

News

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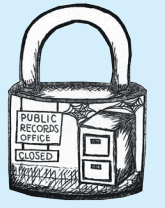
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# THE WESTERN FRONT

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## City Council approves ADU ordinance

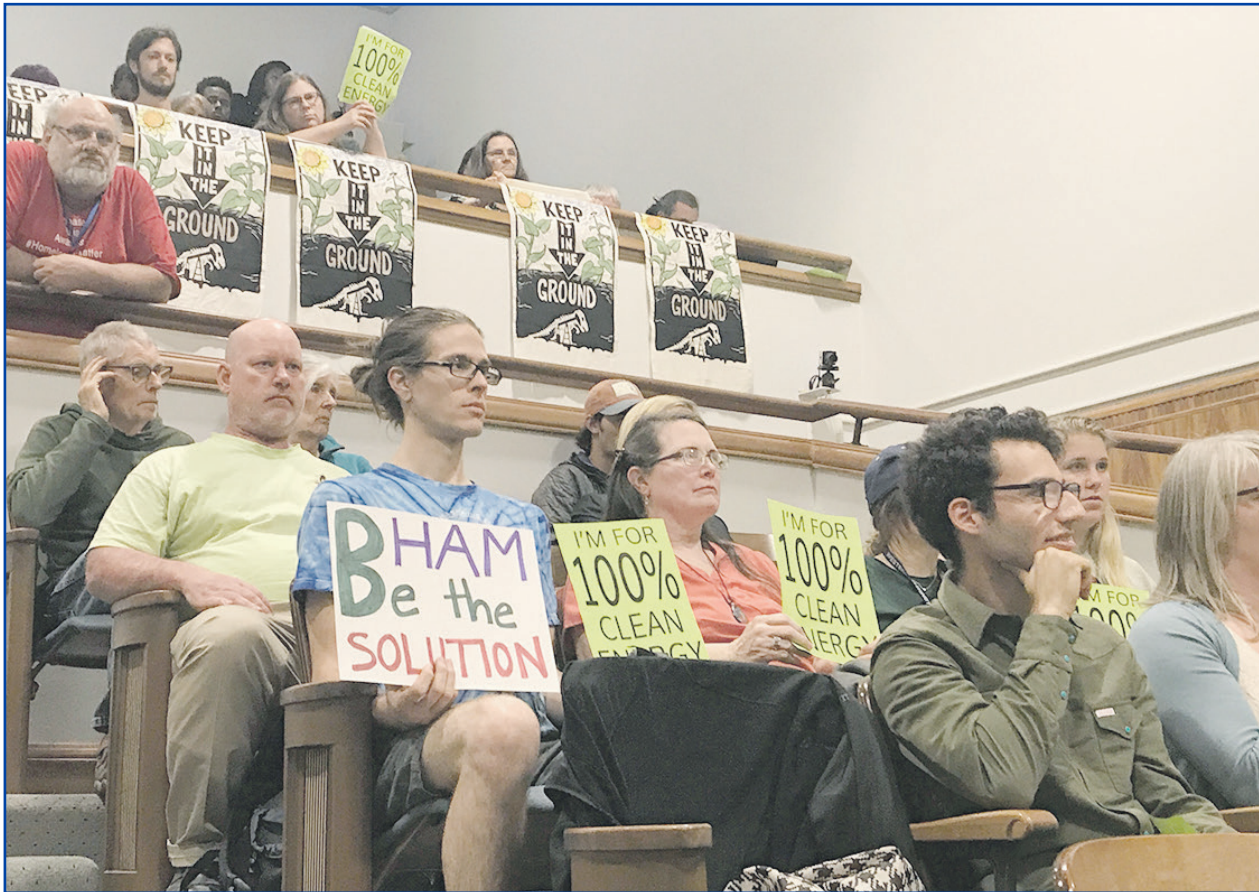
Stella Harvey  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham City Council voted 5 to 2 on Monday, May 7, in favor of both revisions to the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance and the resolution to implement updates to the 2017 Climate Protection Action Plan.

The updated ADU ordinance will allow for detached accessory dwelling units, or small residential units built on the same property as a main residence, in single-family zones.

The previous regulation only allowed ADUs that were within or attached to the main residence in single-family zones, according to the City of Bellingham website.

see ADU, page 3



Bellingham residents wait for their chance to give last statements before the City Council votes on the ADU ordinance on Monday, May 7. // Photo by Stella Harvey

## Defendant pleads not guilty in sexual assault case

Julia Berkman  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Freshman Isaiah William Dowding-Albrecht, 19, pleaded not guilty to second-degree rape, a Class A felony, at Whatcom County Superior Court on May 4 during his preliminary appearance.

Dowding-Albrecht was arrested by a University Police officer on suspicion of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old student in a lounge at Nash Hall after a social gathering, according to the officer's report.

See NASH, page 3

## Men's basketball losing two top scorers



Trey Drechsel is transferring to Grand Canyon University. // Photo by Mathew Roland

Dante Koplowitz-Fleming  
FOR THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's basketball team will be without this year's two leading scorers and incumbent starters next season.

Both junior Trey Drechsel and sophomore Daulton Hommes will be transferring to play basketball elsewhere. Drechsel committed to Division I Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, and Hommes committed to Division II Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

After Western's crushing one-point loss to Saint Martin's University in the first

round of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament on March 2, it will have to find a way to replace 64 percent of the team's total minutes played.

Apart from Drechsel and Hommes transferring, Western will also lose Drew Magaoay to transfer and Deandre Dickson, Brett Kingma, Brad Wallace and Blake Fernandez are not listed on next year's roster.

Coach Tony Dominguez said the recruiting process has yielded players he's excited about but that Western is still trying to finalize its roster. As far as expectations go, Dominguez said it was too early to tell.

"You never know," Dominguez said. "We're

putting together a good team that we think will compete for a championship but you just never know because it is a brand new team."

The Vikings will bring forward Trevor Jasinsky, who will be one of three seniors on next year's roster.

"Trevor Jasinsky is definitely a leader," Dominguez said. "Siaan Rojas is somebody that played a lot last year that was very effective. I'm sure those two guys will be major minute guys. We've got Tyler Payne who was a point guard that was kind of stuck behind those guys and he'll have an opportunity to play."

See TEAM, page 10

## disAbility Resources for Students to change location

Samuel Fletcher  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Public bidding opens next week to choose a contractor to go through with the remodeling process for disAbility Resources for Students' move to Wilson Library.

The center's current location is cramped and the new location will provide greater breathing room and enhance program ability, DRS Director David Brunner said.

