

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Expansion of VU, student centers to begin

Katja Tunkkari

THE WESTERN FRONT

Construction will begin on a new Multicultural Center and space for Western's Ethnic Student Center in February.

In addition, three centers under the Associated Students Resource and Outreach Programs (Womxn's Identity Resource Center, Queer Resource Center and Disability Outreach Center) will all have a new space inside of the renovated building.

The ESC, a student-run organization home to a number of clubs for students with diverse backgrounds, is undergoing a major expansion into the AS Bookstore and Viking Union Complex.

As of fall 2017, 25.6 percent of Western's student body was made up of students of color, according to Western's student demographics, which has led to a call for a more visible, accessible ESC. The project, which is scheduled to be com-

pleted by June 2019, will provide a larger home for the organization as well as a new Multicultural Center.

The project was initiated in 2014 when students highlighted a need for an expansion of the ESC. Students and the Office of Enrollment and Student Services drafted early plans for improvement of the ESC.

Kali Chargualaf, co-chair of the Native American Student Union, expressed concern regarding the current limited space of the ESC.

"The space is so small now for all of the clubs. It's out of the way, hard to access and hard to find," she said.

Chargualaf said the larger space will provide opportunity for more collaboration between the various clubs that function within the ESC and more visibility for the Native American Student Union itself.

"Because there are so many other growing clubs, including us, it

gives us a bigger space for us to go there and hang out and bond with each other. We'll be able to hold our future meetings there as well," she said.

When Chargualaf arrived at Western, she had no idea the ESC even existed. She said she hopes the relocation and expansion will provide more exposure and awareness regarding the organization and diversity on campus as a whole.

While the AS provided financial backing for the initial stages of expansion, the VU and Enrollment and Student Services committed to a \$1.5 million budget in 2015. This budget will allow for a relocation of the ESC into the VU and a renovation of the space in order to provide a larger and more accessible home for the organization. In 2016, 63 percent of students approved a per-quarter fee of \$30 per student to fund the

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Graphic renderings of interior and exterior of Multicultural Center renovations. // Photos courtesy of Opsis Architects



Western legislative agenda focused on STEM expansion

Kelly Pearce

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western representatives are beginning the months-long fight for gaining support and funding toward issues in higher education. The 2018 Washington legislative session began on Jan. 8 in Olympia and will continue on for three months.

Some of Western's top priorities this year include securing funding toward an increase in STEM faculty, main-

tenance for a new STEM building for the programs, and establishing a new environmental studies degree.

Becca Kenna-Schenk, director of government relations, is one of the advocates for Western this session.

The funding will hopefully raise the class capacity of STEM classes and, according to the government relations 2018 priority list, may let another 100 students per year into STEM majors. Its purpose is to reduce

bottlenecks in all STEM degree programs.

The bottleneck effect refers to the difficulty many new STEM students face as they try to enter a program that has limited space in required classes.

"We have more demand than capacity," Kenna-Schenk said. "In many cases, getting into courses for pre-major requirements can take a quarter, or a couple of quarters, on the waitlist."

Kenna-Schenk said all majors within the

STEM program, except for math, end up capping their classes each quarter due to hitting maximum enrollment. This dramatically limits many students' access to their major. It extends their time to graduation, and ultimately costs the student and their families more money.

Maereg Woldekiros graduated from Western in fall 2017 with a biochemistry major and a math minor. She said there were many different factors that became obstacles for her while going through the Western STEM program.

One problem that initially held her back was that she didn't go through the Running Start program, so other students already had more credits than her to begin with.

Credit status can be an

issue across all degrees, but in STEM programs, the flow of students who tried to enroll in prerequisite classes was especially congested, Woldekiros said. Some students who did not necessarily need science classes would still enroll for them as concentration or graduate classes, which made it harder for those trying to enter the major.

In the biology department, Woldekiros said it felt like majors didn't receive a lot of help getting into the specific classes they needed, and with the limited number of students per class, waitlisting for a course occurred often.

"I had a lot of friends that couldn't get into their major on time," Woldekiros said.

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Science, Math, and Technology Education Building // Photo by Mathew Roland

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Viking mens basketball win seventh straight game on Tuesday

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Paid sick leave now an option for hourly workers

Giovanni Roverso
THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington state residents earning minimum wage received another pay increase in 2018, as well as the right to paid sick leave hours.

State Initiative 1433, which voters approved in November 2016, caused the minimum hourly wage to increase by half a dollar to \$11.50 compared to last year's \$11.53 increase. The initiative mandates bringing the minimum wage up to \$13.50 in increments by 2020 and also mandated the introduction of paid sick leave for all.

Employees, including work-study, part-time and seasonal workers now accrue a minimum of one hour of sick leave for every 40 hours worked. Employees can begin using accrued hours 90 days after Jan. 1 or the beginning of a new job, whichever occurs first, according to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

The law guarantees employees do not suffer retaliation for

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The Western Front is changing, but our commitment to serving you is not.

The winter quarter staff's goal is to be more accountable to our readers and give you the information you need. Read more about changes to our publication on page 2.



Students leaving class in the Communications Facility on the first day of Western's winter quarter. // Photo by October Yates

STEM

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She said an increased number of faculty teaching prerequisite classes in the STEM programs would help maximize opportunities for students to get into the classes they need.

According to the Western Admissions Office, 14.9 percent of undergraduate degrees in 2017 were through the College of Science and Engineering.

Western is requesting \$1.2 million per year over the span of two years to increase the capacity of STEM entry-level classes.

Woldekiros offered advice for Western's incoming STEM students based on her past experience.

"Plan accordingly to what classes you want to take for a quarter. Look at how many times a course is offered, and how many students they let into that class," Woldekiros said.

Though the bottleneck issue within STEM is a focus,

Western's legislative priority list also addresses other academic issues and changes.

Other requests for the budget include establishing a new degree within the STEM program that would incorporate focuses on climate change, coastal science and policy. This degree would help students learn how to address challenges in pollution, flooding, sustainable energy and other factors concerning the changes in the environment, especially in Washington state.

This marine, coastal and watershed sciences degree would expand the areas of study that already exist at Western, like the environmental studies, oceanography and aqua sciences.

Western is requesting \$1 million per year to establish the new degree.

There are also items on the list that are not strictly

academics. A segment of the list titled "Support All Washington Students," supports grant funds, the protection of individuals under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy and undocumented students. This segment, unlike the previous ones, does not have a amount of requested funding for it.

