superior Court.

*Check out The Western Front Online for updates on this story.*



**Yonathan Noah exits Whatcom County Courthouse following his status hearing on June 28.** //Photo by Eythan Frost

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# California university finds alternate payment for non-DACA student

continued from page 1

being elected and is waiting for approval. While California State University, Long Beach, found an alternate way to pay Salazar Arenas before he received authorization, Western so far has not.

When asked about schools who had found other options, Western's Communications and Marketing Director Paul Cocks said in an email that the problem with comparing different colleges is that some campuses' elected leaders receive tuition or scholarships.

"We do not know whether other institutions have a student elections code that requires that students be able to complete a U.S. employment eligibility form and be eligible to work under federal law as a specific criterion for eligibility for office, as is the case for AS," Cocks said in the email.

Hannah Stone is a Bellingham attorney who specializes in U.S. immigration and citizenship law. She said it's somewhat of a can of worms to open up, but immigration laws draw a line between someone being authorized or not authorized for employment.

"I think the difficulty in Ana's case is that the administration is sort of drawing a line saying, 'If you don't have employment authorization then you can't assume your position,'" Stone said. "It's sort of cut and dry, and it's not necessarily that cut and dry if they wanted to find another way to allow her to as-

sume that position."

Stone said if a student is enrolled and pays tuition, that student should have an equal opportunity to access their education to the fullest. In that respect, the student should still be able to engage in student leadership, other clubs and other positions on campus, and while they

code and federal internal revenue law, he said in the email.

Salazar Arenas said he had not applied for DACA before running for the student body

sociated Students, Inc. senior communications manager at California State University, Long Beach. He said Salazar Arenas remained undocumented throughout his presidency. Because of this, Salazar Arenas wasn't able to receive any payment as a salary, like a documented student leader would have, Ahumada said.

However, Salazar Arenas worked with the university to change the way student leaders got paid and was able to fulfill his

service for the student body," Ahumada said. "He was able to take office, and they encouraged him to do his role and serve in his capacity as student body president."

Salazar Arenas said obtaining his position took some effort from him — he talked to Congress members, lawyers and students to advocate on his behalf. The students showed the administration they wanted him as a leader, regardless of the fact that he was an immigrant, he said.

"It was definitely a great accomplishment," Salazar Arenas said. "But unfortunately, when I became student body president, one of the hurdles was [the university] didn't know how to deal with me."

Stone said there are different ways for someone to receive non-monetary compensation, but under immigration laws, this is still technically considered employment if they are being compensated in any way.

"It's hard because in a position like that, a student leadership position, if the university is typically looking at it as a paid job, where you're going to work X number of hours and were going to pay you for that time, obviously that student is not eligible for that," she said.

The best thing Ramirez could do right now is to do is to organize, get the community and the people who elected Ramirez behind her, and let the administration know the constituents, the people who are paying the bills for the administration, want this individual elected, Salazar Arenas said.