See DRS, page 3

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The Wyverns, Western's Quidditch team, runs through practice on the Communications Facility lawn on Sunday, May 6, at 2:30 p.m. One of its core values is to provide competitive opportunities for every level of athlete. // Photo by Ray Garcia

**NASH**  
continued from page 1

An RA called University Police on the survivor's behalf at about 5 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, according to the police report.

Dowding-Albrecht was released on \$20,000 bail on Sunday, April 29, according to the Whatcom County Jail roster.

According to Cocke, Dowding-Albrecht is temporarily evicted from Nash Hall and has withdrawn from spring quarter classes.

He has also signed a sexual

assault no-contact order, which mandates he cannot have any contact online or in-person with the survivor. The judge stressed that even if Dowding-Albrecht was contacted by the survivor, the burden was on him not to respond.

The survivor is working with the Equal Opportunity Office, according to Cocke. According to the officer's report, he provided her with a Title IX card and referred her to Consultation and Sexual Assault Support and the Counseling Center on campus.

Dowding-Albrecht's trial is set for July 16.



The defendant is temporarily evicted from Nash Hall. // Photo by Mathew Roland

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## AS board discusses improving campus safety

**Julia Berkman**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Board met on May 4 and discussed a poll Western residents took about safety on campus, presented by VP for Student Life Annie Gordon.

The poll, created by AS Productions Assistant Director for Marketing and Assessment Micah Rubart, and compiled by the Resident Hall Association, got 779 responses out of 4,000 on-campus residents.

On a scale from one to 10, residents thought that overall residence hall safety was at about a seven.

A big problem Gordon and the RHA identified was students leaving doors open or holding doors for non-residents.

Last October, someone was found trespassing in the women's bathroom in Kappa late at night. Ac-

ording to a Western Alert sent out by Paul Cocke, director of marketing and communications, the intruder was not believed to be a student at Western.

Gordon's goals for next year include restructuring of the green coats. She wants there to be designated green coats for each area of residence. Right now, Gordon said green coats are underutilized, with more than three-quarters of students in the survey saying they have not used their services.

Another solution that was on the table was installation of security cameras in residence areas. Almost a third of students felt uncomfortable with the idea of cameras.

Almost all students said they liked the current way Western Alerts were sent out, over email and text.

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Have story ideas?  
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to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

**Corrections:**

In last week's article "Blue Group takes City Hall, advocates for immigrants' rights," we wrote "Bellingham Municipal Court" instead of "Bellingham municipal government."

**ADU**  
continued from page 1

Council members Gene Knutson and Terry Bornemann voted against the updates to the ADU ordinance.

Councilmember Pinky Vargas abstained from the vote on implementing the updates to the 2017 Climate Protection Action Plan due to a conflict of interest, while Gene Knutson voted against the changes.

Chris Koch, planner II of the Planning and Community Development Department, said other changes to the ordinance include reducing the minimum lot size for detached ADUs to 5,000 square feet, reducing height limit for detached ADUs to 20 feet and increasing the

maximum ADU size from 40 percent to 66 percent of the size of the primary residence, without exceeding 800 square feet.

The City Council held a public hearing on the revisions recommended by the Bellingham Planning Commission on April 9. The council chambers were full of Bellingham residents eager to speak on the issue, and the public hearing lasted more than two hours.

Rick Sepler, director of the Planning and Community Development Department, said through the process of coming to these recommendations, it has become clear there is a wide variety of opinions on ADUs.

"The decisions are hard, but it is healthy and timely to have this discussion now,"

**DRS**  
continued from page 1

However, that isn't the main reason for the move.

In 2014, the resource center submitted a proposal to become a partner of the Learning Commons Planning Group and Western Libraries, Clarissa Mansfield, Western Libraries communications manager, said in an email. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The Learning Commons Planning Group is in charge of making the library so much more than just a place to check out books, Brunner said.

They provide additional services to the library, such as the research and tutoring centers, Brunner said. Fusing these programs with disAbility Resources will help weave the center's philosophies with the general student body.

"It was revolutionary," Brunner said. "They were creating a very cool, interwoven service model where you integrate a number of student support services, especially

on the academic side, with each other."

Students with disabilities are equally engaged in Learning Commons programs as other students, both as a receiver of the services and as a provider of them, Brunner said.

According to DRS' webpage, the center is currently assisting over 800 students with disabilities. Their goal is to make sure these students have equal access to Western's academic services and other amenities.

Sophomore Tianna Patrick visited DRS for the first time fall quarter of this year, she said. She was having trouble finishing her tests in the time allotted.

"My family got me through middle school and high school. They kind of harped on me for doing my homework and finishing things, even though it took a lot longer than it probably would have for someone else," she said. "It kind of caught up to me in college."

The resource center referred her to a doctor, where she was diagnosed with

ADHD, she said.

Though she has struggled with this her whole student life, she said she was hesitant to reach out to DRS because she didn't know where they were. Beyond that, she always thought those types of services were for people with severe visible disabilities.

"Through talking to other people that I know and friends, I realized a lot more people used DRS than I realized," Patrick said. "That's what made me more comfortable in walking in there and setting up an appointment."

Students with disabilities are learning the same content as everyone else, just in a different way, Brunner said. Disability or not, all students learn in a different way from each other. Joining forces with the Learning Commons will enable DRS to share techniques that work with various students with disabilities with any student who may benefit with them, and vice versa.

Accomplishing this concept of cross-sharing will break the separatist construct of students with disabilities,

very low-income people, but for moderate-income people who also need homes in the city, they can live in an ADU and that reduces pressure on everyone else in the whole housing market," Herz said.

Revisions to the Climate Protection Action Plan, originally adopted in 2007, include revising targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and establishing the goal of 100 percent renewable energy, according to the City Council agenda bill.

The climate resolution, Agenda Bill 21905, directs staff to implement the Climate Action Protection Plan and creates a Climate Action Plan Task Force to recommend action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

During the public comment period, Jill MacIntyre

Witt encouraged the council to implement updates to the Climate Protection Action Plan and said the climate cannot wait.

"This is just the beginning," MacIntyre Witt said. "I am so proud we get to be the 66th city that is committing to 100 percent renewable energy."

No one spoke against implementing updates to the Climate Protection Action Plan. Council member Gene Knutson did not comment on why he voted against the changes.

Both the revised ADU ordinance and the updated Climate Protection Action Plan will go into effect when they are signed in the coming weeks.



The disAbility Resources for Students' move will result in more collaborative opportunities with other academic resources and services. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Brunner said. It will bring the entire student body together.

Patrick said she likes the idea of DRS moving to the library. Accessibility is an essential aspect of students understanding if they qualify for services, she said.

"I think it being in a location where all students can see all students going there would definitely be helpful," she said.

When proposing the fusion, the center faced very

few conceptual obstacles, Brunner said. The barrier instead became how to do it with the space allotted.