In order to build the list of priorities that Western wants to advocate for in the new session, at least a year's worth of planning is needed to gather requests from Western faculty and students.

The ideas for budget requests initially came from departments, and from there passed through the ranks of colleges, the University Planning and Resources Council (a board of students and faculty that vets the list and makes suggestions) and then the president and vice presi-

dent of the university. After review, it was passed on to the Board of Trustees, whom ultimately have the final say on the list that is submitted to the governor's office. The list for 2019 legislative session will hit the governor's office by this summer. The governor's office released a proposal in December and representatives are now fighting for funds. Now that the session has begun, Kenna-Schenk and Joe Timmons, the assistant director of government relations, are responsible for a variety of daily tasks. Some of these tasks include reviewing proposed legislation, meeting with other lobbyists and legislators and answering questions about the university and its students. Both also spend time contacting faculty and organizations on campus in order to provide testimony for what will positively affect Western students.

"It's definitely hectic for us once the session opens," Kenna-Schenk said. "We're really a team down here."

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— Maereg Woldekiros
biochemistry alumna

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A note on changes

As part of our effort to focus on delivering content to our readers online, we will no longer publish the Western Weekend. The paper will come out weekly on Wednesdays. Improving the website and consistent online content are some of our priorities this quarter. While the method of publication may be changing, the Front will continue to focus on the issues that matter most to our readers. Please reach out if you have questions, feedback, letters to the editor or ideas. We want to hear from you this quarter. And we promise to listen.

County Council seat up for grabs after redistricting

Alissa Vanlandingham
THE WESTERN FRONT

The candidates for the vacant Whatcom County Council seat have been narrowed down to: Timothy Ballew, Patricia Dunn, Seth Fleetwood, Natalie McClendon and Alicia Rule, with the addition of Pete Kremen, Carol Frazey and Cliff Langley as write-ins.

The county councilmembers met Tuesday, Jan. 9 to narrow down the wide pool of candidates to fill the vacant District 1, position B seat for North Bellingham. The seat is currently held by Western political science professor Todd Donovan, who, due to

redistricting, was elected to a different district during the November election.

In the brief, 15-minute meeting, councilmembers used ballots to cast votes for their top five preferred candidates from a list of nearly 30 applicants.

The list of applicants was diverse. Among them were a number of Lummi Nation members; local business owners; politicians; Western student majoring in environmental policy, Ellen Barnes; former Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, Eileen Coughlin and Eric Bostrom, a self-proclaimed

street preacher who is locally known for his signs condemning the LGBTQ+ community.

After the vote, councilmembers were each allowed to add a write-in candidate if they so desired.

The newest councilmember, Tyler Byrd, opted to add former councilmember Pete Kremen to the list. Kremen agreed to take the position if elected, even though he did not apply as a candidate, Byrd said.

Although Kremen's politics differ from his own, Byrd said he thinks Kremen would be a valuable member of the

council due to his long-standing career in Washington state politics, including one term previously spent on the council.

"I think it's incredibly important to put someone with experience in this position," Byrd said. "It's almost wrong of us to nominate someone who's never been on a council before."

In response, Councilmember Donovan said he thought a fresh face would be the best thing for the council and added Carol Frazey, president of Fit School Inc. in Bellingham, to the list. Cliff Langley, a retired Whatcom County Sher-

iff's Deputy, was also added to the list.

This list includes residents of Blaine, Lummi Island, Lumi Nation and Bellingham. Nearly all of the candidates have previous experience with local politics, ranging anywhere from a few months to more than 20 years. The final candidate will be voted on by councilmembers at a council meeting on Jan. 16.

"It's just deeply impressive that we've had so many people apply," Councilmember Rud Browne said at the end of the meeting.

ESC RENOVATION

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Multicultural Center, expanding the project budget to \$20 million, according to the project budget.

The design development phase of the project was completed in October 2017. In February, the major construction phase will begin. Services within the VU will remain open during construction. The bookstore will be temporarily relocated into the VU Multi-Purpose Room and

other services such as Vendor's Row will be relocated within the VU until completion of the project, according to Western's office of facilities development and capital budget.

A larger ESC will provide increased opportunity for more clubs to utilize the space, representatives from the Black Student Union and the Native American Student Union said.

Malik Ford, president of the Black Student Union, also confirmed the need for the

expansion of the ESC. He said its current space, small and tucked away, captures little attention for the organization.

Ford said that the current location of the ESC has resulted in exclusivity. Limited space results in a lack of inclusiveness and collaboration between clubs, as well as a lack of ability for the Black Student Union to take advantage of the space, Ford said. He believes that the expansion will allow for more members of the Black Student Union to utilize the ESC.

Ford said the new space already feels more inclusive as ESC clubs have been able to collaborate on the design. The Black Student Union will be able to add their own touches to the new location, such as art pieces, murals and quotes that will decorate the walls.

Despite the opportunity that the new ESC promises for the future, Ford is cautious with his optimism. He questions whether the ongoing effort to spread awareness of diversity on campus and capture visibility for under-

represented groups will cease with the completion of the project.

"You can build a center and just say, 'Here's your center.' But I feel like underrepresented students aren't just underrepresented in spaces. We need a lot more than just that as underrepresented students." Ford said. "It's nice that we're getting a new multicultural center, I think that's good, but representation should come from all aspects, really."

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AS jumps into new legislative year with an agenda

Jessica Vangel
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Associated Students legislative agenda weighs in on major national discussions of the past year, emphasizing support of undocumented students and survivors of sexual assault. Some other major topics include sexual education reform in K-12 schools, voters rights and access, tuition affordability, civics education and student unionization.

This agenda highlights what the AS deems as important issues to campus and students overall. The agenda was brought together by the Legislative Affairs Council, a committee made up of students.

The AS is also working in the local community on issues important to students.

Anna Kemper, the local issues coordinator for the AS, works closely with other legislative stakeholders at Western. She keeps up with Bellingham City Council and organizes action that is relevant to Western students.

"Top priority issues to students include housing availability and affordability, homelessness and protection for undocumented students," Kemper said. "I'll be continuing the work of the past local lobbyists by focusing on housing and social justice issues in Bellingham that relate to students."