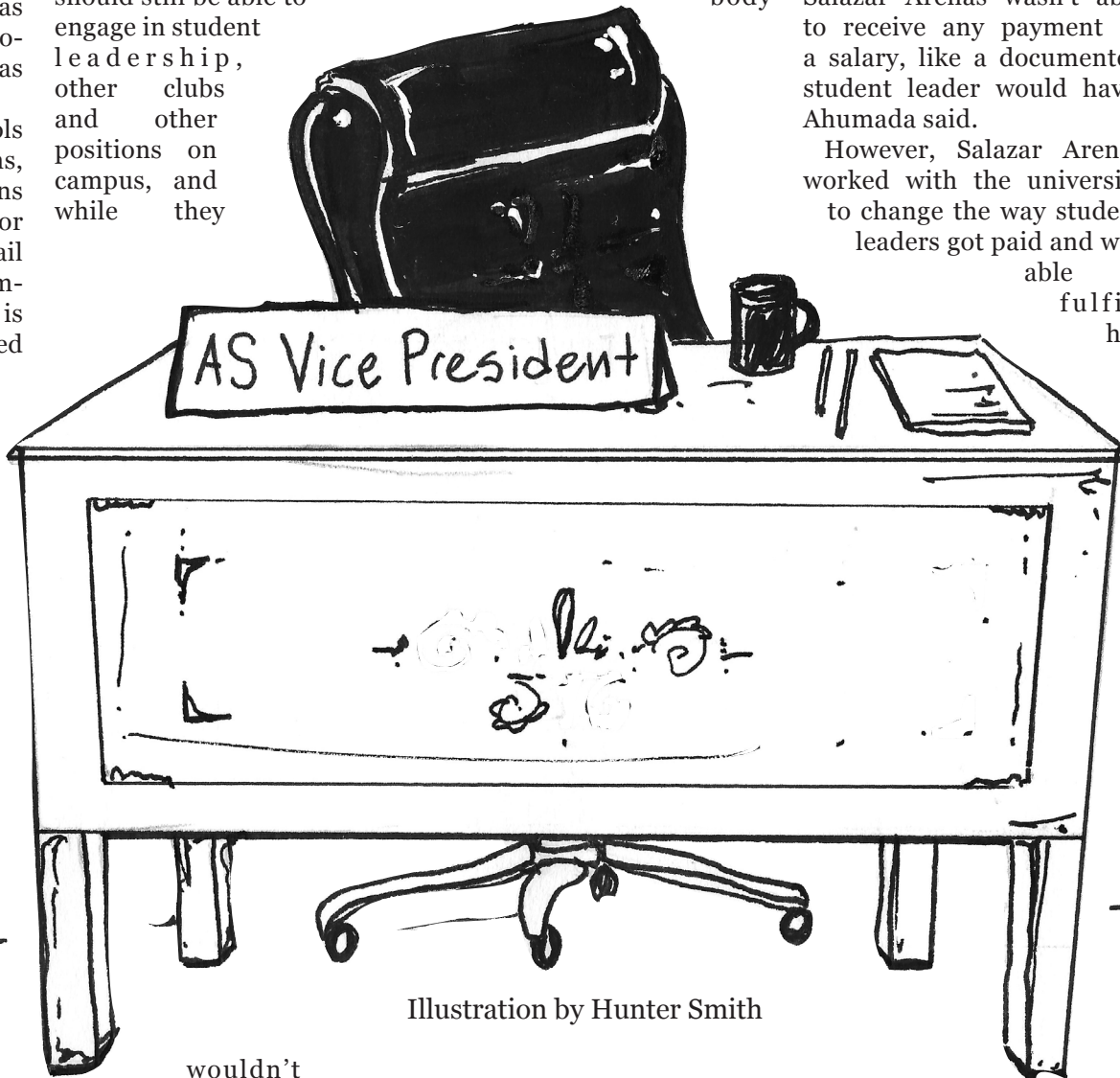


Illustration by Hunter Smith

wouldn't be employed, they could still be recognized for their leadership or public service in the form of a stipend or scholarship, she said.

Cocks said in an email that Western has reviewed all alternatives brought to the table, and the results have not changed. Western remains willing to explore options, but during this process, must respect both the AS election

president position, but applied after he was elected, similar to Ramirez.

"I was the first undocumented individual running at the university. When I was running, I had to make sure I sent out that message because I didn't want any surprises to come out to the student body," Salazar Arenas said.

James Ahumada is the As-

position through a scholarship. He said it took four to five months into his presidency to receive his scholarship.

"The university president and vice president met with him frequently to figure out, 'How do we make sure he's still supported while he's doing all this extracurricular

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**CHAMELION INK**



# Western appoints first Salish Sea Institute director

*Ginny Broadhurst seeks to increase dialogue about environmental protection in the region she loves*



**Ginny Broadhurst, first director for the Salish Sea Institute, in her new office at the Canada House, where the institute is located. // Photo by Raelynn Sheridan**

**Raelynn Sheridan**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tasked with creating action and dialogue to protect the Salish Sea, Western's Salish Sea Studies Institute hired its first director, Ginny Broadhurst, in June. The institute was founded in 2015 and aims to educate the community about the Salish Sea environment.

The institute aims to bring people involved with the Salish Sea together, and will be looking for partners across the Canadian border, Broadhurst said.

"People care, and they care not just in words but in actions. They are willing to spend their time, volunteer

their time, working on projects and keeping this place in good shape," Broadhurst said.

Bert Webber, Western professor emeritus and a founder of the Salish Sea Studies Institute, said the key to the institute to him can be summed up in three words: "Fostering responsible stewardship."

He founded the institute in the fall of 2015 because there was a need for dialogue and action to address the Salish Sea's health. He said educating the community, whether it be Western or the people who live on or around the Salish Sea, is a major component to the institute's concept.

Broadhurst has been working on Puget Sound issues her

whole career and her past work has prepared her well for the position as director of the institute. At the University of Washington, she studied environmental conservation and as a graduate student, she studied marine affairs. She has worked with what is now called the Puget Sound Partnership, the Northwest Straits Commission and various volunteer environmental groups throughout the northern region of the Puget Sound.

Broadhurst said she hopes the institute will be a place to conduct forums and discussions to identify areas of improvement in management of the Salish Sea. She said Bellingham is a great place to

have conversations about the Salish Sea, which encompasses over 60 different governments that have management responsibilities.

Broadhurst said she is making connections around campus with established departments such as the environmental science department, and working on the upcoming Salish Sea Ecosystem conference, which will be hosted in Washington in April 2018. She hopes to have a minor in Salish Sea studies offered through Western by fall 2019.