DRS will be moving to room 170 of Wilson Library. The map room, which is currently using that space, will move to floor two, Brunner said.

Project Manager Architect Forest Payne said construction will begin on June 25. The new resource center will open in spring of 2019.

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# Seven new board members elected and four referendums pass in AS election

**Emily Jackson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A new Associated Students Board of Directors was elected and all four referendums were passed after the AS election on Friday, May 4.

Four of the seven board of directors positions were contested.

According to the AS website, the newly-elected VP for Academic Affairs is Levi Eckman, who won by 53 votes in the third and final round; the VP for Student Life is Anne Lee, who won by 979 votes; the VP for Governmental Affairs is Natasha Hessami, winning by 906 votes. Finally, Ama Monkah has been elected as VP for Activities, winning by 1,243 votes.

The three unopposed candidates also elected were AS President Millka Solomon, VP for Diversity Camilla Mejia and VP for Business and Operations Genaro Meza.

Four referendums were also on the ballot this year.

First, the AS will recommend the Sustainable Action Fund be renamed the Sustainability, Equity and Justice Fund. The referendum passed with 1,837 to 335 votes. The AS will recommend renewal of the fund at a rate of 90 cents, not exceeding \$9. The student body can vote to raise this up to \$1.20 per academic credit per quarter, and up to \$12.

The College of Ethnic Studies will return, passing with 1,804 to 405 votes. They will also advo-

cate for the Ethnic Studies Curriculum to become a program of study, according to the AS website. In addition, Ethnic Studies courses may become part of General University Requirements.

Second, the AS will recommend the renewal of the Student Technology Fee, which passed 1,562 to 625 votes. The renewal rate will be \$35 per quarter for students taking six-plus credits, and \$17.50 per quarter for students taking five credits or less.

Finally, the AS will support a multi-year implementation to make Western a smoke-free campus over the next several years, according to the AS website. This passed with 1,352 to 895 votes.

Under current Western policy, smoking is prohibited inside all university buildings and vehicles, according to Western Policy P-U5950.12. Outside, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet from specific areas, according to the same policy. The policy also says the university may impose additional restrictions.

The elected AS Board of Directors will begin work on the Saturday of Spring Commencement, according to the job descriptions for the positions.

Francesca Cruz, AS elections coordinator, said in an email 17.26 percent of the student body voted in the AS elections this year. Last year's voter turnout was 16.2 percent, she said.

"This year was exciting," Cruz said. "We had the highest voter turnout since the 2012 AS elections when the turnout was 24.5 percent."



**VP for Academic Affairs, Levi Eckman**

Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist



**VP for Student Life, Anne Lee**

Photo by Mathew Roland



**VP for Governmental Affairs, Natasha Hessami**

Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist



**VP for Activities, Ama Monkah**

Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

# Students voice concern over water lead levels on campus

**Mia Steben**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western has not conducted water testing for lead levels in five years. The Environmental Health and Safety Department at Western conducted a two-part comprehensive water test from 2008 to 2013, according to its website. The test examined lead levels in buildings and drinking water sources on campus.

Students have raised concerns about the lead contamination in the water supply since it is a daily part of their lives. Junior Phalon Evergreen said the water tastes weird.

"Just the fact that people are drinking the water

here, it definitely should be tested," Evergreen said.

Sophomore Nikka Yagumy also said the water should be examined.

"It goes in our body, so obviously we want something that we know is healthy for us," Yagumy said. "I think testing should be more frequent. I drink it every day."

Garin Schrieve, drinking water director for the Washington State Department of Health, said the federal Safe Drinking Water Act covers the requirements for drinking water for public water systems in the country. The federal law called the Lead and Copper Rule addresses what public water systems need to reduce the lead in

drinking water served.

"The City of Bellingham does a great job with their water system and ensuring the water isn't corrosive and isn't causing these problems," Schrieve said. "They're doing their part under the federal requirements to keep the water safe for their customer, which includes Western Washington University."

Schrieve said the issue can be in plumbing. Not too long ago, many fixtures contained brass, which also can include lead. Schrieve said even if the water is noncorrosive, the contact with lead fixtures for a period of time can collect lead.

The Washington State Department of Health is

not mandated to test at institutions such as Western for lead contamination, Schrieve said. School institutions decide based on a voluntary basis.

The department is willing to help schools test their water supply.

"We're available to help them understand and how to do it right, so that the results that come back are meaningful and that they can make decisions based off of [them]," Schrieve said.

With the responsibility of testing falling onto the shoulders of Western, the question remains if Western should test their water again.

Sue Sullivan, director of health and safety at West-

ern, said testing is important to Western.

"We identified sources where the taps needed to be removed and replaced and did subsequent testing of those taps in 2013," Sullivan said.

She said that comprehensive testing was a great effort and provided communication where lead levels were a concern.

The Western environmental health and safety website provides testing results and all data, Sullivan said.

"As an institution, Western has done our due diligence in protecting our campus population," Sullivan said.

# Decriminalizing the opioid epidemic

**Whatcom County strategizes to tackle rising opioid-related crimes with harm reduction programs**

This story is second of a three-part collaborative report on the opioid epidemic by Melissa McCarthy, Rahwa Hailemariam and Katie Meier. They collectively obtained and analyzed data, and interviewed sources.

**Rahwa Hailemariam**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

*Editor's note: Names of individuals suffering or recovering from drug addiction have been changed to respect their privacy and protect them from any possible legal ramifications.*

Washington state has been leading the nation's battle against the opioid crisis since the early stages of the epidemic.

On April 10, Whatcom County Council unanimously voted to join other Washington counties in the legal fight against opioid-producing companies such as Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, and Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceuticals.

Keller Rohrback L.L.P., a law firm based in Seattle representing King, Skagit and Pierce counties, reached out to Whatcom County

Council looking to file a lawsuit on behalf of the county.

Whatcom County Councilmember Todd Donovan said the law firm will not be compensated by the county unless they win the case.

Depending on how much settlement the law firm is able to get Whatcom County, the agreed contingency fee ranges from 10 to 20 percent, according to the Whatcom County Council Agenda Bill.

The county is spending \$12 million building a crisis stabilization detox facility in response to the opioid crisis, Donovan said.

"We spend a lot of money in emergency medical responses to opioid-related issues and it has an impact on our criminal justice system," Donovan said. "So the hope is to get resources to help fund those programs for the opioid addiction crisis that these companies, we

think, are responsible for."

In 2007, Purdue Pharma was faced with a lawsuit for misleading regulators, doctors and patients about the drug's risk of addiction. The company pleaded guilty and agreed to pay \$600 million in fines.

"They're responsible [for the opioid epidemic] because they track every pill," Donovan said. "They know how many pills end up in every single physician's office in every county in the country."

Donovan said these companies are negligent in the way they respond when doctors are massively overprescribing.