Kemper focuses on topics listed on the agenda and discussed in media that relate to issues in Bellingham and on Western's campus. She has been in her role since September and makes it her job to be knowledgeable of student concerns.

Here are the items on the legislative agenda this year:

Tuition & affordability

The AS agenda again focuses on tuition, listing rising cost as a concern. In the agenda, the AS also makes a point to recognize that tuition for 2013-14 and 2014-15 were frozen (meaning tuition did not increase or decrease) and for 2015-16, it actually decreased.

The agenda listed ways to continue the trends from those school years. The AS said they advocate for rolling back the 2.0-2.2 percent increase in tuition over the 2017-19 time period. They also include fully funding the State Need Grant, permanently detaching various activity fees from tuition and looking into the possibility of free tuition in the future, especially for low-income families.

Support undocumented students

The AS recognizes undocumented students as one of the most vulnerable groups of students and hopes to increase support for them, according to the agenda.

The AS is backing the creation of a state-sponsored loan program for undocumented students similar to the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) loan program in California.

The agenda also prioritized passing legislation to expand financial aid for undocumented students, especially ones without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. The AS also wants to support undocumented students' right to work on campus regardless of DACA status, an issue continuing to impact the ability of Ana Ramirez, elected vice president for governmental affairs, to fill her role.

Listed in the agenda is support for revoking the business license of the Northwest Detention Center, a for-profit private prison. At their last meeting, the AS

Board approved language stating that "severe health and safety violations," committed by GEO Group warranted this action.

Support for survivors

The rising concern about sexual violence is listed on the agenda and the AS said they find the vastly under-reported instances of sexual violence on campus alarming.

"We strongly believe that more students will be able to access support with increased funding at the state level, which will promote a healthier campus and community environment," the agenda said.

The agenda includes a mandatory training program for all university staff and faculty, clarification of the reporting process, specialized personnel to help respond to these acts of violence and evaluating the effectiveness of university codes of conduct in the state.

Student Unionization

The AS's agenda states that "student employees are overworked, underpaid, mistreated, underappreciated and even sometimes actively harmed in the workplace."

They believe labor unions can have a big impact on these issues and are calling the legislature to recognize student employee unions.

Revenue

Making sure the university has enough funding and is properly allocating the funds is a concern of the AS.

The AS wants to prioritize tuition affordability and financial aid as essential to students. Closing exemptions from real estate excise tax and from extracted fuel, increasing estate tax and taxing lottery winnings are some of the items the AS has listed on the agenda.

Kemper emphasized the impact of student involvement in supporting these items.

"Often, it takes more than one session to achieve what we want in our lobbying efforts, but examples like lobbying for funding to renovate the Carver Academic Building prove that student action can have big impact," Kemper said.

Voter rights and access

The agenda states that voting is a right many communities are barred from because of discrimination based on their income, disability, class or race.

The AS is calling for implementation of the Washington Voting Rights Act, to ensure people of all identities are able to vote.

The AS is also supporting an extension of voter registration deadlines, allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote at the Department of Licensing and increasing access to voters with disabilities.

Sexual education

In Washington state, K-12 sexual education is not legally required and it is up to the districts to decide whether they would like to include it in curriculum or not, according to Washington Administrative Code.

The agenda said the AS is advocating for inclusive sex education to be required in Washington state, including discussions about consent.

The AS said they would like to strengthen the Healthy Youth Act, which requires schools that do offer sexual education to offer comprehensive and scientifically accurate information.

Civics education

Another focus of the agenda is to improve civics education for K-12 schools in order to properly educate future voters about civic involvement. Their agenda includes encouraging democratic decision-making and critical thinking.

Lobby Day

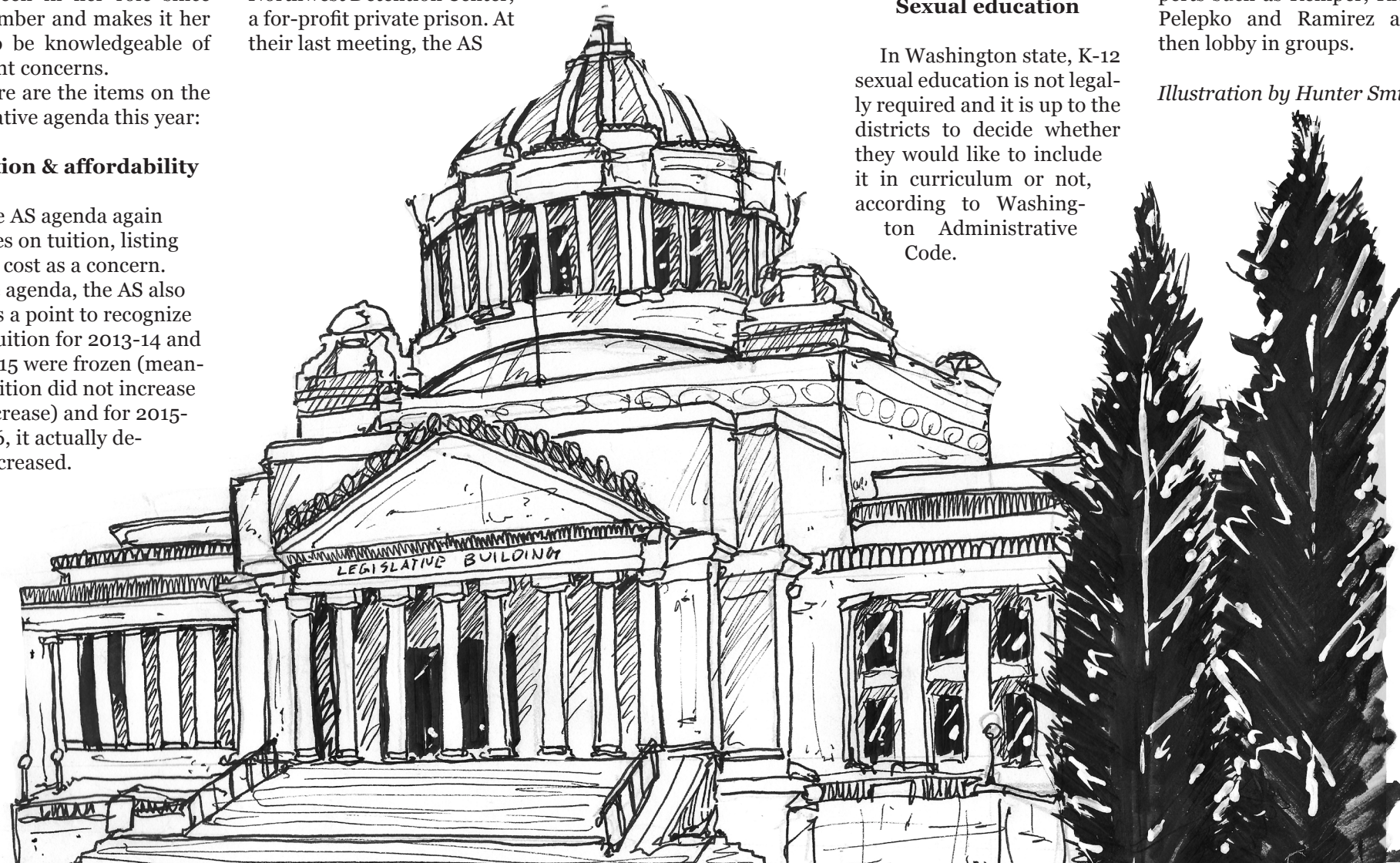
AS Legislative Liaison Rosa Rice-Pelepko, who was involved in the drafting of the agenda, said that she is excited for involvement from students this year.