Webber said the institute is not necessarily unique, but has a specific emphasis: residents of the Salish Sea region acknowledge there are issues

about the region that need to be addressed. He said to give a voice to those concerns, there need to be cross-boundary organizations and outreach, and that this is the interesting and beneficial aspect of the institute — to foster those relationships and stewardship.

There are a lot of ongoing efforts by organizations both in Canada and Washington looking at the marine waters and the environmental health of the Salish Sea, Broadhurst said.

Lee First is north Puget Sound baykeeper for RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, an organization that aims to promote healthy ecosystems in Washington. First cited various environmental issues in the Salish Sea, specifically in the Whatcom County area, during summer months.

Toxic algae blooms affect the Salish Sea during summer months because of an increase in nutrients, like fertilizer, and increased temperatures, First said. In addition, First said the area may see an increase in tanker traffic transporting fossil fuels, which could increase the chances of an oil spill. There are currently over 12,000 large vessel transits in the Salish Sea, including 1,300 oil tanker transits. If more oil development happens, the increase in tanker transit in the Salish Sea will go up by almost 40 percent per year, First said.

Broadhurst, who started in early June, said she is excited to get going. The institute is in a transitional phase right now, she said. She has been talking with different departments, such as anthropology and environmental science, to brainstorm about curriculum and partnerships, with more to talk about in the fall.

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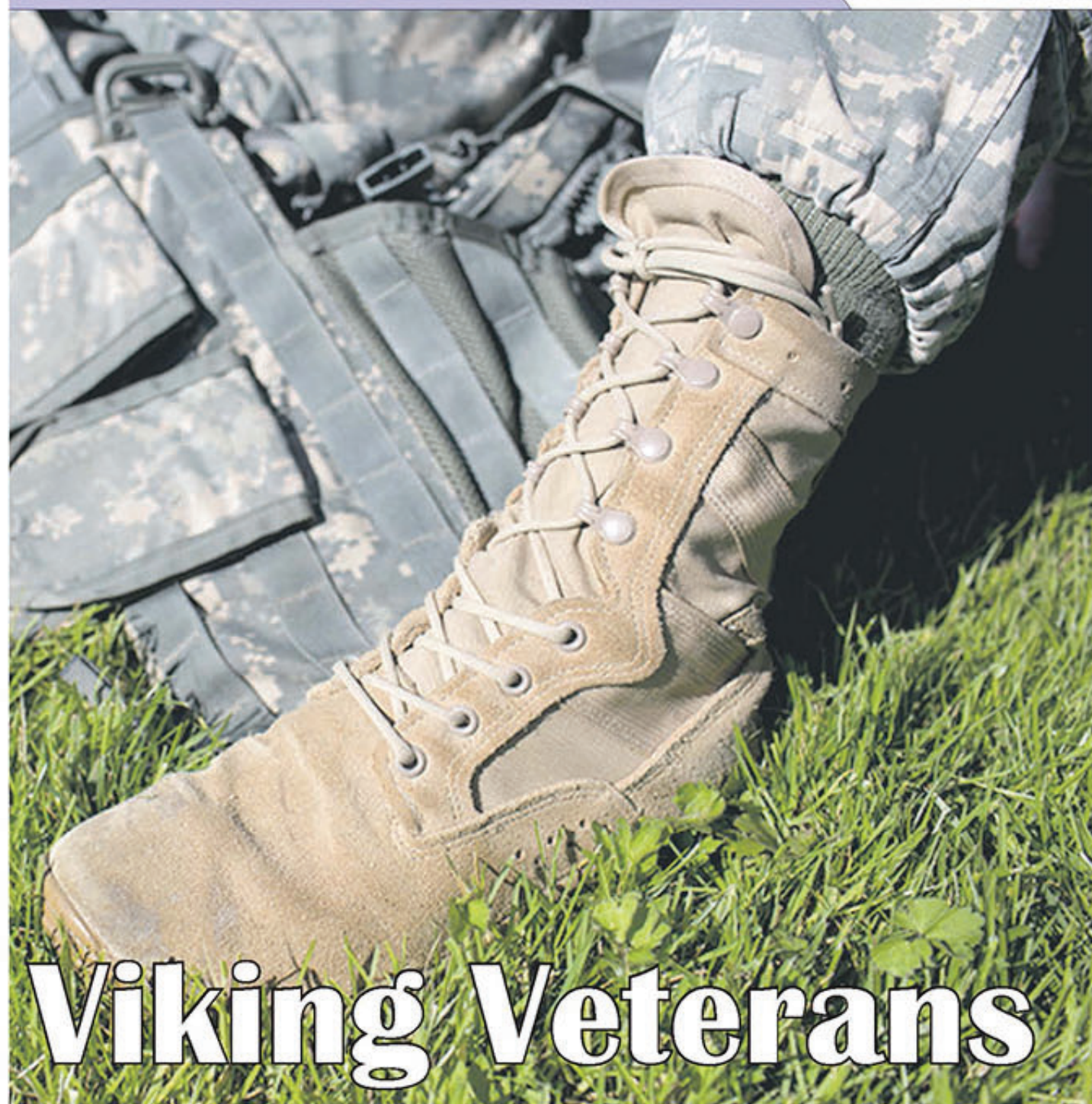
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# Viking Veterans

*Western's community of military members pursue higher education before, during and after their service*

Boot and backpack photo by Dan Thomas

## Andy Hislop THE WESTERN FRONT

Through the Veteran Services Office, VSO, veterans at Western have built their own community. The connections they create with their fellow veterans can provide them with a valuable support system as they pursue their education at Western.