**The opioid epidemic and how we got here**

Greg recounts his dear friend turning purple while her body became unresponsive. Then, she stopped breathing.

Greg is a Bellingham local recovering from drug and alcohol addiction himself.

"I had to breathe for her," Greg said. "She was going to die."

Greg knew he had to get help as fast as he could. He took Trisha to the nearest fire department and left. He said he had to leave because he didn't know the consequences.

He met up with her two days later. Before he could finish lecturing her on her heroin addiction, she asked him why he didn't just let her die.

"It's like a war sometimes," Greg said.

The opioid epidemic is

"the deadliest drug epidemic" in American history, killing more than 115 Americans everyday, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Over 630,000 deaths were linked to prescription opioids and heroin in the past 17 years, according to CDC. The rate of opioid addiction rose by 500 percent in that same period.

In the 1990s, doctors were under pressure from advocacy groups, as well as the government, to treat pain as a serious medical problem. This was because hundreds of millions of Americans were suffering from chronic pain.

In the early 2000s, Gary Franklin, University of Washington school of public health research professor, along with University of Washington graduate Jaymie Mai, noticed people with back injuries dying while taking prescribed opioids such as Vicodin, Percocet and OxyContin for their pain.

They found that 44 people in Washington suffering from chronic pain had died of prescription opioid overdoses in just a few years.

They became the first in the nation to address the linkage between prescribed opioids and what were called "accidental poisoning" deaths.

While doctors were struggling to figure out better treatments for chronic pain, drug companies like Purdue Pharma began producing "safer and less ad-

dictive drugs than other painkillers on the market."

"The drug companies and their surrogates lied to people about how safe and addictive opioids were," Dr. Franklin said.

Read the full story at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

## ADDICTION SUPPORT RESOURCES

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Catholic Community Services Recovery Center  
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Lummi Chemical Addiction Recovery and Education  
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Narcotics Anonymous  
360.647.3234

Syringe Services Program (Whatcom County Health Department)  
360.778.6100

Whatcom County Crisis Triage Center  
360.676.2020



Illustration by Sophia Greif

# Rally held to bring awareness to Birchwood "food desert"

**Colton Redtfeldt**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham residents gathered to protest the lack of fresh and healthy foods available in the Birchwood neighborhood on Monday, May 5.

The rally was held in front of the former Albertsons building at the Park Manor Shopping Center. Albertsons closed two years ago. Albertsons spokesperson Sara Osborne said the closure was due to a lack of business, according to a Bellingham Herald article.

The store's closure turned the Birchwood neighborhood into a "food desert," Alex McIntyre, a Western alumnus and one of the rally coordinators

said.

A food desert is defined as a low-income urban area in which people are a mile or more from a supermarket, according to an article by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

The closure has meant that Birchwood residents have had difficulties accessing healthy, affordable food.

The rally was sponsored by the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters, a local activist group made up of Birchwood residents.

Dyan Liden, a resident of the Birchwood neighborhood, was at the rally with her 8-year-old daughter Bijou.

"I think that it's just not

fair to have a community have to travel so far when there's a certain demographic of people who don't have a vehicle," Liden said. "There's this stretch that is well-traveled and well-needed for food for people. That's the crux of it, I feel."

The food desert especially impacts those who have mobility issues, such as elderly people, McIntyre said.

Betty Ross is a resident at Birchwood Manor, a retirement home in Birchwood located near the old Albertsons building. She said many of the people in her community, including herself, have had trouble getting food.

"We definitely need, if nothing else, a mini store



Community members gathered before the event to take a photo with their signs. People from all corners of the Birchwood neighborhood were present. // Photo by Colton Redtfeldt

that gives the basic things like bread and eggs and milk and that kind of stuff," Ross said.

The Birchwood Food

Desert Fighters hold a smaller vigil every other Thursday at the same location.

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**WF**





# Bountiful Bellingham: Access to fresh produce for all



Local organic farmers and the Bellingham Food Bank provide Bellingham residents with fresh, healthy produce year-round

**By McKenna Hunt**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Gardening. Some would classify it as a hobby or a fun activity to do when spring time rolls around, but at the Bellingham Food Bank, gardening is being redefined year-round. Julia Raider, head of the food bank's Garden Project, is turning gardening into an empowering task that connects community members while feeding families at the same time, she said.

Bank, the Garden Project builds 25 raised-bed 4' by 8' gardens each year. These are given to recipients who have an interest in growing organic produce for themselves and their families. The food bank's work doesn't stop there, either. In addition to the garden beds, recipients receive free resources for two years. Those include organic seeds, plant starts, tools, a growing guide, a seasonal newsletter, educational workshops and an optional gardening mentor.

there are a few requirements in order to be eligible. First, one must be considered as low-income. According to Raider, being a low-income resident is based upon federal poverty guidelines and changes every year. Second, the attendance of the two educational workshops provided and third, a residential mailing address within Bellingham city limits. The application also stresses the importance of willingness to tend one's garden throughout the season. Homeowners as well as renters are encouraged to apply, Raider said. However, renters must get their landlord's approval first. Raider said recruitment for applicants starts in February of each year. In addition to constructing 25 gardens a year, the Garden Project also supports two different transitional housing facilities in town, one for women and one for women with children, she said. The project provides the housing facilities with a group garden, where residents share garden beds and garden cooperatively, she said. Raider said with the gardens in the housing facilities, the project helps to support somewhere between 60 and 65 households each year. "I definitely think that the program's been successful," Raider said. According to Raider, the feedback forms the project receives each year have been overwhelmingly positive. If the demand for gardens stays high, that praise isn't going anywhere. "We don't measure our success on how many pounds people grow at all," Raider said. "It's exposing people, it's exposing their kids, it's exposing