"Western Lobby Day is an important event for two reasons," Kemper said. "It gives Western students a chance to let their legislators know what important issues students care about, and it gives students a chance to learn about the political process, local government, and how to effectively lobby on issues."

The AS will be taking students to Olympia for Western Lobby Day on Jan. 14 and 15.

Students will receive training from lobbyist experts such as Kemper, Rice-Pelepko and Ramirez and then lobby in groups.

Illustration by Hunter Smith



SICK

continued from page 1

using paid sick leave hours. Employees can use their hours to care for themselves or a family member. The hours can be used when their workplace, or a dependent's school or place of care, has been closed by a public official for health-related reasons.

The hours may also be used for absences qualifying under the state Domestic Violence Leave Act, whereby victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking can take reasonable leave from work to take care of various needs. Family members of such victims can also take reasonable leave to help them.

Western's Student Employment Center manager, Barbara Luton, is happy all workers at the university, can take advantage of paid sick leave now.

"I think it's a fabulous benefit. It's been a lot of work getting it set up, for human resources to get developed, and they've worked hard on it," she said.

Up to 40 unused paid sick leave hours will carry over to the next year, unless the employer allows more. Sick leave hours are paid out at the employee's regular wage.

The final rules on the paid sick leave regulations were signed by Labor and Indus-

tries Director Joel Sacks in October 2017.

Employers must make their policies regarding verification or reasonable notice for sick leave readily available.

According to the law, when an employee's leave is longer than three work days an employer can require verification that they used paid sick leave for an authorized purpose. If an employer requires verification, workers have up to 10 days to provide it.

"For student employees, we are not requiring verification after three days of absence," Luton said. She also said the university is not enforcing a reasonable notice rule and will wait until June before re-evaluating the policy.

Another right employees have in terms of privacy is that employers cannot ask about the nature of the health condition when verifying through a healthcare provider.

Ty Fortune, a freshman who plays rugby at Western, said he isn't supported financially by his family. He relies on working wherever he can during school breaks to build up a safety cushion.

On top of his hourly job last quarter, Fortune would work odd jobs on the side. He said being sick and not having someone to cover a work



Freshman Amy Pollock helps a customer in the Viking Union Market. The changes being made will affect all student employees. // Photo by October Yates

shift made it challenging to deal with school work.

"It was really hard for me to keep my job, but I had a really nice boss," Fortune said.

Per the new changes, employers also can't force employees to find someone to cover their shift when using paid sick leave hours.

Fortune said he has multiple friends who have had to go to work at their on-campus jobs when sick because no one else could cover their shifts.

"That's not really healthy

for anyone, but they still had to do it," Fortune said.

Luton said the university is going to wait and see how things go. Human Resources and Student Employment will work together on any issue that comes up during a six month testing period.

Luton said the added costs of paying for sick leave will not impact the cost of tuition for students, since tuition is set by the state legislature.


Luton said the new policy for part-time employees,

which include student workers, is not as generous as the policy the University has for permanent workers, like most university staff, who accrue paid sick leave hours more rapidly and carry over more at the end of the year.

With a written policy, employers may permit employees to share their paid sick leave hours with other employees. Luton said Western only enables this for permanent employees in certain circumstances, so students who are part-time workers cannot share hours.

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Notice of Possible Rule Making: Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (per RCW 34.05.310)

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Chapter 516-26 WAC, Student Records Statutes Authorizing the University to Adopt Rules on this Subject RCW 28B.35.120

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: To revise, update and align existing chapter 516-26 WAC, Student records, with Federal Department of Education guidance regarding FERPA and ensure current student data processing, storage and transmittal meets current security controls and best practices
Process for developing new rule: Agency study.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Jennifer Sloan, Rules Coordinator:

Mail: Western Washington University
Risk, Compliance & Policy Services
516 High Street, MS 9015
Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: 360-650-3117
Fax: 360-650-6197
Email: Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu
Website: <https://wp.wwu.edu/rules/>



Notice of Public Hearing: Proposed Rule Changes to chapter 516-12 WAC, Parking and Traffic Regulations

Notice is hereby given that Western Washington University is proposing amendments to its Washington Administrative Code related to parking and traffic regulations. A public hearing will be held at 12:00 p.m. on January 31, 2018 in Old Main, Room 340 at the Bellingham campus located at 516 High Street.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow all interested persons an opportunity to present their views, either orally or in writing, on the proposed changes to chapter 516-12 WAC.

Proposed changes include: revised language that allows for joint responsibility between public safety and the student business office and clarification of roles; new section to differentiate between fines and fees; and general housekeeping changes to update or remove outdated language or practice, remove redundant information, and reorganize subsections for clarity.

Advance copies of the proposed rule amendments may be obtained by contacting Jennifer Sloan, Rules Coordinator, 516 High Street, MS 9015, Bellingham, WA 98225-9015, by email at

Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu, or by phone at 360-650-3117. Copies will also be available at the hearing. Persons wishing to provide written comment may submit their remarks to Ms. Sloan at the above mailing or email address by January 30, 2018.