The VSO helps veterans and active duty students receive their full financial benefits, take the correct classes and build a support system with people in similar situations. The VSO is not just solely for veterans; it also takes care of family members of those in the military, known as dependants.

Keith Harmon, a six-and-a-half-year veteran of the Army and staff member at the VSO, said it is more than just a place for veterans to receive their benefits.

"Day to day, probably the most meaningful thing we do is to make this a good environment for veterans and try to give each person who comes in with an issue, whether they are a veteran or a dependent, five minutes of our time and make sure whatever issue they have we've addressed," Harmon said.

Most veterans receiving benefits at Western are on a full benefits package, also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This set of benefits can be used for 36 months total and covers tuition, all mandatory fees and provides \$1,000 a year for books. It also includes a living expenses stipend, ranging from about \$306 to \$1,539 a month, depending on the area of residence.

Spc. Morgan Musard, 22, decided to join the reserves as a way to pay for school. She enlisted in the Army reserve in 2014 and is currently serving while attending Western.

She said she joined the military because it was the option that made the most sense for her. Musard said the military helped her get away from some of the pressures she felt to get accustomed to the college lifestyle during her freshman year.

Musard said sometimes her service can have an effect on her time as a student.

"It can be hard with school, especially [because] for

some reason, we always have drill the weekend before finals," Musard said. "I have to go to dead week, then go to drill, then I have finals."

Western and the registrar's office have been processing veterans benefits since the 1940s. The VSO in its current form started in 2011. After starting in Old Main 360, it recently moved to Old Main 280, to allow for veterans to have a larger community space.

Sgt. Russell Thompson served for nine-and-a-half-years in the Marine Corps as a security guard and later, a rifleman in an infantry unit. He came to Western this past January and is currently considering majoring in either linguistics or anthropology.

Thompson grew up in Pullman, Washington and came from a military family. His father, uncle and both grandfathers all served in the military and it was something Thompson had always wanted to do.

He said his military career helped him gain the confidence and experience to help him thrive in school and adapt to new situations. He said the VSO has also been helpful to him as a student.

"There is a great veteran community here that I have been very happy to be integrated into. It's a little bit of a different resource than a lot of students have here, especially since I'm a little older than the average student who goes here," Thompson said.

Ann Beck, the assistant director of Veteran Services at Western, said the veterans at Western are a focused group of people.

"Our veterans come in here, and they are very determined. They want to get their degree," Beck said. "It's oftentimes in flu-

enced by something they did in the service and they want to translate that into the civilian world."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Indira Tapias is a senior at Western and an employee at the VSO. She enlisted in the Navy when she was 19 and is in inactive reserves now.

"The best thing I have gotten out of it is the relationships I have been able to establish, friendships and work-wise, with other veterans," Tapias said. "I feel like I have a big group of support that I wouldn't otherwise and a big group of people who understand me on a level that no one else in the entire school would be able to."

Tapias was born in Colombia and moved to New York City at the age of 8, where she grew up. She said she decided to take four years off from school and thought the Navy would provide her a more stable financial situation and a better direction in life.

Tapias said military life helped her as a student. Not only was it easier for her to speak with professors, but her direction changed as well.

"My focus is different. Coming from something as structured as the military, I have a lot more focus in being able to follow direction rather than just doing my own thing," Tapias said.

The VSO also helps students who have taken a break in their higher education to serve.

Morgan Musard salutes the American flag in her U.S. Army uniform. // Photo by Dan Thomas



Pfc.

Wava Vautour,

25, grew up in Yakima, Wash-

ington and was looking for a

change of scenery. After gaining her associates degree, she decided the Army would be the next step for her. Vautour enlisted in the Army in 2015 and served until she was medically discharged. She is now a junior at Western.

While in the Army, Vautour was training to be in the communications, or "commo" department. Vautour feels her time in the military greatly helped her prepare for life as a student and a professional.

"When you go through a training in the military, you can figure out what you like and what you don't like. If you like what you were trained in, or if you don't like what you were trained in, it gives you a better idea of what you want to focus on in school and what you don't," Vautour said.

Vautour said she has been able to build some very strong relationships with the people who work in the office and those who frequent it.

"I've met some of the most amazing people, amazing veterans, who I can share my stories with and they share their stories with me. You make really good friendships here," Vautour said.