**Garden Project recipients show off their bountiful harvest of peas.** // Photo courtesy of Bellingham Food Bank

were thinking, 'what could we do that we would feel really good about doing that is within our skill set as well?'" Stavrakas said she grew up in the food service industry while Lane worked in retail and management. With an interest in sustainable practices, they said they decided to create a business together, something they had never done before. They said their passion for conservation motivated them to set high standards for their own business. "Working for someone else [was frustrating], being like, 'hey, could you please recycle that?' or, 'could you please reuse that?'" Stavrakas said. Some of their conservation efforts have been used since the beginning of Dandelion Organic. Stavrakas and Lane said they have maintained a zero-waste work environment for the entire time they've had their business. Implementing reusable containers, producing less than a handful of trash a week and collecting film plastic for recycling are just a few of their sustainable practices. Sophomore Sydney Kaster said she knows Stavrakas and Lane follow through with this philosophy in their personal lives. She said she found the two through a posting on Western's job site. The couple was looking for someone to clean their house in exchange for the baskets. Kaster said she has been cleaning their house for a year now. "Even all of their cleaning products are not actual cleaning products, it's like vinegar water," she said. "They also don't use any plastic for their garage or paper towels or anything." Mancini said Kaster's enthusiasm for the Dandelion Organic delivery service convinced her to jump on board as well. "There's something wholesome about getting the box at my door," Mancini said. "It feels good to not feel wasteful." She said she splits the \$40 box, which is delivered every two weeks, with one of her roommates and it usually lasts them about a week and a half. Stavrakas said purchasing a CSA basket is a good approach for a college student on a budget, or for low-income households. "If you're buying a prepared sandwich, you're going to be spending around six or seven dollars at least," she said. "You can, from about seven to ten dollars, depending on who you're sharing it with or what size bin you're getting, get a delivery of fruits and vegetables to your home." However, Stavrakas is still waiting for the service to gain a wider audience. She said there are a few groups of elderly and college students who pay for the boxes, but the majority of the customers are families with children. Despite Stavrakas' optimism, Fairhaven College professor Clayton Pierce said he has doubts about how realistic CSA baskets are. Pierce said he questions the impact of these services when they may not be

affordable to a wider amount of community members, especially those who are considered "food insecure." The term "food insecure" is used to refer to persons who may not have access to healthy food options, or are in a financial situation where they may not be able to afford those options even if they existed nearby. Thus, they are the most vulnerable to not having access to healthy food, Pierce said. "There are built-in privileges to who can access the food baskets in a couple different ways," Pierce said. "I think the cost is somewhat prohibitive. It sounds more expensive than if one went to a grocery store and bought the same things." However, despite the drawbacks, he said he still thinks the model is great and is supportive of alternatives to the large corporate options, where commodification of food has led to unequal access to food. Pierce said that the contract Western has with Aramark, their foodservice provider, limits Western's options for getting produce locally. He said that food sales on campus have to go through Aramark, making it nearly impossible to get food grown in The Outback Farm, for example, into the cafeterias. "I would like to grow the Outback and have more places like it," Pierce said. "We could get the food from there into campus and connect it to communities in the Bellingham area who don't have access to places that grow food or can't afford baskets." Aramark's meal plans are marketed as convenient, but at around \$13 a meal for the smallest plan according to Western's dining service website, it's more expensive than preparing food at home using delivered produce. However, food preparation is time-consuming, so despite the lower cost, there is a downside. For Kaster though, she said the boxes have helped her forge a healthier relationship with food. "[The baskets] really helped me with not only the variety of fruits and vegetables that I eat, but the quantity of fruits

and vegetables that I eat," Kaster said. "My diet transitioned from what was fast and easy to more fruit and vegetable based." Stavrakas said this mentality is what she is hoping to pass down through her business. She wants to incorporate that same positive view toward food into her life, one that she learned as a child growing up in Greece. She said in Greece she was surrounded by an appreciative attitude toward food which shaped her outlook on it. "With Greeks, they don't necessarily think of it like, 'I need to eat healthy and it's nutritious,'" Stavrakas said. "They're really all about eating what's delicious as well, but it really goes hand in hand." Stavrakas said she understands college students looking for produce may seek out cheaper options, but the small price difference between products from Dandelion Organics and supermarket produce is due to the nature of her products. "I know you can shop for those vegetables cheaper [by] going to places we can't compete with price-wise, [but] we're offering a different product, especially with the local stuff," Stavrakas said. However, she said it's worth considering the upsides to getting produce delivered. She said the Dandelion Organics service decreases the time and money spent on gasoline going to grocery stores, while exposing people to foods they may have never heard of. Additionally, she said if a customer doesn't like a particular fruit or vegetable in their basket, they have the option to switch it out for any other fruit or vegetable like. For Kaster and Stavrakas, the options and quality of the baskets can make the few extra dollars worth it for customers. "My little brother visited me one time and I gave him one of the peaches," Kaster said. "He was freaking out about how good it was." Dandelion Organic can be found through their online site or at the weekly Farmer's Market, selling olives and olive oil from their farm in Greece.



**Fresh produce from the Bellingham Food Bank's Garden Project shines in the sun.** // Photo courtesy of Bellingham Food Bank

The Garden Project began in 2010 as a means to improve access and education about organic home gardening to community members according to the Garden Beet, the food bank's newsletter. Since its beginning, the project has continued as an outreach program that now supports a diverse array of around 65 families and individuals each year. Julia Raider is the Garden Project and non-perishable sorting coordinator at the Bellingham Food Bank. She said she has been running the project for seven seasons. Raider said that although she is the only staff member working on the project, she is able to serve the Bellingham community because of the work of many volunteers and mentors who support her in the process. She said many of them have been coming back year after year to help. "I love my job," Raider said. "Really at the heart of the Garden Project is extending kindness and offering a way for community to do that as well." The Garden Project gives low-income Bellingham residents the resources to build and sustain their own gardens free of charge, according to the Bellingham Food Bank website. The goal of the project is to increase access to fresh, healthy food for Bellingham residents at a low cost, Raider said. According to the Bellingham Food

While the educational workshops are part of the requirements to become a garden recipient, Raider said they are packed with good information on the basics of cultivating healthy, organic produce in the Pacific Northwest. The first workshop is also where folks get to select what kind of seeds they want to grow. "I want everyone to have adequate information so they are going to be successful in growing their own food using organic practices," Raider said. Raider said garden mentors are an optional resource dependent on whether the recipient has had prior gardening experience or if they are simply in need of support. "The role of the mentor primarily is to provide encouragement and information around organic gardening," Raider said. As far as the application process goes, Raider said

their neighbor to growing your own food at home."

their neighbor to growing your own food at home."

**By Brooklin Pigg**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Produce can come from anywhere. For most, that's a supermarket, but programs are available in Bellingham that offer fresh, organic produce straight to the doorsteps of customers. Every two weeks, sophomore Annika Mancini opens up her door to a box of fresh fruits and vegetables. They didn't grow there, but were planted there by the local business Dandelion Organic. Mancini's box is part of a national program, Community-Supported Agriculture, or CSA. Consumers are able to buy produce directly from local farmers by signing up for a CSA basket delivery service, which organizes and delivers baskets of produce from local farms. Co-founders of Dandelion Organic, Maria Stavrakas and her husband Jonny Lane said they opened Dandelion Organic in 2007, making it the first produce home-delivery service in Bellingham. With a focus on local, organic and fresh produce, Stavrakas and Lane said their business provides fruits and vegetables to the greater Bellingham area. "Jonny and I wanted meaningful work for ourselves," Stavrakas said. "We



**Garden Project recipients load a basket with fresh, colorful vegetables.** // Photo courtesy of Bellingham Food Bank



**A CSA basket from Dandelion Organic, full of fresh produce.** // Photo courtesy of Annika Mancini



## Unplug and reconnect: Children's Book Week at Village Books

By **Mysti Willmon**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"His name is Pinky the Pig," first-grader Milo Chervenock-Johnson said about his Pom-Pom Pet. "He likes recess."