To request disability accommodation for this hearing, please contact Jennifer Sloan at 360-650-3117 or by email at Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu by January 19, 2018

WESTERN TO THE RESCUE

Western's Center for Economic and Business Research helps businesses and organizations in Whatcom County solve local issues



Right to left: Claire Anderson, Justine Dombrowski and Joshua Grandbouche meet in Parks Hall to discuss economic development for Whatcom County on Tuesday, Jan. 9. // Photo by Mathew Roland

Sandra Rees-Bowen
THE WESTERN FRONT

Within Parks Hall of Western is the Center for Economic and Business Research, a small department that has a big impact. It helps businesses, tribal communities, governmental agencies and nonprofits in Whatcom County find solutions to tough questions.

Clients come to the center with problems that affect their respective communities or businesses. In other

words, the center's faculty and student employees assist clients by giving them the information they need to find creative solutions to local problems. They can also help clients access faculty-led workshops, training and research or find student interns.

The department is directed by James McCafferty and Hart Hodges. They have different research areas and methodologies in the way they look at things; McCafferty's undergraduate work was in journalism and

Hodges has a Ph.D. in economics.

"We get to the same point, but we have very different frameworks to get there," McCafferty said. "From the combination of journalism and academia in our analyses, you get some very interesting work from us."

Some examples of their work include economic profiles, agricultural and business reports, and other forms of data analysis for practical use. The center has worked with organizations like the Bellingham Whatcom Chamber of Commerce

and the Whatcom Business Alliance, to name a couple.

"We like the people to have the tools to do their own thinking, so we present information in a way that allows people to synthesize the data and then think about, 'So what?'" McCafferty said. "The challenge is to provide answers in the presentations, giving the people our research, which allows them to look at data from different perspectives. This approach can provide them with an appreciation for the different perspec-

tives and how to move forward from this new knowledge."

One project the center recently worked on was a report on the economic benefits from the farming sector to the community for Whatcom Business Alliance, which was published in 2017. The report measured the size and impact of the agricultural industry in the county.

"Identifying the economic impact of different industries in Whatcom County provides us with insight into where future economic development opportunities may come from," said Tony Larson, president of Whatcom Business Alliance. "This gives us a benchmark to chart how different industries are doing over time and what we might be able to do to facilitate their success."

With the analysis that the center provides, the clients are able to look for solutions to a problem. What they discover is that there are better choices to choose from rather

than using the typical "cookie-cutter approach" too often used to fill in the blanks, McCafferty said.

The center has also worked on an analysis for the Bellingham Whatcom Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber requested a peer cities report that would compare Bellingham to cities of similar size, location and recreational amenities.

The Chamber wanted CEBR to find comparable cities that exist in

the United States and then analyze the metrics for success. The conversation and process took around two years. The five communities chosen for this analysis were mid-size col-

Putting together these reports is not for the faint-hearted or those without a robust sense of curiosity. Joshua Grandbouche, who graduated this past fall with a bachelor's

degree in environmental economics, is currently working with McCafferty on another analysis report.

est things buried in the data that I think everyone could benefit from knowing, [such as] local job growth and what industries it's in." According to McCafferty, these projects assist in providing students work opportunities and experiences. He said they pay both work-study students and non-work-study students to do the research. But unlike traditional student employment, they do not have shifts and have to manage their own time to complete their assigned work. When those students graduate, many report back to McCafferty telling him that the discipline they learned by being assigned specific projects and deadlines has helped them in the companies who have employed them.

"Students come in, we train them and provide resources, but they have to come through the door with the ability to write, to think and fashion arguments," McCafferty said. "We have some really interesting and fascinating discussions in our office because of this."

"We like the people to have the tools to do their own thinking so we present information in a way that allows people to synthesize the data and then think about, 'So what?'"

James McCafferty
Center for Economic and Business Research
Director

lege towns that had something similar to Bellingham. These communities had aspects such as a similar arts and culture scene, being close to a border, being close to water, having outdoor recreation or being close to other metropolitan areas, said Guy Occhiogrosso, president and CEO of the chamber.

degree in environmental economics, is currently working with McCafferty on another analysis report.

"The amount of data that exists is surprising to me [...] as well as how difficult it is to find sometimes," Grandbouche said. "I have learned to navigate government data archives and have found really inter-



Students meet in Parks Hall to discuss the economic development of Whatcom County on Tuesday, Jan. 9. // Photo by Mathew Roland

What's happening this weekend?

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Tetrachromat Record Release

Place: Karate Church
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Price: \$5 cash/\$7 card
All ages

Local band Tetrachromat is celebrating the release of their debut album with a performance at the Karate Church with openers Avalancha, Shimmertraps and Illogicians.

Alexander Lewis

Place: Wild Buffalo
Time: 8 p.m.
Price: \$10/\$12 at door
Ages: 21+

EDM artist Alexander Lewis will be playing a show at the Wild Buffalo with openers Landyn and episcool.

Martin Luther King Human Rights Conference

Place: Whatcom Community College, Syre Student Center
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free entry

The Whatcom Human Rights Task Force is hosting their 20th annual MLK Human Rights Conference at WCC. It will feature workshops, information booths, food vendors and a keynote speaker.

24 Hour Play Festival

Old Main Theater
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Free

WWU's Student Theatre Productions will put on six short plays all produced, directed and rehearsed in 24 short hours.

Rabbit Ride

Fairhaven Bicycle
Time: 8 a.m.
Free

A 32-mile bike ride with the Mt. Baker Bicycle Club down Chuckanut Drive and along Lake Samish.

Nasty Women Poets

Place: Village Books
Time: 4 p.m.
Free

A group poetry reading from the book Nasty Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse by Grace Bauer and Julie Kane, read by authors Susan J. Erickson, Jessica Lee, Jennifer Bullis and Carlyne Wright.

Experts on campus give tips on how to stick to New Year's resolutions

Jessica Vangel
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's 2018 and students are ready to keep the New Year's tradition of making resolutions. Sticking to goals can be hard, but experts on campus have tips on how to help.

Many students said their resolutions have to do with working out, getting in shape and improving their mental health.

Ron Arnold, a fitness coordinator at Wade King Student Recreation Center, has seen firsthand the effects of New Year's resolutions on gym activity.

"Generally with any quarter, we have a big pickup of people when the first day comes around, but the new year will definitely bring in even more people," Arnold said. "Of course, it will start to die down by late January and mid February, that happens every year."