From left to right: Russell Thompson, Wava Vautour, Indira Tapias and Morgan Musard. // Photo by Dan Thomas





# Tummy Fest raises money for DVSAAS

*Make.Shift Art Space hosts weekend-long festival to raise funds for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services.*



**Dumb Luck playing at Make.Shift during Tummy Fest on Friday June 30, 2017. The event was held to raise money for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County. // Photo by Kevin Lake**

**Chancellor Gardiner**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tummy Fest 2017, hosted by Tummy Rock Records and held at the Make.Shift Art Space, had 20 bands perform over a weekend-long festival from June 30 to July 1. The event donated 25 percent of proceeds to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County, DVSAAS.

The festival was open to all ages and promoted DIY music, which has the bands doing everything themselves or working with an independent collaborator.

Tyson Ballew, executive director at Make.Shift, said he wanted to support DVSAAS at this year's Tummy Fest because thinks what they do is important to the community.

This was the fourth Tummy Fest event that Tummy Rock Records has held, with past festivals being held in 2006, 2012 and 2013.

"I do it when I have the chance to do it," Ballew said. "If there is enough interest then I'll do it again, but at this point we are just trying to be flexible."

Tummy Rock Records is a DIY record label that Ballew started near the end of his time in high school

and beginning of college. The label was relaunched in 2005 with a compilation album Ballew made, which featured a lot of local music from Missoula, Montana, he said.

Make.Shift is a substance-free venue that connects with the community through art and music. It is perfect for Tummy Fest, which has, and always will be, open to all ages, Ballew said.

Ballew met every Tummy Fest performer through hearing their shows. He has been putting on concerts since 2002, he said.

"I wanted to bring music that was different, that I really enjoyed, that was made by people I really cared about," Ballew said.

The first night's lineup was really pop-punk heavy, and the second night's lineup was more focused on pop and indie rock, Ballew said.

Bands that played the first night included: Dead Bars, The Exquisites, Bobby's Oar, Dumb Luck, Dogbreth, Maneken Hand, SCUMEATING, Not Guts, Porch Cat and Thee Unsound.

The second night included the bands: Cumulus, Whitney Ballen, Antonioni, Virgo Virgo, ratbath, Cairns, Mossmouth, Girl Teeth, Cat Positive and Oh, Rose.

Seattle band Antonioni, made up of Kyle Todaro, Sarah Pasillas, Sam Parkin and Austin Dean, played on the second night of the festival. The group has been together for a little over a year, Pasillas said.

Todaro said they really liked Make.Shift because it works to make art and music more community-based.

"It's nice to see a venue like this," Pasillas said. "We love DIY and supporting local artists here and in Seattle."

Virgo Virgo is a Bellingham band that also played the second night. They have been together for about eight months and are made up of Western junior Julian Stefanzick, senior Owen Burr, junior Sean Dodd and senior Julian Tennyson.

"It was like a water park with the amount of perspiration," Stefanzick said.

The rest of the band agreed.

"I think next time we're going to put a layer of plastic down onstage and at the end of the set we can slip and slide around," Burr said.

Since Tummy Fest is scheduled sporadically, you'll just have to keep your ear to the ground for when Ballew will have a chance to put the festival on again.

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# FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

## Administration needs to stop readmitting perpetrators of sexual assault

**Content warning: This article contains references to sexual assault**

Former Western student Isaac Holloway was arrested and charged with third-degree rape in Kitsap County last March in connection with an assault that took place in August 2016. He then plead down to fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation in court on June 26, allowing him to avoid registering as a sex-offender.

For Western students, this case may sound eerily similar to the case of Connor Griesemer, who was readmitted to Western last year after sexually assaulting a female student off campus. Griesemer was initially charged with second-degree rape, but like Holloway, ended up pleading guilty to fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation.

Knowledge of Griesemer's readmission sparked outrage among many students. They organized and protested against the university's decision to allow a perpetrator of sexual assault back on campus.

Now, Western has a chance to do the right thing.

Holloway is not currently enrolled in classes for fall 2017, but he could try to return to Western after his sentence. That is why Western's administration must commit to not allowing Holloway back on campus.

Students do not want to attend classes with perpetrators of sexual assault. When students come to Western, they expect safety, as well as an education that is undisturbed by the anxieties of attending class with people like Griesemer and Holloway. This is especially true for survivors of sexual assault.

According to Mental Health America, victims of sexual assault are at an increased risk for developing depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. Readmitting those convicted of sexual assault can retraumatize sexual assault survivors, and Western's disregard for these students displays that the university fails to take sexual assault seriously.

There is also the dark reality that our legal system poorly handles rape cases, with victim-blaming techniques frequently being used to defend sexual assault perpetrators.

An example of this can be seen in the Brock Turner rape case, where a Stanford swimmer raped an unconscious female student. During the trial, the victim was asked questions about her height, weight, partying habits and how much she drank that night in attempts to

make her seem at fault.