Milo had crafted his Pom-Pom Pet at the Village Books' After School Pom-Pom Pets mini-workshop. The store put on events all last week to celebrate Children's Book Week.

Milo added wings to Pinky and suddenly, he didn't just like recess. Pinky now liked to hop over fences too and when Milo made him dance, he fluttered up off the ground.

Milo, along with his father Justin Chervenock-Johnson, said this was their first time attending one of the workshops. They learned about it from a poster Milo spotted at Happy Valley Elementary School.

The workshop was only one of many kids events put on by Village Books this past week. The store combined their series of book week events with National Screen-Free Week. The store hosted three different story time sessions for some screen-free fun. They also hosted two author events featuring Toni Yuly, author of "Thank You, Bees" and Nina Laden, author of "Yellow Kayak."

Of the many events that week, Milo and his father chose the pom-pom pets event, where kids learned how to make frogs, cats, wolves and many other creatures out of yarn. Participant Ella Smith made a wolf. She said his name was Messy and that he liked to chase evil hamburgers. Ella's mom Julie also got in on the fun and made a pom-pom pet of her own.

However, the screen-free activity did have a few hiccups. Some pom-pom pets didn't come out quite right.

"It looks like a pile of fur," Ella said as her pet fell apart.

Claire McElroy, Village Books event coordinator, laughed as she handed Ella yarn to start another animal.

"It could be the furball that one of these cats coughed up," she said.

According to McElroy, Village Books has been participating in Children's Book Week for as long as she can remember.

"[Children's Book Week] officially started 99 years ago," McElroy said. "The whole goal has always just been to get books in kids' hands and to get them reading and help them foster a really early love and appreciation of books."

McElroy said this year the bookstore also added a scavenger hunt to their week-long event.

"The kids who participate in it and complete it are entered to win a grand prize, which is a Village Books T-shirt," McElroy said.

This year Village Books is also one of the featured event locations on the Children's Book Week website event map, McElroy said.

"We are pretty old-school here and love the idea of actually placing a book in kids' hands. So some of our activities are geared toward that idea of 'screen-free,'" McElroy said. "We are just trying to show kids that they can get as much joy and pleasure out of reading a book and imagining."



**Milo Chervenock-Johnson shows off his new Pom-Pom Pet, Pinky.**// Photo by Mysti Willmon

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018 | THE WESTERN FRONT

## In limiting access to public records, Western hurts students

Guest column by **Carolyn Nielsen, Brian Bowe, Sheila Webb and George Erb**

There's an old saw in journalism: If your mama says she loves you, check it out. Its take-nothing-for-granted foundation is at the heart of what journalists do – investigate, verify claims, scrutinize systems to see if things are working as they were designed.

Without access to public information, that job is difficult, if not impossible.

Over the past year, Western staff and administrators have impeded student journalists' access to public information by stalling, ignoring requests, refusing to answer questions, redacting documents to the point they were useless, bouncing student requests from person to person, barring a student journalist from a meeting and increasingly funneling access through a single channel of control that appears more concerned with the university's public image than with ensuring financial accountability and student safety.

This is not how things are supposed to work.

Western is a publicly funded university and, as such, should seek to uphold the highest ideals of transparency and openness in allowing scrutiny of its institutional priorities, policy and operations.

The chilling effect of institutional secrecy is often insidious rather than revolutionary. It usually begins in small ways.

As journalism professors (and former journalists), we have had a front-row seat to these tactics, which range from students with simple questions about what was included in a budget item being told all journalism students have to go through University Communications to the more serious issue of the university's refusal to provide names of students they have found responsible for committing acts of sexual misconduct or sexual assault.

Over the past year, our students have requested and received records

from Eastern Washington University and Central Washington University within days while Western has said processing similar (although, admittedly, often less detailed) requests will take months. Our students regularly request city, county, state and federal records and receive full information within days.

The university is legally responsible to respond within five business days to indicate whether and when the information will be available, but it's clear that other government agencies are making information available much more quickly. Stalling isn't illegal, but it's certainly not a good look.

The delays are only part of the problem. Outright

refusal is also cause for concern. An April investigation published jointly by The Western Front and The AS Review uncovered a second instance of the administration readmitting a student after suspending that student for sexual misconduct. The university also learned that the student had failed to disclose a previous conviction for sexual abuse.

There is no way to know how many times this may have happened or continues to happen because the university continues to redact reports containing the names of those found responsible for acts of sexual violence.

The university has held fast in its position despite the April ruling by a North Carolina Court of Appeals that the Federal Education Rights and Pri-

vacy Act does not protect release of the names of students, faculty and staff who are found responsible in cases of sexual assault and sexual misconduct. As a result of that decision, the University of North Carolina was ordered to release the names in documents to the campus newspaper, The Daily Tar Heel, which brought the lawsuit.

Even with this court ruling and the Student Press Law Center's contention that Western should release the names of the accused, the university has continued to deny access to that public information.

The state's Public Records Act is clear in its intent. It states, "The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to

decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may maintain control over the instruments that they have created. This chapter shall be liberally construed and its exemptions narrowly construed to promote this public policy and to assure that the public interest will be fully protected. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this chapter and any other act, the provisions of this chapter shall govern."

Problems with access have also been noted. A Front reporter was denied access to a March committee meeting discussing classroom safety in case of an active shooter. The university's assistant attorney general said the com-

mittee was a non-acting body and not subject to the Open Meetings Act, but barring journalist access was a choice. The paper appealed to President Sabah Randhawa, but was not allowed inside the meeting and instead had to report on the issue by interviewing attendees after the fact.

The administration chose closure over transparency in regard to an important safety issue of concern to the entire campus community.

Stories published in The Western Front last year won all three Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence awards for in-depth reporting for large college newspapers in a five-state region.

Those stories examined the university's handling of cases involving a volunteer track coach and convicted felon who was accused of breaking into women's dorm rooms and putting on residents' clothing and bras, and the university's decision to readmit a student who had been convicted of sexually assaulting another student.

This chilling effect, which we can only hope is not a response to coverage critical of the university, interferes with student journalists' – and the public's – ability to examine the university's procedures and decisions.

Although journalists have no special rights not also given to members of the public, student journalists are often the only ones reporting on their institutions.

When a university refuses to provide public information, hides essential information behind heavy redactions, delays fulfilling records requests and closes down access to such a chokepoint that it takes weeks or even months to get information, it is harmful to student journalists and the public they serve.