Students said repetition, support systems in friend groups and willpower would keep them afloat in their endeavors for the new year.

"I want to make sure I'm eating well each day, I want to start working out at the rec center and I'm also trying to quit smoking cigarettes," freshman Graham Wallwork said.

Alec Grey, rec center personal trainer and fitness attendant, said setting realistic and small goals is the biggest thing in terms of healthy eating and exercise.

"Maybe make it so one month you cut out some sugar from your diet, the next month add something else," Grey said. "A lot of people fail because they set such big goals and they expect huge results by the end of January."

Arnold said making success out of goals has everything to do with enjoying whatever the goal is oriented around. He said for many people, working out and fitness is a chore.

"If you're doing this simply for the weight loss, you are probably going to fail. Most people who succeed in keeping up with their goals keep them because they like dancing, or playing basketball, or being on the elliptical and watching a sitcom or whatever it may be for you," Arnold said.

Arnold and Grey both agreed that one of the best ways to keep fitness resolutions, or any resolutions, is to do them with someone.

"Making the goal to work out with a buddy holds you accountable, so you have to come even if you might not want to," Grey said.

Arnold said he thinks saying any resolution out loud to your friends makes it more real because someone close to you is now aware and holding your goal accountable to you.

"I think a lot of people who may try to keep it a secret don't tell people because they're afraid of it falling through," Arnold said. "Tell-



Wade King Student Recreation Center Tuesday, Jan. 9. // Photo by Jessica Vangel.

ing someone and having a buddy to work out with will definitely help you keep your fitness goals in place."

The rec center is already prepaid for in student fees and students can also buy a \$45 X-pass for unlimited fitness classes.

When asked about their New Year's goals, many students listed fitness and physical health, but also included other resolutions.

Wallwork said his resolutions include budgeting his money, making healthier choices and focusing on getting his music out.

He said he has a great support system with friends who are aware of his goals and are willing to keep him on track, when asked about how he plans to keep his resolutions.

Mental health is also a part of

"If you're doing this simply for the weight loss, you are probably going to fail. Most people who succeed in keeping up with their goals keep them because they like dancing, or playing basketball, or being on the elliptical and watching a sitcom or whatever it may be for you."

Ron Arnold
Fitness Coordinator at Wade King Student Recreation Center

sophomore Charlotte Berkman's resolution for the new year.

"My No. 1 New Year's resolution is to find a hobby and invest a lot of time into it," Berkman said. "I struggle with anxiety, and having a hobby helps you stay distracted and less stressed out. I'm taking up the Ukulele and started a YouTube channel."

Berkman has fitness and academic goals as well.

"I also just want to focus really hard on studying and getting good grades, and going to the gym more as well as doing the classes offered at the rec center," Berkman said.

Sophomore Michael Kennedy said he would like to get better in shape, pet more dogs, and explore Bellingham more.

"I kinda learned last quarter that almost anything is possible with enough willpower," Kennedy said.

Freshman Ben Peltier said his one and only resolution is to be more outgoing.

"Throughout my life I have had a lot of anxiety with meeting and talking to people, and I want to be able to get out there and make new friends," Peltier said.

Peltier said he would try to join

clubs and get himself out of his room by doing something social everyday.

The Counseling Center is one resource for students who hope to improve their mental health.

Anne Marie Theiler, the assistant director of clinical operations at the Counseling Center, had some advice for students aiming for a mentally

healthy 2018.

"I think something a lot of students don't think about is moderation. Generally, when we think of that word, diets are what come to mind, but an important thing to moderate is actually screen time," Theiler said. "Many students spend too much time in front of screens and have to because of being a student. But it's very important to take some time to be present and spend time with people face to face."

She said, similarly to Grey, that students will be more successful keeping small goals rather than diving straight into a larger than life resolution.

Theiler also emphasized the importance of sleep.

"There are many studies that say that sleep is vital to mental health. I know a lot of students might struggle with this, and it's something to keep in mind for your mental health," Theiler said.

Theiler said one of the biggest pieces of advice she has for students in relation to mental health is creating healthy coping mechanisms for stress.

"We offer coping classes regularly here in the Counseling Center that any student can find on our website, and I think that's a really valuable skill to have as a student," Theiler said.

The Counseling Center is located in Old Main 540 and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Their phone number is 360-650-3164 and their website is <https://counseling.wvu.edu>

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Vikings fend off feisty Simon Fraser

Western men push win streak to seven by dominating the boards; still flawless in GNAC play at 7-0

Eric Trent
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Vikings remain the lone unbeaten team in conference play, riding a seven game win streak to their seventh straight victory.

A monster rebounding effort, coupled with a team defensive effort, fueled Western men's basketball to a 69-54 Great Northwest Athletic Conference win over Simon Fraser on Tuesday night, in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Western dominated the post all night, nearly doubling Simon Fraser (8-7, 2-5 GNAC) in rebounds, pulling in 50 boards to the Clan's 29.

Four Western players posted double-digit scoring on a night where the Vikings utilized their passing skills to evenly distribute the ball.

Senior forward Deandre Dickson was the Vikings' leading scorer on the night, notching a double-double, knocking

down 17 points and hauling in 13 rebounds.

Senior Trevor Jasinsky pumped in 13 points; sophomore Daulton Hommes added 11 points; junior Siaan Rojas contributed 10 points and eight rebounds; and junior Trey Drechsel pulled down 13 rebounds and dished out six assists.

Dickson said ball movement has played a crucial role in the win streak, especially in last night's game.

"When you have as many guys as we have who can score, it's really important we move the ball so the defense can't key-in on one guy," Dickson said. "We've got guys who can shoot the lights out."

The Vikings took a 36-32 lead going into the break, then broke open the game in the second half, outscoring the Clan 33-22 to secure the victory.

Western coach Tony Dominguez credited an effective team defensive effort in stopping any



Sophomore forward Trevor Jasinsky shoots for one of his 13 points against Simon Fraser on Tuesday night. // Photo courtesy of Jeff Evans

comeback attempts by Simon Fraser in the second half.

Western held the Clan's star player Kedar Salam, who was recently selected as the GNAC Player of the Week after scoring

33.5 points per game last week, to only 26 points on the night.

But Dominguez said the gameplan wasn't so much about stopping Salam, as it was about thwarting his teammates.