According to the National Sexual Assault Hotline, rape perpetrators are less likely to be incarcerated than those who commit robbery and physical assault. In a study of 310 reported rape cases, only six of the cases ended with the perpetrator going to jail.

This is why it is so important for the school to take action to protect students.

Students have raised endless concerns about sexual assault with Western's administration, and it is time for the university to prove to students that it has grown from its previous mistakes.

Paul Cocke, Western's director of communication and marketing, stated in an email to The Western Front on June 30 that West-

ern has the right to refuse readmission to any student who poses a safety or security risk to the university community.

Students undoubtedly feel that there is an inherent safety risk on campus that comes with attending school with a convicted perpetrator of sexual assault. Since our legal system refuses to properly convict perpetrators of sexual assault, Western's administration needs to take it upon itself to protect students and sexual assault survivors on campus.

Just because a person has been convicted of one sexual assault does not mean the offense was an isolated incident. A study by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center at the University of Michigan surveyed 99 male sex offenders who confessed a total of 959 victims between them, showing that those who commit sexual assault are likely to reoffend.

In another email concerning Griesemer's readmission, Cocke said safety on Western's campus is the university's top priority. But statements like these are useless if Western refuses to act accordingly.

Readmitting students convicted of sexual assault disrupts the learning environment here at Western, and is contradictory to the morals that the university says it stands for. That is why the school must finally stand up for the student body and avoid making the same mistakes with Holloway's case, as they did with Griesemer's. Holloway, and any other student convicted of sexual assault, should not be permitted to enroll in classes at Western.



Illustration by Hunter Smith

## Viking Voices

What do you think about I-1552, and where should Bellingham stand on the issue?



**Sarah Cederberg**  
Design Senior

"People should be able to use the bathroom that they associate themselves with. I think that [Bellingham] should just be fine with people using the bathrooms that that they align with."



**Eoghan Gormley**  
Math & vocal performance Senior

"It's absolutely ludicrous that we are still talking about this issue after Washington state voters have made it clear that we believe that transgender people should use the bathroom that they identify with."



**Callie Walker**  
Psychology Senior

"It's dumb that there's a law that says what bathroom you need to use. I definitely don't support that. Who cares about what bathroom you're using? Everyone just dirties the bathroom, so who cares who's going in which one?"

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Suzanna Leung, Erasmus Baxter and Asia Fields.

## Editor's Note: Why there's no ad on page 11

Just after 10:00 p.m. on production night, we were confronted with a conundrum. The Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic had purchased an advertisement on one of our pages. However, in February 2011, a reporter with The Stranger visited the center and five other pregnancy crisis centers in Washington and received inaccurate anti-abortion information that was unsupported by medical experts.

This supported the findings of a 2011 report made in collaboration between Planned Parenthood Votes and Legal Voice, a feminist organization. The report was reviewed by fully-licensed physicians for medical

accuracy. Both the article and the report found that such centers attracted women who were worried they might be pregnant with a promise of free pregnancy tests and then provided them with inaccurate or misleading information to discourage them from seeking an abortion.

This ad seemed to employ the same tactics, offering free pregnancy tests to people with Western IDs. For that reason, we decided to not run the ad. We realize this is a last-minute decision, but we can not in good conscience take the risk that a person in a vulnerable situation, facing an important decision with life-shap-

ing consequences, would be misled or given inaccurate information. Regardless of one's personal position on abortion, people making a hard decision deserve the right to make an informed, independent decision. If the reports turn out to be inaccurate, we will publish a full apology. But we have an ethical obligation to examine attempts made to use our platform to reach the community we serve, and no amount of money is worth more than that sacred obligation.

Respectfully,  
Erasmus Baxter, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Asia Fields, *Managing Editor*



# Letter to the editor response from the editorial board

**Content warning: This story contains references to sexual assault.**

*The Western Front received a letter to the editor from an associate professor in the College of Business and Economics on May 30 in response to our article, "Student convicted of sexual assault readmitted." The article describes how Western readmitted Connor Griesemer, a Western student originally charged with second-degree rape who plead down to fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation. The professor has since withdrawn the letter because they felt Griesemer had received too much negative attention already, but we felt it deserved a response.*

In a letter you wrote to The Western Front, you expressed your discomfort about our decision to print the name of Connor Griesemer, a readmitted student who was convicted of sexual assault. We would like to respond to your letter by first covering some of the points you made.

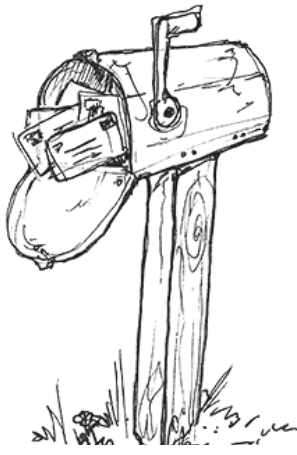


Illustration by Hunter Smith

You brought up that because Connor

Griesemer has been through the criminal justice system, there is no longer any need for The Western Front or Western to expose him. You also stated that Griesemer's original charge of second-degree rape, a felony, is irrelevant because the court could not find probable "evidence" to convict him, resulting in his gross misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation.