Timely access to open and public records is a core value of democratic freedom.

*Nielsen, Bowe, Webb and Erb teach in Western's Department of Journalism.*

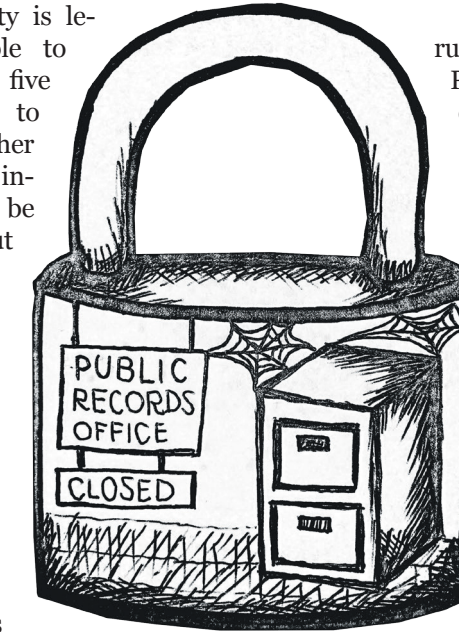


Illustration by *Julia Furukawa*

## Viking Voices

*Do you think the administration is transparent enough with students?*



**Shiva Chhetri**  
Freshman, biology

"I think the administration themselves are kind of shady sometimes because we do get Western Alerts but they don't even tell us anything about a man that raped a girl in the dorm. They seem to keep what they want to themselves and filter out a lot of stuff."



**Jessica Sullivan**  
Senior, multidisciplinary studies

"Yes, I think at this institution they are more than others."



**Liam O'Neill**  
Freshman, undeclared

"No, I think there's definitely some stuff left untold. Like the Western Alerts, I feel, are very tailored to specific topics, like they don't inform of certain things that I feel like they should."



**Hailey Sims**  
Junior, marketing

"There's a lot of things that I find out through other people about the administration that I haven't even heard from the administration, as announcements to the whole campus, so I don't think they're very transparent."

Compiled by *Isabel Lay*

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Dr. David Figlio of Northwestern University



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**NOMINATION CRITERIA**

- Integrates diversity concepts and values into academic curriculum, management, and/or operational functions
- Develops methods for increasing and valuing diversity among students, faculty, and/or staff
- Maximizes opportunities to achieve diversity
- Contributes to promoting an understanding and appreciation of differences by contributing to the body of research on diversity or through other endeavors

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AA/E.O. To request document in an alternate format, contact the EO Office.





*TEAM continued from page 1*

Hombres' transition from Western to Point Loma will be significant for him, as he's spent his entire life playing basketball in Whatcom County. Hombres attended Lynden Christian High School, where he lettered his sophomore year.

During the summer before his junior year, with the anticipation of a big season on the horizon, Hombres tore his ACL in his left knee. The injury forced him to sit out the entire season, and put a lot of pressure on his final year.

The first day of the next summer going into his senior year, Hombres tore the same ACL. His last game in high school would be from his sophomore year.

"I was looking for a local school that would take a chance on me," Hombres said. "I didn't expect to get any scholarships out of high school since I hadn't played in two years, but Coach Dominguez told me that I could be a preferred walk-on."

After redshirting his freshman year and a 6-inch growth spurt, Hombres was ready to play college ball for Western, almost four years after making his last basketball start.

Because of his history as a point guard, Hombres can do a lot of things well that big men usually struggle with.

"I've grown up handling the ball, playing a lot of point guard. That transition from being a guard to being more of a wing I think really helped me," Hombres said. "I had those ball skills, I knew when to pass, when to shoot."

And pass and shoot he did. In his first

season at Western, Hombres started 31 games, averaged 12.5 points per game while shooting 56.7 percent, led the team with 6.6 rebounds and finished third on the team in assists.

He was a GNAC Honorable Mention his first year at Western. Hombres contributed from the get-go and hasn't stopped since.

Last season, Hombres added to his resume. He led the team in scoring with 18.1 points per game while shooting 54.6 percent from the field and 44.6 percent from three.

But Hombres isn't content with just being a scorer.

"One thing I want to improve in my game is being able to create my shots and create more shots for others," Hombres said. "And I want to become more of an all-around player on offense and defense."

He wants more assists, steals and blocks, too.

Hombres said despite his success at Western, he knew he needed to leave Whatcom County in order to keep growing.

"I felt like I've kind of been in my comfort zone, not leaving Whatcom County. I think that making the move to San Diego will get me outside of my comfort zone, to push me to become better in all areas of life and in basketball," Hombres said.

At Point Loma Nazarene in San Diego, Hombres will join a squad coming off of an NCAA DII West Regional playoff loss looking to take the next step. Ryan Looney, the Sea Lions' head

coach, previously coached seven seasons at Seattle Pacific University, was named GNAC Coach of the Year and guided the Falcons to the NCAA DII Tournament.

"I've always heard good things about the system [Looney] has, and the basketball culture they have at Point Loma. I just think I fit in with the style of play there really well," Hombres said. "What I want to do is just go into there and find a way to win. I got to do whatever I've got to do to win. The coaches have made that clear, I think I'll be able to help the team in a lot of ways."

Point Loma will be returning their six leaders in minutes per game, so Hombres will have to find ways to contribute and earn playing time. That's something he isn't worried about, he said.

"Even though this transition has been really hard for me – leaving a lot of friends and family behind, saying goodbye to a lot of people who have done a lot for me – I don't want to leave on a negative vibe. I just want to be grateful and thankful for everyone who's done stuff for me," he said.

Hombres added that for him, basketball is about his future, too. He hopes to coach or be an athletic trainer some day, and he believes this is just the natural progression of his basketball career. He added that he has no regrets about his time at Western.

"It was probably one of the hardest decisions I've had to make in my life, to make this big change. But, I'm excited to continue on my basketball journey, and get ready to take my game to the next level. I'm really grateful for the oppor-



**Daulton Hombres is transferring to Point Loma for his junior season.** // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

tunity that basketball has given me as well. To play in front of people, to inspire people, to be a mentor to little kids," Hombres said. "I'm just thankful for the platform this game has given me."

## Destined for Division I

*Trey Drechsel capped his injury-riddled Western career with an All-Conference selection before transferring to Grand Canyon University*

**Dante Koplowitz-Fleming**  
FOR THE WESTERN FRONT

Going into his senior year at Cedar Park Christian High School in Woodinville, Washington, Trey Drechsel was ready to get noticed during recruitment season. He had grown from a 5-foot-9 freshman into a 6-foot-6 soon-to-be senior, and was ready to show Division I schools he was a player they needed to have.

Unfortunately, he wouldn't get the chance.