"Tonight, we didn't want to shut [Salam] down, as much as we wanted to shut the other guys down," Dominguez said. "One guy, in theory, isn't going to beat you. We wanted to focus on team defense, not just stopping one player."

Dickson said the team is starting to gel – not only on the defensive end, but overall – and players are starting to learn their roles.

"We're getting used to each other," Dickson said. "We're moving the ball. We're playing a lot more like a team."

The Vikings head next to Billings, Montana on Jan. 13 to take on Montana State University Billings (10-7, 2-4 GNAC).

Western then travels to Alaska for a pair of games against the University of Alaska Fairbanks (5-7, 3-3 GNAC) and the University of Alaska Anchorage (7-7, 3-3 GNAC) on Jan. 18 and 20.

Volleyball trio nabs national recognition

Western women's volleyball standouts Abby Phelps, Brette Boesel and Joelle Buckner earn All-American honors

Giovanni Roverso
THE WESTERN FRONT

The American Volleyball Coaches Association named outside hitter and Western junior Abby Phelps a first-team All-American in December. Senior opposite Joelle Buckner and junior setter Brette Boesel were selected honorable mentions.

"I'm really proud of those three, amongst others," Western volleyball coach Diane Flick-Williams said. "Their best asset is that they would give all the credit to their teammates before they take it themselves."

Phelps was named the 2017 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year, and she became just the fourth player in Western history to record one thousand career kills and career digs.

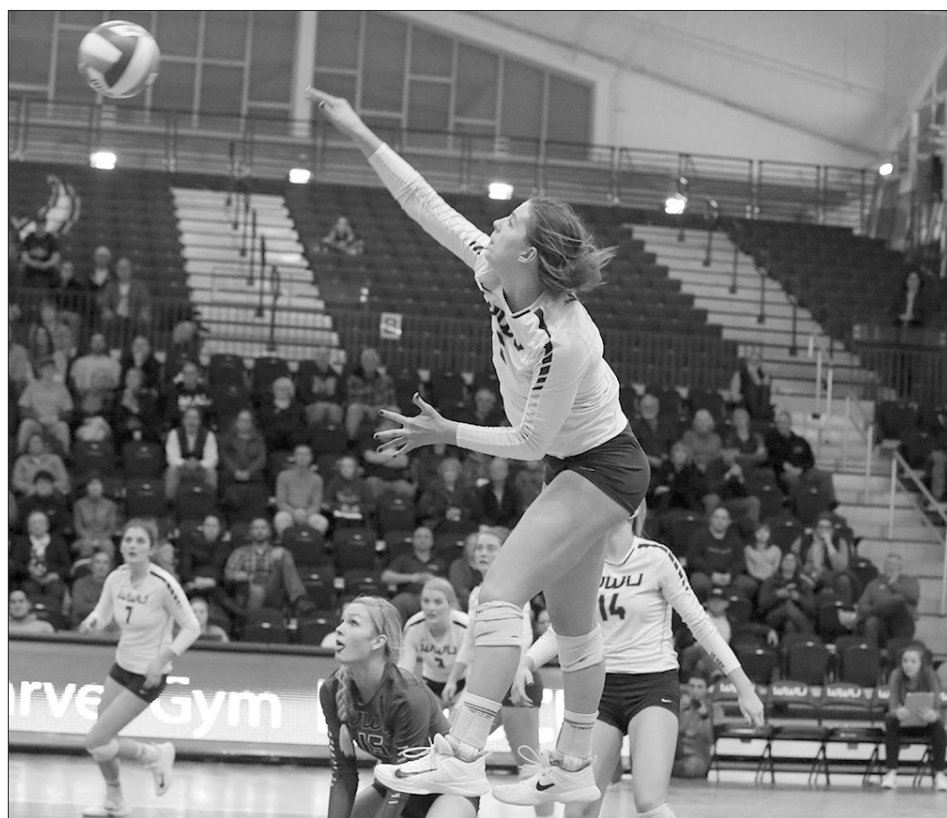
Phelps didn't even know she wanted to be an outside hitter until her senior year of high school. She trained as a setter for most of her career.

"When I was going through the recruiting process, many of the schools I was looking at didn't need a setter in 2014," Phelps said. "So I decided to change my position rather than change my choice of schools."

Phelps' athletic abilities were apparent during recruiting, Flick-Williams said.

"[Phelps] is a very physical athlete," Flick-Williams said. "She jumps high, she's very quick and she's a very passionate player."

Phelps said volleyball has been a



First team All-American Abby Phelps led the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with 25 double doubles (kills and digs). // Photo by Katie Webber

part of her life since she was an infant. "The impact that [volleyball] has had on my life has been huge, because it has been there since I was a baby," said Phelps, who was already at the gym in a baby carrier a few days after being born so her parents could coach.

"It is difficult for me to think what

my life would be like without it," Phelps said.

Phelps remembers how every day after school in Chelan she would walk to the high school where her parents coached. She joined her first club in fifth grade and has been on some sort of team every year since.

Boesel, who ranked 11th in the na-

tion with 11.72 assists per set, said her own success has been fostered by the environment her teammates and coaches have built.

"I love the atmosphere we players and the coaches have created for us to not only play in but also live and grow in," Boesel said.

Flick-Williams said Boesel has a great quiet calm about her that resonates with her teammates.

"[When] she's on your team, you feel really comfortable the offense is in good hands," Flick-Williams said. "Everyone knows when they look at her that there's a plan and that she's got the plan."

Buckner, who couldn't be reached for comment, just graduated in the fall. Buckner is ranked No. 4 in career digs at Western with 1,473.

"She's just an outstanding ball handler and defender," Flick-Williams said. "She has length that gets to a lot of balls and she has a really good nose for the game"

Looking to the future, Phelps said she probably won't play volleyball professionally, because of the passion she has for teaching and working with children. She hopes to be an elementary school teacher and to coach at some level.

Boesel also wants to be able to impact the lives of people or players, she said, like her coaches and the volleyball program has impacted her, by helping and challenging them to become the best version of themselves.

From Bellingham to Biel: Western alumna rises to the top of cyclocross

Courtenay McFadden, a 2009 Western graduate, has won nearly 40 cyclocross races internationally

Tyler Urke
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two quarter-inch scars sit on Courtenay McFadden's right hip, reminding her every time she sees them that she'll be getting matching ones on her left hip in the coming weeks.