However, it is important to note that our justice system does not have a good track record of handling rape and sexual assault cases. Rape and sexual assault survivors are often subjected to heavy victim-blaming in court by defense attorneys who are adamant about eliminating or lessening their client's charges.

Just this year in Bellingham, a court case for Jamison Scott Rogayan, 33, accused of serial rape ended in a mistrial. This was even after multiple survivors endured hours of intrusive cross-examination on the

witness stand. While over 10 women reported being sexually assaulted by him to police, he ended up only being sentenced to two years and five months in jail after pleading guilty to two counts of third-degree rape and a count of unlawful imprisonment.

Sexual assault is a nationwide epidemic for colleges, and Western is no different. Just as you stated in your letter, 20 to 25 percent of college women will experience sexual assault during their college careers. Many more will have already experienced sexual assault before their college careers even began.

But women are not the only ones who deal with sexual assault. Transgender individuals are highly susceptible to sexual violence. According to a survey by the National LGBTQ Taskforce, 12 percent of transgender youth will experience sexual assault between K-12.

Even though men are statistically less likely to be sexually assaulted, those statistics tend to show serious underreporting because of the societal appearance men feel like they must uphold. Most men who were sexually assaulted will never report it because of a fear of being seen as "emasculated" or "weak."

Western claims to stand by all survivors of sexual assault; therefore it is the school's duty to prevent the risk of retraumatizing those survivors by readmitting a student who the university had previously removed from campus for sexual assault.

You also brought up that alcohol is usually involved in rape cases, as it was with Griesemer's. However, your suggestion that staying away from situations where drugs and alcohol are involved to avoid instances of sexual assault is a prime example of victim-blaming. It is important to stress that it should not be the job of individuals to constantly protect themselves from sexual

assault. Believing so further perpetuates our society's rape culture. There is no excuse for rape, and it is all of our jobs to educate ourselves about consent.

It is also a myth that avoiding alcohol prevents people from committing sexual assault. Alcohol is not at fault when someone commits sexual assault, and suggesting that it is at fault is only to shift the blame so the perpetrator doesn't need to take responsibility for their crime.

You claimed that we invaded Griesemer's privacy by publishing a story about him, but The Western Front did not disclose any information that was not already available through public documents. The legal definition for invasion of privacy is an "individual who unlawfully intrudes into his or her private affairs, discloses his or her private information, publicizes him or her in a false light," none of which we did.

The Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics states that as reporters, we must seek the truth and report it while "balancing the public's need for information against potential harm or discomfort." The importance of Griesemer's privacy is insignificant compared to the anguish the survivor must deal with every day, and we strongly believe students deserved to know they were attending school with a student who was previously removed from Western for sexual assault. Our current justice system's failure to properly address cases of sexual assault makes it even more important that the Western community stands up for sexual assault survivors.

We published the story acting within the guidelines of our code of ethics and continue to stand by our decision.

- The Western Front Editorial Board

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# Lakewood's got what floats your boat

*Boathouse offers students, local residents a variety of activities to participate in on the water*

**Cody Levy**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Lakewood Boathouse provides a location along the shores of Lake Whatcom for students and the community to partake in watersports, but they do more than just rentals. From June to August, Lakewood runs college courses and programs for children that teaches participants how to operate the equipment at its facility.

Lakewood works with Western's Youth Programs, and since 1981 has taught kids and students proficiency in different kinds of watercraft.

For children 11 and up, it offers five-day camps in sailing, windsurfing and kayaking. Enrolling in one of these courses will earn Western students one credit with an additional fee. With limited space, student manager Jack Thompson said the classes fill up quickly.

"Quite often for sailing



**Visitors sail at Western's Lakewood Boathouse, July 3, 2017.** // Photo by Dan Thomas

and windsurfing, there will be a waitlist that is 50 people long or more," Thompson said.

With funds from these programs and private lessons, Lakewood is able to pay its employees and reinvest the money back into its programs and facility maintenance.

Lakewood manager Jeff Davis said the majority of the payment from the camps for children goes to the instructors.

"About 70 percent is the hourly wages for the instructors, and the balance comes back to Lakewood," Davis said.

Davis said the facility is

funded through Western's Associated Students.

Lakewood also operates a rope challenge course and rents out the lounge on location to both Western and private groups. Together, these activities allow Lakewood to maintain the grounds, hiking trails and the over 60 watercraft they rent out to the community.

This fall, they're offering a new kayaking class to Western students that will conclude the quarter with a trip to the San Juan Islands.