On the first day of recruitment season after his junior year, Drechsel went up for a dunk and came down with an avulsion fracture on his pelvis when his hamstring flexed too tightly, and his muscle was torn clean off the bone.

Because of the injury, Drechsel said he was vastly under-recruited out of high school.

"I'm a pretty confident kid. I always thought I was a mid-to-high level Division I player," Drechsel said.

Unfortunately for Drechsel, his injury problems didn't stop in high school. In his three years at Western he missed 26 games due to injury. Drechsel said adversity helped him become the player, and individual, he is today.

"Honestly, I felt like I'd never faced adversity. But once I got to college, man, it was like, you become a man, you become a person and have to face things on your own," Drechsel said. "It was just one thing after another. I broke my foot three times, my mom almost passed away two weeks before the season, my house flooded. It was just one thing after another."

Drechsel said he considered quitting basketball in the midst of his injury-riddled college career. One of Drechsel's self-professed biggest assets in basketball is his creativity, and while injured he tried to find other outlets for it, including drawing and writing.

"I tried all those things, and they didn't give me that same feeling of, 'This is who I am, this is how I can show people my creativity,' and those types of things. So for me, basketball is that," Drechsel said.

So he kept playing. Recovery, practice and anticipation finally led to Drechsel having a full, healthy college



**Trey Drechsel averaged 14.9 points per game for the Vikings, good for second on the team.** // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

season.

And he made it count. Last year, he tallied a career highs in scoring, minutes per game, field goal percentage, rebounds, assists, blocks and steals. He was named First Team GNAC All-Conference, GNAC All-Academic and was a two-time GNAC Player of the Week.

Prior to each season, Drechsel said he writes down a list of goals. Before his sophomore year, he had an elaborate list of goals he wasn't able to accomplish because of a foot injury.

"This year I just put down one goal and it was to play every game," Drechsel said. "It was cool because I saved those goals and at the end of the year I was able to look back at my goals from my sophomore year and compare it to what I did this year and I was able to accomplish every single goal. It was a really good feeling."

Drechsel said playing Division II

ball was necessary because of his injury, but was never something he saw as his ceiling.

He explained that he sees Division II players in three ways: Players who are lucky to be there and just want to play basketball, players whose talent matches Division II and lastly the players who are there because of their circumstance or because of factors outside of their control. Drechsel sees himself as being in that third tier.

"For example, I look at Daulton Hombres, and that kid is not a Division II player by any means. You look at what happened to him in high school, he had two injuries and wasn't able to get recruited," Drechsel said. "He was vastly under-recruited, that's the only reason that dude is Division II."

And with his transfer to Division I Grand Canyon University, Drechsel will get to live out his goal of making it to the highest level of college basket-

ball.

Grand Canyon lost in the championship game of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament last year to No. 1 seeded New Mexico State. The winner of that game received an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, another goal on Drechsel's list.

"They have two really talented big men and then two really athletic wings, and they just kind of need a point guard to facilitate and run the show and be aggressive and be creative," Drechsel said. "Creative in terms of getting those guys to their spots and getting to my own spots when I need to be there."

Drechsel hopes his creativity will set him apart at the next level.

"Especially at the Division I level, you have to be creative to be great at basketball. For me, that's my niche. I like to play free, I like to do some unorthodox things," he said. "That's my advantage over someone that's a little more athletic or a little quicker, I can kind of outsmart them or be a little more creative."

Drechsel will join a squad coached by three-time NBA all-star Dan Majerle.

"That is one competitive dude, that's probably one of the main reasons I went there. You could feel how competitive he is, he wouldn't want to lose at anything," Drechsel said. "You play ping pong or something and you could tell it would be something where he wouldn't accept losing, and that's something that matched up with my personality to a T."

Part of that competitive personality inside Drechsel has made the decision to leave Western difficult on him. He said it's tough for him to leave behind his friends and teammates, especially when people see it as him quitting on the team or the coaches.

"It's a hard decision whenever you leave something because people are going to say what they want to say, but I made this decision for me with my best interests," Drechsel said. "It's been hard, that perception that I don't care anymore or that something wasn't good enough, as opposed to me just wanting to push myself to a different experience, that's been hard."

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# New high jumper makes mark on track

**Mckenna Hunt**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Calm, cool and collected. These are just some of the words one could use to describe Western high jumper Tupre Wickliff.

In just his first year as a Western student-athlete, Wickliff has managed to become a top-tier competitor, facing the Great Northwest Athletic Conference head on.

Wickliff, a junior at Western, transferred from Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, this past year when he was recruited by Western head coach Pee Wee Halsell.

"He's pretty laid back," Halsell said. "He's calm but loves to compete. I can see that in him."

Halsell said Wickliff works hard, and it has shown through his consistent markings and indoor conference high jump championship title in mid-February. This year, Wickliff became the fifth Western high jumper in school history to win the high jump for his team at the GNAC indoor championships.

In addition to his championship title, Wickliff was also named GNAC Male Newcomer of the Year for the indoor track and field season.

Although Wickliff's track career has blossomed in his junior year of college, Wickliff said he's been competing since he was in sixth grade. Wickliff said that was when he tried high jump for the first time, and since then he's been hooked.

Sports have always played an instrumental part in Wickliff's life, he said.

"When I was younger I played base-



**Tupre Wickliff prepares to attempt a high jump during a track meet at Civic Stadium in Bellingham.** // Photo by Radley Muller

ball for a year, played football for a while and basketball but track is the one that has stuck with me," he said.

Growing up between an older and younger brother has also made Wickliff into the competitive athlete he is today, he said.

Wickliff's competitive nature has been something that has helped him

succeed in his endeavors as a student at Western.

Wickliff is a kinesiology major and just started taking classes in his major this quarter.

Wickliff said his plans after college are a little unclear, but he knows he wants to do something with athletics.

Success and consistency have seem-

ingly come easy for Wickliff in the 2018-19 season, but Wickliff explained that his years at Clark were a little difficult.

"My first year at Clark was a little rough because I wasn't seeing the results I wanted to see," Wickliff said. "Going to a junior college first was an obstacle because it wasn't something I wanted to do, but it ended up being a really good thing."

Wickliff made the decision to transfer to Western because he wanted to further his education, and getting some money for doing something he loved to do wasn't a bad call in his book.

"They were going to offer me a track scholarship, so that definitely helped," Wickliff said.

Coaches and teammates also proved to help Wickliff in making his decision.

Garrett Davies, freshman high jumper and fellow Vancouver native, said he's known Wickliff since he was a sophomore in high school when they jumped against each other.

"He's just really chill all the time," Davies said. "He never makes a fuss about anything."

Davies said their group of five high jumpers is very close-knit and like to joke around and have fun together.

"They are all pretty much my best friends," Davies said.

*Read the rest of the story at  
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