"I look at them and get irritated that I have to do the whole recovery process again," McFadden said.

As one of the country's top cyclocross athletes, the thought of laying in bed for weeks is agonizing. But it's the 2009 Western graduate's desire to push beyond what she thought her body and mind were capable of doing that keeps her going.



Elite cyclocross racer Courtenay McFadden still lives in Bellingham. // Photo courtesy of Courtenay McFadden

McFadden, 33, started competing in cyclocross events in 2009 and has won nearly 40 races while competing nationwide and internationally.

She had her best year in 2016, all while dealing with hip impingement, also known as femoroacetabular impingement, that caused a torn labrum in her right hip. The way the ball and socket of McFadden's hips form and the repetitive cycling motion led to her labrum getting pinched, and eventually torn.

Arthroscopic surgery in February 2016 and six months of intense physical therapy allowed her to compete in the 2017 season, but now the hip impingement is in her left hip. McFadden is set to have surgery again after competing in the USA Cycling

Cyclocross National Championships in Reno, Nevada on Jan. 9 to 14.

For McFadden, attacking challenges head-on is like attacking a muddy race track: filled with twists and turns. However, her biking career almost never took off.

What started out as a sunny, spring bike ride turned into a dark day as then 12-year-old McFadden was crossing a street in her home town of Mercer Island. While crossing a street she compared to Samish Way, McFadden stopped at an island in the middle of the road. The car in the lane closest to her stopped, but as she crossed the far lane, a car exceeding the 35 mph speed limit struck her bicycle as she walked it across the road.

Luckily, McFadden was left with just bumps and bruises. But the emotional toll it took remained with her.

"From that moment on, I had no interest in riding a bike ever again," McFadden said. "I was terrified of crossing the street. It was pretty scarring."

It took 10 years for McFadden to get back on a bike, and even then it was just to break the monotony of running multiple times a week to stay fit.

As a sophomore at Western, she taught a spin class at the Bellingham Athletic Club while going for her undergraduate degree in exercise science. She wanted a way to cross-train but didn't want to get stuck inside doing spin, so she joined the Western Cycling Team in 2007.

There she met her future husband, Chris Ellis. After a team trip to Montana in which Ellis let her play his Game Boy, the two started dating and were married in 2012.

"Super Nintendo. That's like her jam," Ellis said. "We just clicked really well."



Courtenay McFadden placed 15th in the 2017 Union Cycliste Internationale Cyclocross World Championships in January. // Photo courtesy of Wil Matthews

Ellis, who had been competing in cyclocross for two years, tried convincing McFadden to give it a try. At first, she was hesitant.

"The weather is never very good, it's cold – I don't like being cold – and I don't want to ride my bike around in the mud," McFadden said. "That sounds ridiculous."

But McFadden finally conceded in 2009 and entered a local cyclocross race. All it took was one race and she was hooked.

"I crashed probably 10 times, but I had a blast," McFadden said.

McFadden has raced in nearly 200 professional events since, and has four wins in the last year while dealing with hip pain. Her cycling coach, Ben Ollett, has had hip impingement surgery on both his hips and said McFadden is as confident and aggressive in races as she is with recovery from surgery.

"She doesn't need much in the way of pep talks," Ollett said. "She

goes out to race and races to win. Even when she has bad races it's not 'the sky is falling' type of thing. She's resilient and stubborn."

McFadden hung her racing number up in her room from the 2017 Union Cycliste Internationale Cyclocross World Championships in Biel, Luxembourg, in which she finished 15th, as motivation to get back to where she wanted to be. She said it was a constant reminder during her recovery that if she wanted to get back to doing this, she had to put the work in.

McFadden said the scars on her hip serve as a constant reminder too.

"There were so many times where I said, 'It would be so much easier if I didn't have to do this. Maybe I should just give up racing and not work so hard,'" McFadden said. "But my scars are a reminder that I came back from surgery. I fought through rehab. And I never gave up."

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Following in her family's footsteps

Sydney Clanton

THE WESTERN FRONT

For Avery Dykstra, the newest signee for Western women's basketball, joining a Western athletics team has become a family tradition.

Her uncles Greg Dykstra, football; Grant Dykstra, basketball; and aunts Kelly (Colard) Dykstra, basketball; and Devin Koenen, basketball and softball; also played for Western.

Dykstra said she looks forward to carrying on the family tradition and finally having her own time to shine next fall.

"I've been going to games for a while," Dykstra said. "I watched my uncle play when I was a little girl. I've been in the gym a lot, but it's kind of fun now that it's my turn to be on the court instead of in the stands."

Dykstra, a 5-foot-10 point guard for Lynden Christian High School, was instrumental in helping the Lyncs to three top-5 finishes in the Class 1A state basketball championships, including the state title during her sophomore season.

She was also named the 2016-17 Northwest Conference MVP as a junior, averaging 11.2 points, 4.6 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game.



Avery Dykstra, front right, averaged 2.1 steals per game in 2016. // Photo courtesy of Evan Abell, The Bellingham Herald

Dykstra, a three-sport athlete, will be a four-year starter for the Lyncs' softball team, and also aided in two state championship titles in volleyball.

Dykstra said she is excited to bring her athletic skills and

personality into Sam Carver Gymnasium.

"I bring a lot of laughter and joy to my team, but then I also bring a lot of intensity and focus," Dykstra said. "I like to work hard."

Western women's basket-

ball coach Carmen Dolfo is optimistic for what Dykstra will offer to the team next season.

"We are very excited to welcome Avery to our program," Dolfo said in a press release. "She is an athletic

guard that will add a lot to our program on both the offensive and defensive end."

Brady Bomber has been Dykstra's basketball coach for all four years of her high school career and has become one of her greatest supporters.

"Avery is a joy to coach," Bomber said. "She does all the things that make life easy for a coach. Easy to talk to, easy to communicate with. She works really hard all the time."

Bomber said she has shown tremendous leadership and responsibility, and has formed lifelong relationships with her current and past teammates.

"She's done a really nice job leading by example and also being vocal when she needs to be, as far as showing what our expectations are and how to play," Bomber said.

Bomber is confident she will bring the same leadership, intensity and hard work to the Vikings' basketball program.

"I think people that watch her play at Western will really enjoy the enthusiasm she brings, whether it's on or off the court," Bomber said. "People are going to enjoy getting to know her, how hard she competes and how good of a teammate she is."

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