Student instructor Gabe Hill said paddleboarding is one of the most popular activities at the facility.

"I know a lot of people like coming out here and paddleboarding," Hill said. "If there was some kind of class that involved paddleboarding more as a focus, that would be interesting to students."

While paddleboarding has been discussed as a new class, Thompson said the difficult part is coming up with

a plan for the class.

"There has to be a curriculum with written outcomes," Thompson said. "What are we teaching them? Why is it an academic thing we're doing? What skills can you teach them that prove you've taught them something, and how to be better at what they're doing?"

No matter the activity, Davis said they try to look at nontraditional populations when discussing new programs and attracting new people to Lakewood.

"Are they not here because they don't know about it, they don't know how or they don't want to?" Davis said. "Navigating through those questions in order to make sure anybody that has access understands they can come out here, and if they want help they can get it with doing whatever it is they're here to do."

Lakewood is open all year long, and seven days a week in the summertime.

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# Stafford to crossover the ocean

Former Viking star signs professional contract to play for Höttur in Iceland

**Dante Koplowitz-Fleming**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Former Western men's basketball star Taylor Stafford will be taking his talents to Egilsstaðir, Iceland, to play basketball for Höttur, a team in the Icelandic Professional League this year.

Stafford graduated from Western in the spring of 2017 after playing one season with the team, where he averaged 22.8 points per game en route to a team record of 25-6.

Stafford will transition to another team coming off a hot season, as Höttur finished with a record of 21-3 in the Icelandic Professional League.

Though he has been a part of many wins, the hyper-competitive point guard acknowledged nothing comes easily.

"You always have to do extra to get ahead," Stafford said. "After practice, I go and shoot every time because that puts me ahead of everybody. I would always do the little things to make me better and to make my team better."

While Iceland is on Stafford's horizon, his decision to go international was not made lightly.

"In my family, I'm really the first to do a lot of things. Nobody in my family has signed with an agent, or is about to be a professional basketball player or got a degree. I did that on my own," Stafford said. "Ultimately, I'm going to make my own decision. You're either going to ride with me, or you're not. Whatever decision I

make, they're riding behind me."

For the 6-foot-1-inch point guard, making his own decisions is something he is accustomed to.

"Throughout my whole life, even when me and my family was going through our certain struggles, things of that nature, seeing things around me, negative things, I always knew I would be good," Stafford said. "I always knew I wouldn't be in the people's shoes around me, selling drugs and gang-banging and things of that nature. I always knew there'd be something in life, and now it's here."

Starting Sept. 5, Stafford will have the opportunity to turn his dream into a profession.

"I know what's meant to be will be, but this year I'm just looking to get better and hopefully have more opportunities," Stafford said. "I'm in the right position right now, and I either need to take advantage of it or let it slip away."

Stafford's contract with Höttur is for one year, but looking back at his one season with Western, it's apparent the young point guard can make the most of any opportunity.

The first-team, All-American's efforts garnered heavy attention throughout the 2016-17 season, as he was named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year and GNAC Tournament MVP. He was also selected to play in the Reese's Division II College All-Star Game.

While Stafford led Western in points per game, steals per game and rebounds per



Stafford graduated from Western in spring 2017 with a degree in multidisciplinary studies. Photo taken on Wednesday, July 5. // Photo by Kevin Lake

game, he also learned to lead in less obvious ways, assistant head coach David Dunham said.

"He definitely led by action, but he also was a vocal leader," Dunham said. "He just wasn't the vocal leader where he needed to be seen. He didn't need the attention. Taylor just wanted to win."

Whether it was scoring 44 points on the road against University of California San Diego, or robbing Saint Martin's University with six steals in a game, Stafford often found a way to help Western win.

Stafford said he liked having the ball in his hands and being the facilitator of the offense, as it enabled him to be a direct leader on the court.

"I like not having the ball too, because when you got the ball, the defense can lock onto you. But if I'm on the wing, or if I'm cutting, nobody will know where I'm at but my defender, so it's one on one," Stafford said.

Former teammate and current junior Trevor Jasinsky said Stafford's leadership style was always positive and helped to pick up his teammates' spirits during low moments.

"I think a lot of people, including myself, thrive off of that kind of stuff. It feeds you confidence, and it makes you wanna play better and play harder," Jasinsky said. "It gives you a better mentality and I think he did a really good of passing that along."

Stafford, who Jasinsky

referred to as a leader and "floor general," didn't only support his teammates on the court.

"I've always been a gym rat myself, and every time I walked into the gym [and] Taylor was in there too," Jasinsky said. "I think that's something that you look for [in] your leaders. It's just kind of lead by example."

After his collegiate career ended, Stafford has stayed active. He is playing with the Bellingham Slam, a minor league team, this summer in the Seattle Pro-Am tournament hosted by NBA player Jamal Crawford. After the tournament, Stafford will head to Iceland in September to continue his playing career.

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